

Faculty Support \$10 Million

Endowed Chairs and Professorships

Alumni frequently recall one or more faculty members who made a difference in their lives. Tech's faculty have always been the heart of the institution, elevating the university's reputation both regionally and nationally. To remain competitive among peers – and elevate Tech's reputation to match that of aspirational institutions – we must invest in faculty who will continue to academically support and challenge students.

Research

Tech's faculty and students have created momentum as a national research university. Tech set an all-time record for externally funded research in fiscal year 2023, topping \$36.3 million. To build upon this, Tech must invest in new ideas, library resources with specific emphasis on journal subscriptions and new equipment to accelerate promising discoveries and translate them into real-world application. Tech's economic impact recently topped \$1.52 billion statewide, and every dollar invested in research benefits our city, state and beyond.

The relationship that develops between a faculty mentor and a student is one of the most fulfilling experiences facilitated by a research institution. Tech's URECA! (Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity) program

provides monetary assistance for undergraduates who pursue research and creative activities at Tech through academic year mini-grants, summer grants with stipends and travel grants for both the student and the faculty mentor. The It's Personal Campaign will ensure that faculty-mentored research opportunities are available to every student and enhance Tech's reputation through publications and conference presentations.

Faculty Development

Tech's students deserve faculty who stay current and motivated through professional development in teaching-learning, career-service and research. Professional development opportunities assist faculty in improving their capacity and performance as teachers, researchers, scholars and practitioners. Currently, some colleges are able to send faculty to a professional conference once every other year. Tech's deans strongly desire to offer additional professional development opportunities for their faculty.

For example, faculty say Tech's membership in the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD), an independent professional development, training and mentoring community, is transformational to research and advancement toward tenure.

"It is a great honor to be the Harry C. Stonecipher Professor of Distinction. I feel a sense of responsibility to uphold the legacy of excellence of Tennessee Tech while carrying the banner of innovation and community in service of this great institution. This is a responsibility that I believe all of my colleagues bear; I just have the pleasure of being the steward of the endowment for however long I am called to do so. It is my hope and prayer that I can serve in a manner that makes the Tennessee Tech community proud."

– **Dr. Jerry C. Gannod**
Professor and Chair,
Department of Computer Science

