



THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

April 2023

NEWS

ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH April

April is Arab American Heritage Month. Throughout the month, a variety of initiatives that highlight the heritage of Arab American innovators and change agents are celebrated.

[Learn More About the Origins of Arab American Heritage Month Here](#)

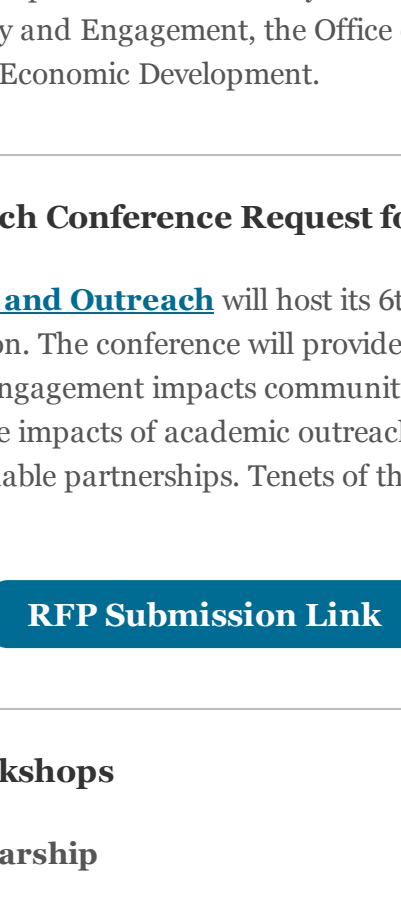
[Full Curated Resource Guide](#)

Arab Fest

Arab Fest will be held in Downtown Market Square on April 15 from 12:00-6:00 p.m. There will be great food, traditional dances & Dabkeh, fashion shows, live music, and Middle Eastern merchandise! The [Commission for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders \(CFAAPI\)](#) will sponsor the event and will have a booth from 12:00-4:00 p.m.

[Find Out More Information Here](#)

OCEO Welcomes New Team Members



The Office of Community Engagement and Outreach (OCEO) is pleased to welcome our new Assistant Director, Dr. Sonja Jackson. Sonja is a native of Morristown, Tennessee. She is a three-time East Tennessee State University alumna where she earned a Bachelor of Business Administration, Master of City Management, and an EdD in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis.

Marcus Walker has joined the team as our new K-12 Coordinator. His work will include partnering with Knox County Schools, Knoxville Area Urban League, Centro Hispano, Change Center, Boys & Girls Club, and other youth-serving organizations to implement a variety of initiatives and pre-collegiate programs.

Community Engagement Academy Summer Intensive

The [Office of Community Engagement and Outreach](#) will host the second annual Community Engagement Academy (CEA) Summer Intensive for graduate students June 7-8. We welcome students that are interested in fundamental concepts of community engagement and engaged scholarship, which they can apply to their research, teaching, practice, and service. Through interactive workshops, guided discussions, panel discussions, lighting talks, field trips, and community tours, participants will explore grand challenges related to community engagement. Benefits include individual consultation, access to background literature, strategies for their own successful engagement activities, and valuable tips on publishing community engaged scholarship. Learn more or apply [here](#).

[Application Link](#)

Community-University Research Collaboration Initiative

The newly launched [Community-University Research Collaboration Initiative](#) fosters community-engaged scholarship and mutually beneficial relationships between UT faculty and the greater Knoxville community. The initiative is funded by the Division of Diversity and Engagement, the Office of Community Engagement and Outreach, and the Office of Research, Innovation, and Economic Development.

6th Annual Engagement and Outreach Conference Request for Proposals

The [Office of Community Engagement and Outreach](#) will host its 6th Annual Engagement and Outreach Conference on October 3 in the Student Union. The conference will provide a platform for intentional conversations about the many ways that UT's community engagement impacts communities across the city, region, state, and globe. The conference will also highlight the positive impacts of academic outreach and community-engaged work while also providing strategies and solutions for sustainable partnerships. Tenets of the RFP are outlined below. Proposals are due by May 3 at noon.

[RFP Submission Link](#)

OCEO Community Engagement Workshops

Publishing Community Engaged Scholarship

April 28 at 10:00 a.m. [Register here](#).

There is a wide variety of peer-reviewed multidisciplinary journals to publish community-engaged scholarship. This session will explore publishing outlets. Zoom link will be sent after registration. Questions should be submitted to communityengagement@utk.edu.

Facilitator: Dr. Javiette Samuel, Associate Vice Chancellor & Director of Community Engagement and Outreach

Black Maternal Health Showcase

HOST:
DANIELLE PROCOPE BELL

YOU'RE INVITED

BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH SHOWCASE
THURSDAY, APRIL 13 FROM 5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM ET
FRIESON BLACK CULTURAL CENTER 1800 MELROSE AVENUE KNOXVILLE, TN 37916

This year's Black Maternal Health Showcase features incredible local researchers, business owners, and professionals who work at the vanguard of Black maternal health here in Knoxville. Come to learn from and alongside experts in Black maternal health and share your perspective. Food and drink will be served.

This event is generously co-sponsored by the [Department of Africana Studies](#) and the Knoxville Birth Equity Alliance. Although it is free and open to the public, registration is required.

[Register Here](#)

Students and Alumni Spend Spring Break Volunteering in Memphis

UT's [VOLbreaks alternative break program](#) celebrated its **30th anniversary with a trip to Memphis**, bringing incoming students, current students and alumni together to serve the community. Since 1993, VOLbreaks trips have allowed hundreds of students at UT to serve communities and gain new perspectives on the world beyond campus.

OEPN Energy Boost Virtual Workshop

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP
Tuesday, May 9, 2023
1-2 p.m. (EST)

Join outreach and engagement colleagues from a national network of higher education institutions and community organizations for an OEPN energy boost on May 9.

What is an energy boost you ask? It is a time to network, come together to examine our work, continue conversations, start new ones, reconnect, and re-energize.

The May virtual workshop will be from 1:00-2:00 p.m. (EST) and will focus on mapping power dynamics in our outreach and engagement organizations. What is it? Where is it? Who has it? And what does it mean for us as Boundary Spanners?

[Register Here](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Thoughtful Thursdays

2023

Engage.
Learn.
Connect.

Sessions Are Held on
The 1st and 3rd
Thursday of The Month

For More Information :

Email Dr. Lamar Bryant
LamarB@utk.edu

Sponsored and Coordinated by the Strategic Initiatives Unit

Session 4: Demystifying Equity-Centered Data Collection

Session 4 for Thoughtful Thursday will occur on April 20 from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. in the Institute for Advanced Materials and Manufacturing, Room 147. In this session, participants will identify culturally responsive practices for gathering data and create a plan for implementing those strategies in their respective areas and projects. This session is for professionals seeking to enhance their programs, organizational cultures, and/or current policies and practices. Please register by April 14 at 5 p. m.

[Register Here](#)

INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI PANEL

VIA ZOOM
APRIL 12TH
3-4:30PM EST
tiny.utk.edu/cinternationalalumnipanel

CAREER CONVERSATIONS

CAREER DEVELOPMENT & ACADEMIC EXPLORATION

The Center for Leadership Development in Built Environment Sustainability

ASTFE
American Society of Thermal and Fluids Engineers

**Graduate Students
APPLY TODAY**

www.cldb.es.org

Fukuoka, Japan

If you would like to experience the cultural diversity, build your leadership skills, and have an interest in built environment sustainability be sure to check out our webpage:
<https://www.cldb.es.org/>
for information and application.

Email us with any questions at
Us.hk.ldbes@gmail.com

Kyushu University
July 16 - August 12, 2023
<https://www.tj.kyushu-u.ac.jp/>

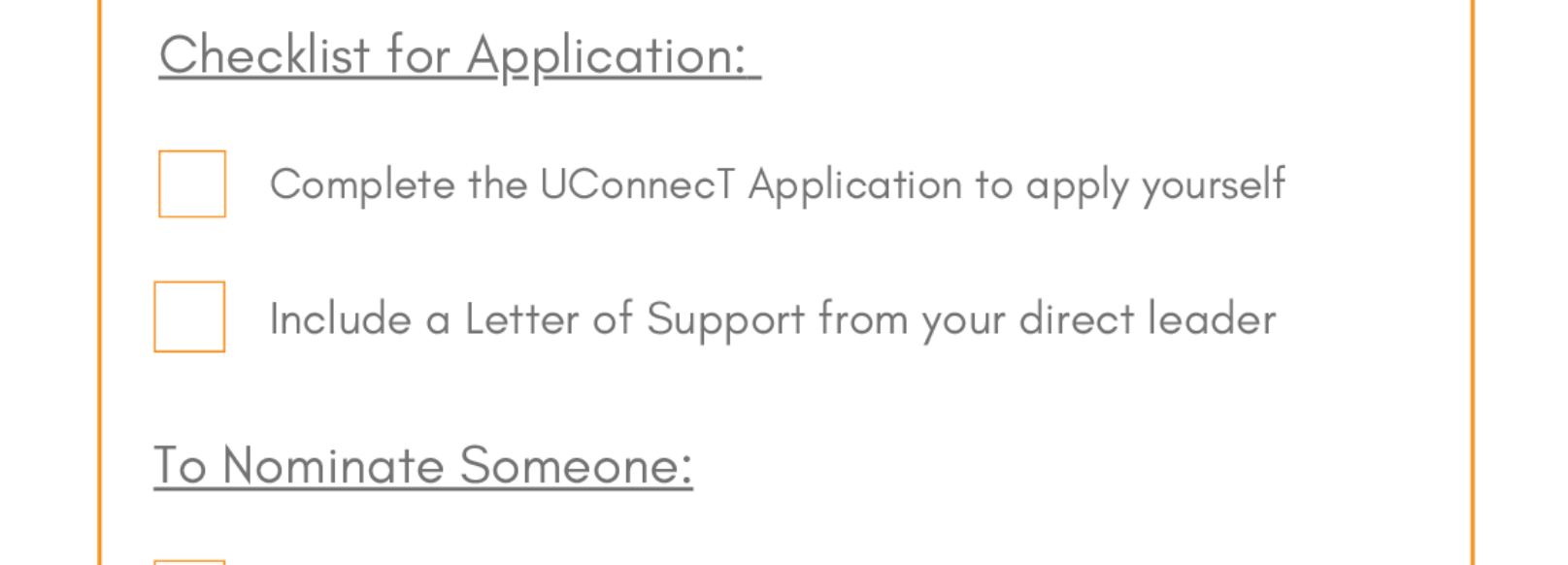
- Research in Built Environment Sustainability
- Develop Leadership Skills
- Experience Collaborative Learning

Eligible applicants must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

[Center for Leadership Development in Built Environment Sustainability Webpage](#)

ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

East Tennessee Freedom Schools Paid Internship



Did you know summer learning loss is currently one of the major challenges affecting poor and working-class children? Did you know there was a way for you to help minimize this learning gap for these children while getting **paid** to do so? Please join East Tennessee Freedom Schools this summer for their reading enrichment program. The program is designed to help children fall in love with reading, increase self esteem, and cultivate positive attitudes toward learning. Be a part of the difference and apply today.

[Application Link](#)

University of Tennessee's Inclusive Leadership Academy

UTILA is designed for exempt staff and faculty, providing a thoughtful and intentional learning experience that will equip leaders with the content knowledge, leadership behaviors, and support to effectively lead our diverse workforce and create a culture of inclusion.

You can apply for yourself or nominate someone else. The deadline to apply is May 1 and the deadline for nominations is April 19. Find out more about this program and apply at the link below.

[Find out More Information Below](#)

UConnect

UConnect

UConnect is an inclusive, yearlong immersive leadership and professional development program. The goal of UConnect is to promote growth and development for our highly motivated non-exempt staff who have three years of continuous service. Learn more about the application process here.

Eligibility: Non-exempt staff w/2y of continuous UT service who submit an application.

Applications window opens April 3, 2023
Submissions will be reviewed and cohort finalized in July 2023

Checklist for Application:

- ☐ Complete the UConnect Application to apply yourself
- ☐ Include a Letter of Support from your direct leader

To Nominate Someone:

- ☐ Complete the UConnect nomination form

For more detail on UConnect, visit: hr.utk.edu/our-programs/ or Contact LOD by email at: lod@utk.edu

Rigorous Impact Evaluations of Student Success Programs and Practices in Higher Education

Randomized Controlled Trials of Criminal Justice Programs and Practices

Demonstrating the Power of Evidence-Based Programs to "Move the Needle" on Major U.S. Social Problems

RCT Opportunity: Evaluating Social Programs Whose Delivery Will Be Funded by Government or Other Entities

Caplan Foundation for Early Childhood (CFEC) Funding Opportunity

FEC supports promising research and development projects that appear likely to improve the welfare of young children, from infancy to age 7, in the U.S. Welfare is broadly defined to include physical and mental health, safety, nutrition, education, play, familial support, acculturation, societal integration and childcare. The Foundation's goal is to provide seed money to implement imaginative proposals that exhibit the greatest chance of improving the lives of young children, on a national scale. Letters of Intent are due by May 31.

[More Information Here](#)

Brady Education Foundation Funding Opportunity

The Brady Education Foundation is currently accepting Research Project (RP) proposals and Existing Program Evaluation (EPE) proposals that have the potential to provide data that will inform how to address disparities in educational opportunities associated with race, ethnicity, and family income. The foundation is looking for sustainable, accessible, and strength based projects.

[More Information Here](#)

Spencer Foundation - Racial Equity Research Grants

The [Racial Equity Research Grants program](#) supports education research projects that will contribute to understanding and ameliorating racial inequality in education. The Foundation is interested in funding studies that aim to understand and disrupt the reproduction and deepening of inequality in education, and which seek to (re)imagine and make new forms of equitable education. Thus, it is interested in research projects that seek to envision educational opportunities in a multiplicity of education systems, levels, settings, and developmental ranges and that reach beyond documenting conditions and paradigms that contribute to persistent racial inequalities.

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Email: communityengagement@utk.edu

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