

**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH**

# PARTNERSHIPS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**2 0 1 9**



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**TENNESSEE**  
KNOXVILLE

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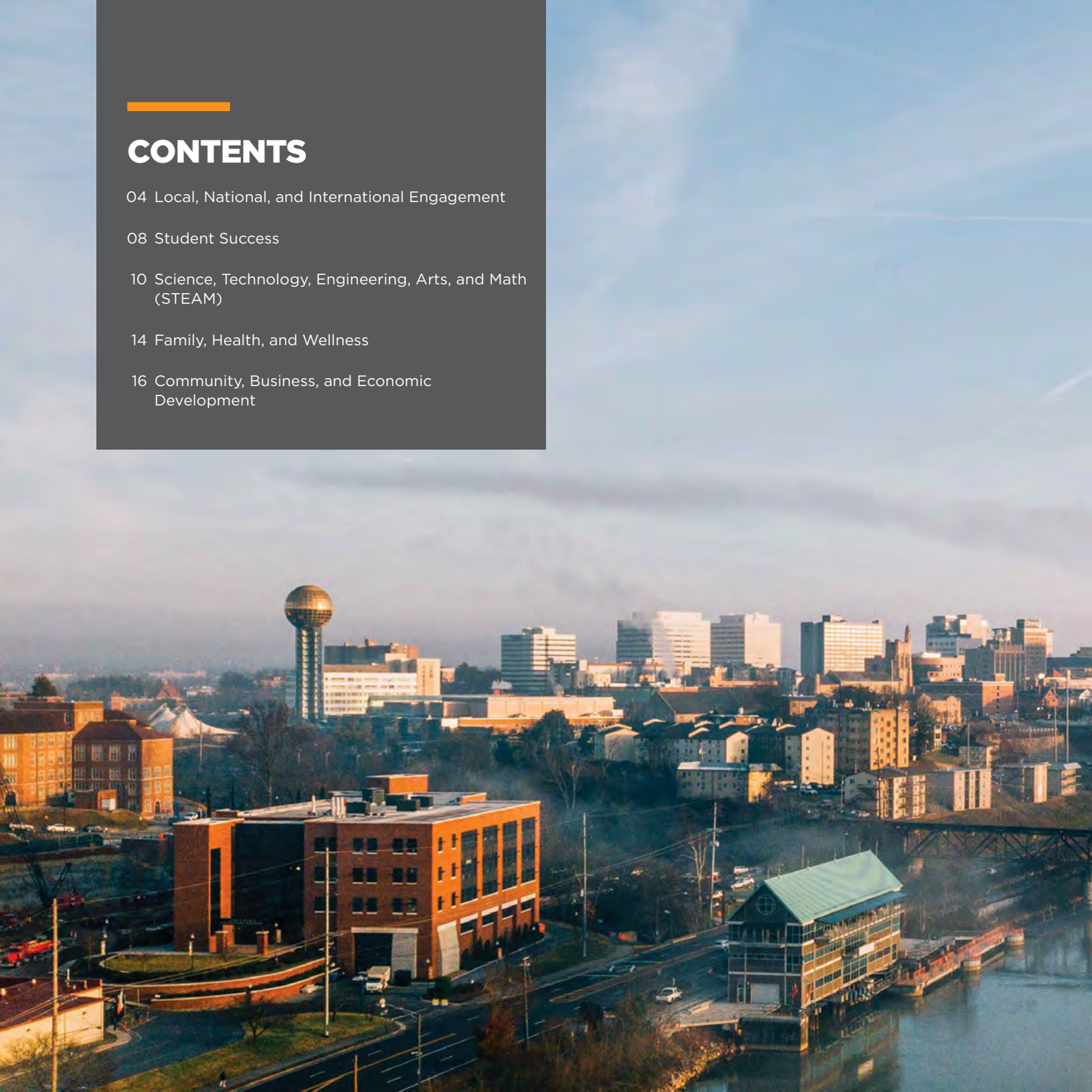
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### **A Note from the Assistant Vice Chancellor**



Throughout its 225-year history, the University of Tennessee has been a beacon of light and leadership. Today, this steadfast commitment to engagement and outreach is present not only in Tennessee, where UT has an established presence in all 95 counties, but across the nation and around the world.

As we continue to bear the torch and light a path to new traditions at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, this booklet describes

some of the results: authentic two-way relationships based on mutuality and reciprocity. Inside you will find a glimpse of some of the exemplary programs and initiatives that demonstrate our campus community's willingness to act, lead, and serve—carrying out what it means to be a Vol.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JS' with a stylized flourish.

Javiette Samuel

Assistant Vice Chancellor



# LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

## Another Impressive Year for UT's Fulbright Program

UT landed another impressive year for Fulbright Student Awards, matching last year's numbers. During the 2020–21 academic year, 17 students and recent graduates will join a total of 2,100 scholars to study, conduct research, and teach English abroad through the program. Earlier this year, UT was recognized by the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs as a top-producing institution for Fulbrights. UT ranks seventh among public research institutions and is the top-ranked institution in the SEC.



## UT Hosts Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators

Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Engagement Tyvi Small hosted the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators to strengthen university-government relationships. This first-of-its-kind partnership was a collaboration with Representative Rick Staples. Elected officials had an opportunity to meet with UT President Randy Boyd and UT Knoxville Chancellor Donde Plowman as well as students, faculty, and staff. The visit concluded with a networking

dinner in the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy, with presentations by Assistant Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Engagement Javiette Samuel and Dean of Students Shea Kidd Houze.

## Shoes for Schools

Each August, several UT units participate in the Knoxville Area Urban League's Shoes for Schools initiative. Corporate partners, nonprofit organizations, and community members come together to provide more than 1,000 pairs of new shoes for students as well as school supplies for the academic year. Participating units last year included the Office of Community Engagement and Outreach, the Division of Diversity and Engagement, and Human Resources.



## **Oak Ridge Institute Awarded \$20 Million Federal Grant**

The Oak Ridge Institute at the University of Tennessee was awarded \$20 million in federal funding from the US Department of Energy.

The award will help support and expand the university's partnership with Oak Ridge National Laboratory, creating a pipeline of interdisciplinary scientists and establishing Tennessee as an important international center for discovering solutions to the world's grand challenges.

## **Jones Center for Leadership and Service Creates Impact**

Over the course of the 2019–20 academic year, 6,726 UT students completed and recorded 154,632 hours of community service—with an estimated value of \$3.9 million—through the university's Clay and Debbie Jones Center for Leadership and Service. The center fielded 271 requests from community organizations, and its Leadership Knoxville Scholars program partnered with 10 area nonprofit organizations.

## **UT Press Celebrates 80 Years of Publishing**

Since 1940, the UT Press has upheld its threefold mandate of stimulating scholarly research, channeling studies to a large audience, and extending the university's regional leadership by publishing worthy projects about the South, including those by authors outside the university. The state's publisher and its oldest university–community partnership, the UT Press has published the presidential papers of Andrew Jackson, Andrew Johnson, and James K. Polk in addition to other notable titles.

## **Community Connect Portal**

The Office of Community Engagement and Outreach worked with three other units at UT—the Jones Center for Leadership and Service, the Center for Career Development and Academic Exploration, and Teaching and Learning Innovation—to develop a platform that connects community organizations to the best campus resources for their project or program. Through the Community Connect Portal, organizations can submit a request that directs them to an appropriate campus partner. Opportunities for engagement include faculty research, student volunteers, internships, service-learning projects, student employment, and other partnerships.

## **US Poet Laureate's Term Renewed**

Joy Harjo, who retired last year as the John C. Hodges Chair of Excellence in the Department of English, has served as the nation's 23rd poet laureate since July 2019. Harjo was reappointed to a second term on April 30. An enrolled member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, she is the first Native American to serve in the position. Her second term will focus on her signature laureate project, "Living Nations, Living Words: A Map of First Peoples Poetry."



## **Legal Clinic Honored for Pro Bono Work, Collaborates with US Commission for Civil Rights**

In 2019, the pro bono efforts of the College of Law's Legal Clinic were recognized by the Tennessee Justice Center with its Pro Bono Firm of the Year award, the first time a university has received this honor. The award cited the tremendous efforts of the



clinic in making a difference in the lives of children and families across Tennessee. Students within the Legal Clinic's Appellate Litigation Clinic handle all aspects of TennCare appeals to fine-tune their skills by practicing case theory and oral advocacy. Through the legal clinic's partnerships, students experience the spirit of service and understand the value that lawyers create in their careers.

Advocacy at the clinic—the longest-running university legal clinic in the country—is not limited to student experiences. Professors Brian Krumm and Valorie Vojdik worked with the US Commission for Civil Rights to determine if Tennessee residents receive equitable treatment in the assessment of legal fees and asset forfeiture. This work not only serves the greater good of the state but also enhances the faculty's academic expertise and experience.

### **Dolly Parton's America Goes National**

Lynn Sacco, associate professor of history, did not know when she created the honors course Dolly Parton's America that it would inspire an award-winning NPR podcast of the same name. One episode features Sacco's students examining Parton's cultural influence and discussing what Parton means to them.

### **UT System Hosts Summit for Opioid Addiction and Response**

In August 2019, the UT System convened more than 700 stakeholders from across Tennessee at the Summit for Opioid Addiction and Response to tackle one of the state and



nation's most important public health issues. Participants with a wide variety of expertise shared information about current trends, the fight against stigma, and available funding opportunities for addressing issues surrounding opioid-driven addiction.

### **I-TEACH Promotes Diversity in the Classroom**

The College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences launched a new program to address diversity in education. I-TEACH—Increasing Teacher Equity to Address Community High Needs—was established through a grant from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to address teacher shortages and increase diversity across the state's public education system. The program supports 12 candidates through 33 hours of coursework, resulting in a master's degree in teacher education upon successful completion. The college produces about 200 teachers a year and has been lauded for its graduates' exceptional pass rate on state licensure exams.





## Haslam Volunteer Impact Program Hits 49,000 Service Hours

The Haslam College of Business hosted its first Haslam Volunteer Impact ceremony to recognize the community service efforts made by its students. Students were recognized for their individual community service as the program celebrated the completion of more than 49,000 combined hours of service.

## College of Nursing Creates Partnerships in Kenya

Through the generous support of donors Poppy and Richard Buchanan, faculty and students in the College of Nursing traveled to Kenya to establish a partnership with the WAKA

School of Nursing in Nyeri and the Samaria Health Center in Ndathi. Faculty members Nan Gaylord and Susan Hébert led training sessions in newborn resuscitation for faculty, staff, students, and nurses from eight hospitals and facilitated training sessions for clinic providers on improving neonatal outcomes.

## Volunteering with the Vols on Nationwide Service Day

On June 29 a nationwide service day was observed under the motto "One Day. One Family. All Vols." An annual event, Volunteering with the Vols sets aside a day for UT alumni,

students, and families to show their communities what being a Tennessee Volunteer means. Vols could be found doing food deliveries for Meals on Wheels in Atlanta, cleaning exhibits at the McWane Science Center in Birmingham, serving food at St. Paul's Community Meals in Chicago, and building homes with Habitat for Humanity in Knoxville.



## STUDENT SUCCESS

### Ruff Readers Program Nurtures Confidence in Elementary Students

Mary Ann Blank, a retired professor in the Department of Theory and Practice in Teacher Education, nurtures an interest in reading among young people through the Ruff Readers program. Ruff Readers provides children with the opportunity to improve their reading skills by reading to dogs affiliated with HABIT (Human-Animal Bond in Tennessee), a volunteer group working to explore the circumstances and consequences of the human-animal bond and promote its benefits. HABIT is made up of representatives from the College of Veterinary Medicine, private veterinary practitioners, and community volunteers.

### UT Launches Career Mentorship Program at South-Doyle High School

Thanks to the College of Architecture and Design, the Tickle College of Engineering, and the UT Institute of Agriculture's Construction Science program, students at Knoxville's South-Doyle High School are able to explore careers and receive mentorship in architecture, construction science, and engineering fields. The program is the first ACE Mentor Program of America affiliate in the Knoxville area. Participating students developed 3D concepts for a business and commercial space in an empty lot near South Knoxville.

### Rap Guide to Culture Comes to Campus

The Office of Community Engagement and Outreach partnered with the National Institute for Mathematical

and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS) and other campus units to bring Baba Brinkman's Rap Guide to Culture to UT. Brinkman uses hip-hop to present ideas in science and philosophy including evolution, human nature, business, wilderness, religion, medicine, and climate change.

### Volunteer Tutoring Club Gives Knox County Students an Extra Boost

The Volunteer Tutoring Club was co-founded by undergraduate students Matthew Feldman, who is studying neuroscience, and Carlos Mancilla, who is studying psychology, to provide tutoring to Knox County elementary school students. As parents learned about the club and demand grew, Mancilla and Feldman prioritized students from low-income families that cannot typically afford private tutors. The club reached its capacity of 30 students at Inskip Elementary School in less than a month. It is now working to recruit more tutors to meet additional demand.







# STEAM: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS, AND MATH

## High School Arts Academy Provides Varied Workshops

The UT High School Arts Academy features approximately 10 workshops for students from 29 high schools across the state. More than 100 students participate in workshops in such areas as printmaking, photography, art and design, and metal sculpture, providing them with opportunities to explore and engage in the arts outside of their traditional high school program.

## MEGA:BITESS Brings Innovation to Teacher Education

A collaboration between the UT Institute of Agriculture, the Tennessee Geographic Alliance, and the US Department of Agriculture, the MEGA:BITESS Medical Entomology and GIS Academy stimulates innovative classroom teaching by giving sixth- through 12th-grade teachers opportunities to integrate medical entomology and geographic information sciences into their classrooms. The program is aimed at developing a STEM teaching community and workforce and cultivating community awareness of vector-borne diseases.

## SuSTEMability Pilot Promotes Teamwork and Technical Skills

SuSTEMability is an after-school program that was piloted at Bowers Elementary School in Harriman, Tennessee. Over the span of 10 weeks, 20 fourth- and fifth-grade girls completed college preparedness sessions and engineering projects such as creating 3D-printed airplanes by extruding filament from water bottles. SuSTEMability is conducted under the leadership of Stephanie TerMaath, Jessie Rogers Zeanah Faculty Fellow in the Department of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Biomedical Engineering, and women graduate students from WiSTAR3 (Women in STEM Advancing Readiness, Retention, and Research), an initiative of Pipeline: Vols for Women in STEM.





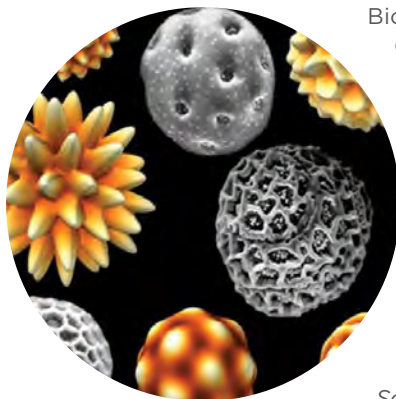
## REACH Connects Community College Students with Agricultural Research

Over the summer, the UT Institute of Agriculture hosted students for REACH, an agroindustrial research experience for community college students. Participants concentrated on challenges surrounding biorefining—the process of producing renewable material from nonagricultural crops—through a series of research presentations, seminars and training sessions, and volunteer projects. Funding was provided by the US Department of Agriculture.

## UT Science Forum Translates Complex Topics for General Audiences

Since 1933, the UT Science Forum has educated the campus and public on the university's latest research. Now formatted as lunch-and-learn sessions, these forums feature UT faculty members who present their research in everyday terms, creating a welcoming space for both scientists and nonscientists.

## The Art of Science Exhibition Showcases the Beauty of Research



The Department of Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology hosted a downtown Knoxville exhibition of art pieces documenting different scientific methodologies. *The Art of Science* showcased pieces collected

through various types of microscopes, abstract images from everyday life in the lab, and images based on mathematical calculations and computer simulations. Contributors included undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, postdoctoral students, and staff from labs in UT's College of Arts and Sciences, the Australian National University, the University of Washington, and the Seattle Children's Research Institute.

## Ag Day Brings Together Farming, Family, and Football

Ag Day is a free annual public event where farming, tailgating, and the Big Orange spirit come together.

Attendees enjoy free snacks and departmental exhibits and hear from special guests—which last year included US Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue—before heading to Neyland Stadium to cheer on the Vols.

## McClung Museum Hosts Science in Motion

In 2019, UT's McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture hosted *Science in Motion: The Photographic Studies of Eadweard Muybridge, Berenice Abbott, and Harold Edgerton, Works from the Bank of America Collection*. The exhibition, made possible through Bank of America's Art in Our Communities program, offered an in-depth view into scientific principles, scientific phenomena, and art practices through the work of three groundbreaking photographers.





## **STEM Camp Introduces Boy Scouts to Engineering**

The Tickle College of Engineering partnered with the Great Smoky Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts of America to create a STEM camp that gives Boy Scouts an introduction to engineering tools and concepts through experiential learning. The camp culminated with a 3D-printed Space Derby rocket created by the scouts.

## **UT and ORNL: Partners to the Core**

As the university celebrated its 225th anniversary, a research highlight focused on the its extensive

partnership with Oak Ridge National Laboratory. More than 175 faculty members hold joint appointments at ORNL, with more than 100 UT students working on projects there. The UT-ORNL Governor's Chairs program recruits exceptionally accomplished researchers from around the world in areas including advanced manufacturing and materials, high-end supercomputing, and bioengineering and bioenergy.

## **UTIA and Blühen Botanicals Conduct Hemp Research**

The passage of the 2018 Farm Bill opened the door for new creative research opportunities between corporate and academic communities, such as a new partnership between the UT Institute of Agriculture and local business Blühen Botanicals.

Graduate students and Blühen staff members are working together to research the production of hemp in Tennessee, with a four-year grant from Blühen valued at over \$350,000.

## **UT Hosts Governor's School for the Sciences and Engineering**

In June 2019, UT hosted more than 100 high school students on campus for the Governor's School for the Sciences and Engineering. UT has been home to the school—a four-week noncredit enrichment program for high-achieving high school students—since its inception in 1984. The costs to participants are minimal, consisting mostly of transportation to and from UT and incidental expenses. Conducted statewide, Governor's Schools in various fields are funded by the Tennessee Department of Education. Support on campus is provided primarily by the College of Arts and Sciences and the Tickle College of Engineering.







## FAMILY, HEALTH, AND WELLNESS

### Nursing Professor Studies Quality-of-Life Improvements for LGBT Caregivers

Joel Anderson, associate professor in the College of Nursing and co-chair of the Chancellor's Commission for LGBT People, received a grant of \$151,000 from the National Institute on Aging to study LGBT caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and examine the psychosocial impact of caregiving for them.



### Kids U Summer Camps Put the Fun in Fundamentals

Kids U is a week-long summer program held by UT Conferences and Non-Credit Programs. For two months, rising third through 12th graders get a chance to explore their interests in a wide range of fields—including art, chemistry, cooking, anthropology, photography, technology, and LEGOs—with faculty, staff, and graduate students.

### Garden Discovery Camps Grow Little Green Thumbs

During the summer, UT Gardens embraces the mission of outreach with several camps to introduce children



of all ages to gardening. Topics range from pollination, composting, and recycling to food allergies.

### Opioid Use Disorder Project Receives HRSA Grant

Sharon Davis, a clinical assistant professor in the College of Nursing, received a \$1 million award from the US Health Resources and Services Administration for Project H.O.P.E.: Healing OUD through Prevention and Expertise. Carried out in collaboration with local practitioners across East Tennessee, Davis's work will help develop and implement services to reduce health care provider stigma associated with opioid use disorder and improve resources for patients and families.

### Dance Marathon Raises Funds for Children's Hospital

Each year VOLthon, the student philanthropy group of the national Dance Marathon organization, raises money for East Tennessee Children's Hospital. The group has given over a million dollars to ETCH over the past 25 years, and this year celebrated a donation of over \$150,000. Funds will provide beds, stretchers, and cribs to be used throughout the hospital.







# COMMUNITY, BUSINESS, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Engineering Students Design Section of Gatlinburg Greenway

As part of a senior design project, students in the Tickle College of Engineering designed a three-mile section of the Gatlinburg Greenway. Construction of the section, which will run along Glades Road off Highway 321, began in late April. It will provide a safe path for pedestrians and bicyclists while linking two neighborhoods along a busy road. Senior design projects give students real-world opportunities to create community solutions and sharpen their engineering skills.

## Legal Clinic Receives Tennessee Bar Foundation Grant

For 37 years the Tennessee Bar Foundation has funded law-related community projects. This year, it awarded the College of Law's Legal Clinic \$100,000 to continue the expansion of the clinic's expungement work across the state.

## OnBoard Governance Certificate Program Promotes Nonprofit Service

The Alliance for Better Nonprofits and the Haslam College of Business launched OnBoard, a certificate program that prepares community professionals for service on a

nonprofit board. Each training session is conducted at a different organization so participants get a holistic view of community needs.

## Architecture Students Design Nashville Urban Housing Village

In summer 2019, undergraduate architecture students worked with the Nashville Urban Design Studio to develop designs for the Woodycrest Teacher Village, an affordable community for teachers in the Metro Nashville area. Students worked with developers under the direction of Professor of Architecture TK Davis. They presented their ideas during professional conferences, building both their experience and their professional network.

## Legal Clinic Provides Free Transactional Legal Services, Co-Hosts Community Resource Fair

The College of Law's Legal Clinic partnered with the Alliance for Better Nonprofits of Knoxville to expand the clinic's free transactional legal services to nonprofit organizations, small businesses, entrepreneurs, and artists.





Student attorneys work with the community to provide services under the guidance of Assistant Professor Eric Amarante.

The clinic partnered with the City of Knoxville's Save our Sons initiative for its first community resource fair. Tatia Harris, the city's diversity and inclusion officer, summarized the event as "creating a safe, helpful, hopeful community for all." The clinic, along with state officials, provided legal advice to help people expunge their records.

### Photography Professor Focuses Eyes on LaFollette

Over the past 26 years, Professor of Journalism and Electronic Media Rob Heller has brought more than 300 advanced photojournalism students to LaFollette, Tennessee, for the Eyes on LaFollette photojournalism project. Students spend a day each semester shooting photos, then work to produce a special section for the *LaFollette Press*.



### Senior Design Group Creates Solution for Natchez Bridge

Jennifer Retherford, senior lecturer in the Tickle College of Engineering, often challenges her senior design students to engineer solutions to problems rooted in a social context. One group chose to focus on the Natchez Trace Parkway Bridge. Located in Williamson County, Tennessee, the bridge became known as a suicide bridge after more than 32 reports of suicide or attempted suicide there. Students designed a safety net that complies with building restrictions of the National Park Service and the National Register of Historic Places.





Participating in the university's annual Martin Luther King Day of Service, students receive instructions at Remote Area Medical's Knoxville warehouse.







Miscellaneous

## **Office of Community Engagement & Outreach**

2330 Dunford Hall  
915 Volunteer Boulevard  
Knoxville, TN 37996-4000  
865-974-4863

*communityengagement@utk.edu*

**communityengagement.utk.edu**



DIVERSITY &  
ENGAGEMENT

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