



# 2018

ANNUAL REPORT

**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH**



“We strive to not only be an engaged institution but also to create a culture of engagement for the next generation of scholars.”

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, serves the state by educating its citizens, enhancing its culture, and making a difference in people's lives through research and service. The Office of Community Engagement and Outreach (OCEO) works with faculty and the community to help fulfill the university's land-grant mission by leveraging research and scholarship and applying them toward solutions to complex issues.

From education to health, business to the arts, we are proud to promote an engagement and outreach model that aligns with best practices articulated by national organizations, including the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, the Engagement Scholarship Consortium, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. To that end, we continue to pursue the Carnegie Foundation goals of developing robust assessment practices, more reciprocal partnerships, and a closer alignment with campus priorities and initiatives while increasing incentives and evidence of faculty rewards for their roles in community engagement.



**Javiette Samuel**  
Director

## NEW INITIATIVES

### Highlighting Engaged Researchers

To showcase UT's outreach and engagement efforts, OCEO began highlighting engaged scholars online and through *Impact*, a monthly newsletter for faculty, staff, and community partners. Spotlights have included faculty projects that tackle real-world issues and emphasize university-community partnerships that are collaborative, reciprocal, participatory, and anchored in scholarship.

The office also produced a video to highlight outreach and engagement projects that illustrate UT's dedication to service, outreach, engagement, and engaged scholarship. [To view the video, visit engagement.utk.edu.](#)

### Community Connect Portal

OCEO collaborated with three other UT units—the Center for Leadership and Service, the Center for Career Development, and Teaching and Learning Innovation—to develop a platform to assist community organizations in connecting with campus offices to establish partnerships involving faculty and students. Launching in spring 2019, the tool will gather and help direct information to offices on campus that are best suited to meeting their needs. It is intended to share the types of resources and opportunities available to prospective partners, including service-learning, volunteer, and faculty research opportunities, internships, student employment, and other possibilities.

### Interactive Map

An interactive ArcGIS map illustrating the reach of engagement and outreach projects across the state and beyond will be available in spring 2019.

### Engagement and Outreach Conference

In October, the office partnered with University-Assisted Community Schools in the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences to bring together more than 150 faculty, staff, administrators, and community leaders to discuss collaborations between higher education and local communities. The two-day conference, Building University-Community Relationships: More Than One and Done, was designed to highlight the spectrum of UT's outreach and engagement efforts while fostering opportunities for collaboration between the university and community organizations, nonprofits, and faith-based entities. Faculty and staff from all 11 UT colleges, the UT Institute of Agriculture, Pellissippi State Community College, and the University of North Carolina Asheville took part in the conversation.

Attendees participated in roundtable discussions on topics including the role of higher education in society, mentoring in community-based participatory research, access to UT, and engaged education for undergraduate and graduate students. OCEO mini-grant recipients presented their work during a poster session, and the United Way of Greater Knoxville conducted a session on greatest impacts. Another session hosted by the United Way helped facilitate conversations between faculty and community partners interested in exploring potential collaborations.





## ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

### Engagement Scholarship Consortium



UT was one of the first members of the Engagement Scholarship Consortium, an organization made up of 39 higher education institutions working collaboratively to build strong university-community partnerships anchored in the rigor of scholarship.

OCEO provides travel awards for faculty to attend and present their projects. This year's recipient was Erin Darby, assistant professor of religious studies and co-director of the 'Ayn Gharandal archaeological project. Both Darby and OCEO's director, Javiette Samuel, presented at the 2018 conference in Minneapolis.

### Resources for Engagement and Outreach

OCEO provides resources to assist administration, departments, faculty, and staff in creating and sustaining mutually beneficial partnerships that address complex issues. The office shares on its website opportunities for internal and external funding, publication, presentation, and awards.

### Professional Development

OCEO collaborated with UT's Teaching and Learning Innovation Summer Institute (TLISI) to deliver presentations on best practices in community engagement and engaged research. TLISI teaches faculty how to incorporate experiential learning and evidence-based teaching strategies into coursework. Selected faculty members received awards to redesign courses with teaching methods that involve developing and sustaining partnerships with community partners to address complex real-world issues.

## ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH AWARDS

### Incentive Grants Awarded for Mutually Beneficial Partnerships

The following partnership programs began in 2018 with the help of competitive awards funded through OCEO.

#### LISTENING TO FAMILY CAREGIVERS: A COMPREHENSIVE CAREGIVERS' NEEDS ASSESSMENT IN CO-OCCURRENCE OF DIABETES AND DEMENTIA

*Samereh Abdoli, assistant professor, College of Nursing*  
In a collaboration between the College of Nursing, the Knoxville chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, and Endocrinology Consultants of East Tennessee, Abdoli works with experts to lead family caregiver support groups in diabetes care. The project is committed to prevention, treatment, education, support, and advocacy.

#### COMMUNITY ART INITIATIVE: EXPLORING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH PARTICIPATORY ENGAGEMENT

*Jason Brown, associate professor, School of Art*  
In partnership with Maynard Elementary School and Beardsley Community Farm, the School of Art expanded its Community Art Initiative (CAI) to include a series of participatory art activities and workshops for community members in Knoxville's Mechanicsville neighborhood. CAI is a service-learning platform established in the fall of 2017 with the mission of empowering both UT students and community members through various models of direct educational engagement, participatory art practice, and shared creative experience. The project's sustainability-related activities will culminate in an event celebrating its completion on or near Earth Day 2019.

#### EXPANDING CLASSROOM INSTRUCTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE AUGMENTED REALITY SANDBOX

*Michael Camponovo, GIS outreach coordinator, Department of Geography*  
The Department of Geography's augmented reality sandbox has been extremely successful in helping K-12 and college students across Tennessee conceptualize a two-dimensional map into three-dimensional space. The sandbox is also used to teach about watersheds, topography, landforms, and the water cycle. This project is working to modify the

open source sandbox software to model other earth processes like lava flows and volcanoes, glaciers, and pollutants, and to develop additional classroom lessons for the sandbox that take advantage of these new capabilities. Once the lessons are developed and tested in classrooms, they will be formalized and placed online for free use worldwide by anyone with an augmented reality sandbox.

#### PARTNERING TO SUPPORT INTEGRATED STEM LEARNING FOR MINORITIZED YOUTH AND THEIR FUTURE TEACHERS

*Frances Harper, assistant professor, Department of Theory and Practice in Teacher Education*  
A sustainable long-term partnership is in development between UT instructors and students at three Knox County Schools—Inskip Elementary, Pond Gap Elementary, and Sarah Moore Greene Magnet Technology Academy—to help prepare future elementary teachers for the demands of innovative and integrative STEM teaching at schools in urban communities. The partnership provides opportunities for meaningful STEM connections and learning in response to community-identified needs for STEM learning opportunities, facilitated by prospective elementary teachers at UT.

#### ENGAGING NATIVE AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY THROUGH HANDS-ON RESEARCH

*Kimberly Sheldon, assistant professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*  
A sustainable summer program is helping students in rural communities, particularly those of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), gain the confidence needed to pursue advanced study in STEM fields by leveraging hands-on research. Bridging the gap of opportunity for students who live in rural and underrepresented communities will foster access to innovative research and technology, expose high school students to a career in science, and help students make the transition to college life.





## ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH MINI-GRANTS

An OCEO initiative awards competitive mini-grants to faculty for projects and activities that develop, support, or expand engagement and outreach. Proposals are limited to \$1,000 and can be submitted by individuals or teams. The following faculty and staff received grants in 2018:

**Shelby Brawner**, extension assistant, and **Justin Crowe**, extension specialist for UT Institute of Agriculture's 4-H and Agriculture, Leadership, Education and Communication programs, for their project "Count it! Lock it! Drop it!" addressing the opioid epidemic in middle and West Tennessee.

**Moonhee Cho**, assistant professor of public relations in the College of Communication and Information's School of Advertising and Public Relations, for "Making Campus and Community Green through Zero Waste Game Day." Cho conducted research to assess UT game visitor perceptions toward recycling and sustainability and examine how a zero waste game day project encourages recycling on campus, at home, and in the community.

**Megan Conley**, director of community partnerships in the Department of Sociology, for "Effects of the Southeastern Provision Raid on Immigrant Communities in East Tennessee," studying short- and long-term effects of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raid at the Southeastern Provision meatpacking plant in Bean Station, Tennessee—the largest ICE raid in more than a decade. Conley studied the impact on immigrant communities in the area, with particular attention to the consequences for children and families who were directly affected by the raid or are at risk of immigration detention.

**Margaret Crowdson**, academic support specialist in the Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling, for the FUTURE Program, which helps young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities transition from high school to adulthood.

**Janice Hall**, coordinator of academic support and engagement in the Haslam College of Business Office of Diversity and Community Relations, for "Haslam College of Business Pre-Collegiate Summer Programs," assisting high school students in preparing for the ACT.

**Lyndsey Hornbuckle**, assistant professor in the Department of Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sports Studies, for "Effect of Partner Support During Exercise in African-American Couples: Community Board Analysis," directing the development of a community-based physical activity intervention for African American couples aged 50 to 70 years in Knoxville.

**Belinda Letto** and **Anna Duncan**, UT-Tennessee State University extension agents for Coffee County, for "Sowing Seeds of Wellness (S.O.W.)," promoting public health by creating a walking trail that includes a storybook feature as well as arboriculture and horticulture elements to encourage engagement for residents of Monroe County.

**Thura Mack**, professor and coordinator of community learning services and diversity programs in University Libraries, for "EDU BOSS: Engagement and Outreach," establishing a creative three-pronged approach for reaching UT's STEM educators.

**Sean Morey**, assistant professor of English, for "Battle of Knoxville Augmented Reality Walking Tour," enhancing historians' ability to incorporate emerging technologies to bring history to life.

**Sreedhar Upendram**, assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, for "Does the Mobile Hotspot Internet Impact Rural Lifestyle, Education, and Business? Evidence from Distressed Communities in Rural Tennessee," enabling libraries in Hancock and Bledsoe Counties to lend mobile internet hotspots to library patrons. Upendram later surveyed participants to determine perceived barriers, experiences with the free hotspot, and willingness to pay for broadband internet.







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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**TENNESSEE**  
KNOXVILLE

All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment and admission without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, genetic information, veteran status, and parental status, or any other characteristic protected by federal or state law. In accordance with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the University of Tennessee affirmatively states that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or disability in its education programs and activities, and this policy extends to employment by the university. Inquiries and charges of violation of Title VI (race, color, and national origin), Title IX (sex), Section 504 (disability), the ADA (disability), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (age), sexual orientation, or veteran status should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity, 1840 Melrose Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37996-3560, telephone 865-974-2498. Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the Office of Equity and Diversity. A project of the Office of Community Engagement and Outreach with assistance from the UT Office of Communications and Marketing. Job 491369.