

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

PARTNERSHIPS THAT MAKE A **DIFFERENCE**

2022



A NOTE FROM
THE ASSOCIATE
VICE CHANCELLOR

Our campus has an important role as the state's flagship land-grant university. We have a mission to provide access and education, to explore and discover, and to enhance culture and advance the public good. Providing communities with opportunities they never imagined possible has been a priority for departments and colleges across campus. In this report, we highlight unique and creative mutually beneficial partnerships that are promoting and advancing knowledge and action for citizens of the greater Knoxville area and beyond.

UT partnerships expand business and economic development, health and wellness, and education, even reaching to initiate programs on a global scale. The entire campus has come together to make a difference and will continue to be change agents.

All my best,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop and a trailing line.

Javiette Samuel

Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Engagement



CONTENTS

ADVANCING ACCESS, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION	4
COMMUNITY OUTREACH	6
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY	7
EDUCATION AND STEAM	8
HEALTH AND WELLNESS	9
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	10
PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT AUSTIN-EAST MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL	12
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT	14
AWARDS AND GRANTS FOR BROADER IMPACTS	15

ADVANCING ACCESS, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION



STUDENT-ATHLETES VISIT RWANDA

A group of 15 student-athletes spent nearly two weeks in Rwanda over the summer working with athletics programs in local schools as part of the VOLeaders Academy, a yearlong program that supports student-athletes in becoming positive, socially responsible leaders. Participants spent time learning and understanding the culture while working with the community and local leaders. The program included focused coursework, a leadership retreat, and service activities.

CHANGE CENTER PARTNERSHIP TAKES OFF

A five-year partnership between UT and the Change Center, an organization serving youth and young adults in Knoxville's center-city communities, is producing transformative work after launching in August. At least 10 university departments have held events at the center including Flagship FAFSA Night, MLK Skate Day, Family Fun Day, and essay writing workshops. The partnership was created to amplify college access and educational opportunities for middle and high school students.

UT, TOMBRAS PARTNER TO FOSTER DIVERSITY IN ADVERTISING AND PR

UT and Knoxville-based advertising agency Tombras partnered to modernize and expand advertising and public relations education by establishing the Tombras School of Advertising and Public Relations in UT's College of Communication and Information. The partnership is working to increase enrollment of students of color in the school, with a goal of doubling the number of Black, Indigenous, and people of color entering the advertising and marketing industry from the university.

COMMISSION FOR AAPI LAUNCHED

The university's Commission for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders launched in December as an advising body to bring attention to the challenges and opportunities facing the campus AAPI community. Along with advising on the planning and implementation of programs and policies, the commission will provide a forum for community members to connect, collaborate, and engage in campuswide initiatives for diversity, engagement, and inclusion.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACADEMY GROWS

UT's Community Engagement Academy is a six-week interdisciplinary program for new faculty members, postdoctoral researchers, and



graduate students who want to learn the foundations of community engagement and apply that knowledge to their research and practice. Led by Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Engagement Javiette Samuel, participants take part in interactive workshops, individual consultations, panel discussions, field trips, and tours. The academy grew to offer two sessions in 2022, allowing 14 people to complete the program.

MCCLUNG MUSEUM PARTNERS WITH NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

UT's McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture collaborated with Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, along with the UT Office of Repatriation, to create an exhibition that examines the legal and ethical principles of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The museum staff sees the partnership as a starting point to building lasting, respectful relationships with Native Nation partners.

'BETTER RELATIONS PLAN' ESTABLISHED

UT and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians partnered to create the Better Relations Plan with the goal of sharing resources and exchanging ideas that will give the university a better understanding of the EBCI community's needs and foster postsecondary edu-

cational access. The plan provides in-state tuition to students from the EBCI community along with scholarships and other benefits.

HUTCHINS SUPPORTS DIVERSITY PROGRAMS

Alumnus Dwight Hutchins pledged over \$10 million to support the Fred D. Brown Jr. Minority Engineering Scholarship. The scholarship was established in the Tickle College of Engineering to help support engineering students from historically underrepresented populations. The college commemorated the gift—which will help countless future students—with the naming of the Dwight Hutchins Engineering Diversity Programs.

VOLS HELP GIRL SCOUTS THINK LIKE ENGINEERS

Engineering Fundamentals Lecturer Betsy Chesnutt collaborated with the Girl Scouts Beaver Creek Service Unit Leadership Team to organize a "Think Like an Engineer" Journey-in-a-Day for Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts. Scouts earned multiple badges after completing activities focused on engineering design and teamwork, led by UT's chapter of the Society of Women Engineers.

CAMPUS PROVIDES CULTURAL IMMERSION EXPERIENCES

To help encourage students to be globally minded and service oriented, the Division of Diversity and Engagement partners with areas such as the Division of Student Life, the Division of Student Success, and various academic units to host strategic domestic and international cultural immersion opportunities. Domestic cultural immersion experiences include civil rights tours and civil rights destination experiences such as a fall break trip to Washington, DC.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



UT RECEIVES KNOXVILLE AREA URBAN LEAGUE CORPORATE LEADERSHIP AWARD

UT's continuing efforts to make Knoxville a more inclusive community for people of all backgrounds were recognized with the Knoxville Area Urban League's Corporate Leadership Award. Several departments and colleges have partnered with the Urban League, including the Division of Diversity and Engagement, the Haslam College of Business, the College of Law, and the Office of Multicultural Student Life.

CENTRO HISPANO PARTNERSHIP SERVES LATINX COMMUNITY

The Division of Diversity and Engagement's partnership with Centro Hispano de East Tennessee helped the organization serve more than 300 Latinx youth and young adults throughout the year. Initiatives included workshops focused on cultural identity, leadership development, postsecondary access, and career options.

SHOES FOR SCHOOL CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

In August, the Knoxville Area Urban League hosted its 20th Annual Shoes for School event, which included a strong UT presence. More than 1,700 pairs of shoes were distributed to students, and around 3,000 were able to get school supplies and backpacks.

UNIVERSITY HOUSING RECEIVES OUTSTANDING YOUTH IN PHILANTHROPY AWARD

Resident assistants with University Housing have been raising money and building homes with Knoxville Habitat for Humanity for 25 years. For its commitment to philanthropy and setting an example for others to follow, University Housing was honored with the Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award by the Great Smoky Mountain Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. The award was part of the chapter's observation of National Philanthropy Day.

DIVISION OF DIVERSITY AND ENGAGEMENT PARTNERS WITH THE BOTTOM

The Division of Diversity and Engagement's partnership with the Bottom, a Knoxville community center, continues to grow. The collaboration includes programmatic initiatives such as the Community Fellowship and the Sew It Sell It program, and it provides recruitment opportunities for Black students in Knoxville and surrounding areas.

ENGINEERING STAFF SERVES SECOND HARVEST

A team of Tickle College of Engineering staff served at the Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee. The group collectively bagged around 600 pounds of oatmeal for distribution to local families and hand-wrote personalized thank-you notes to sponsors.

INTERNATIONAL CUISINE MAP PROVIDES GLOBAL TASTES

Rachel Rui, director of the Office of Asia Engagement and the Office of Communications in UT's Center for Global Engagement, created a new resource for the university community: an international cuisine map listing Knoxville's international restaurants and food trucks. It allows Vols to engage with other cultures locally and gives international students a taste of home.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY



TAYLOR LEADS DISCUSSIONS ON COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Office of Community Engagement and Outreach hosted Henry-Louis Taylor Jr., professor and founding director of the University of Buffalo Center for Urban Studies. Taylor led two lectures—one on campus and one at Knoxville's Beck Cultural Exchange Center—followed by a panel discussion that focused on gun safety within the local community. In addition to Taylor, panelists included the district attorney general and members of the Knoxville Police Department and FBI Knoxville. Community leaders shared their organizations' missions to help make Knoxville a safer place.

FRIESON BLACK CULTURAL CENTER PROVIDES HEALING SPACES

The Frieson Black Cultural Center provides a safe space to the campus community to process and heal as students, staff, and faculty are invited to reflect on local and national events as they occur. Creating these safe spaces allow attendees to be open and vulnerable while uplifting one another.

BROOKS SHARES MESSAGE ON HAPPINESS AND LEADERSHIP

Arthur Brooks, a social scientist at Harvard University and bestselling author, presented a lecture centered on the importance of personal happiness and how we can use related habits and principles to create a more engaged society while becoming better leaders.

The lecture was open to the campus and the Knoxville community. Brooks's visit was hosted by UT's Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy in conjunction with his appointment to the Board of Fellows of the center's new Institute of American Civics. Brooks also taped an episode of *You Might Be Right*, a podcast produced by the center and co-hosted by former Tennessee Governors Phil Bredesen and Bill Haslam.



EDUCATION AND STEAM



FIRST LADY VISITS NEW 'GROW YOUR OWN' CENTER

The UT System, in partnership with local school districts, the US Department of Labor, and the Tennessee Department of Education, launched the Tennessee Grow Your Own Center—a \$20 million investment in creating an innovative statewide educator pipeline through Tennessee's teacher apprenticeship model. First Lady Jill Biden and US Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona visited the campus to celebrate the new center. Biden, who has a doctorate in education and has been both a public school teacher and a community college professor, described what the university is doing for Tennessee as a big deal, citing the many obstacles that previously stood in the way of people becoming teachers.

She left current and aspiring teachers with inspiring words: "Teaching isn't just what we do. It's who we are."

DOCTORAL STUDENTS SUPPORT KNOXVILLE COLLEGE REACCREDITATION

UT is engaged in a multiyear letter of intent with Knoxville College, the only historically black college or university in East Tennessee, in a strategic partnership to support the college in regaining its position as one of the state's premier institutions of higher learning serving Black youth and communities. The Office of Community Engagement and Outreach has been involved in several initiatives as part of the partnership. In June, students in the Higher Education Administration PhD program began working with Knoxville College on its efforts to regain accreditation. The project is being carried out under the guidance of Patrick Biddix, the Jimmy and Ileen Cheek Endowed Professor of Higher Education and College Student Personnel.

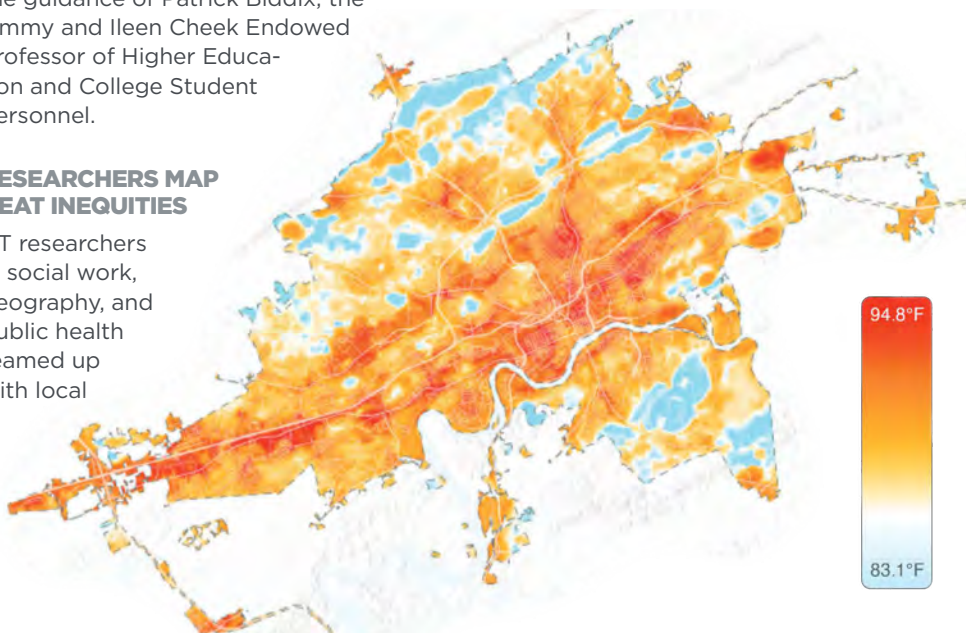
RESEARCHERS MAP HEAT INEQUITIES

UT researchers in social work, geography, and public health teamed up with local

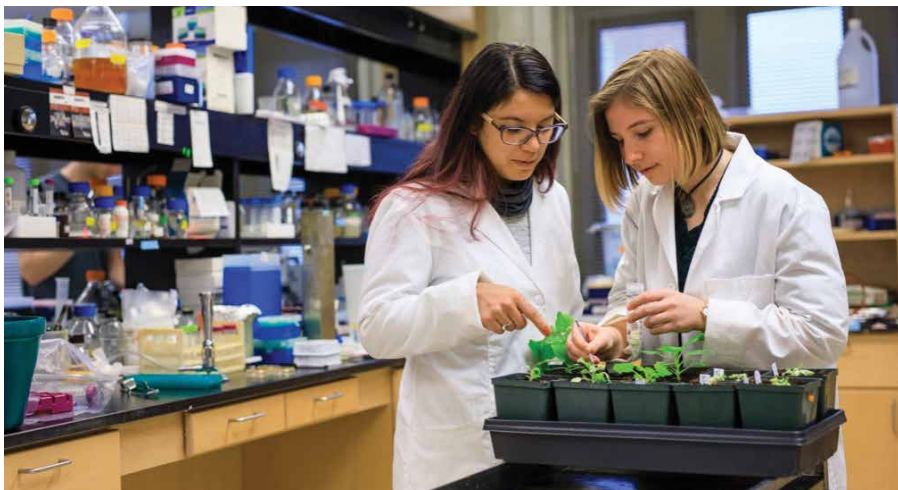
community members, students, city government offices, and nonprofit organizations to map urban heat islands and strategize ways to protect disproportionately affected communities. The project will help document how Knoxville's urban heat islands intersect with equity issues such as housing insecurity, health care access, and energy burden.

INAUGURAL COMMUNITY LEADER LECTURER APPOINTED

The College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences welcomed its inaugural Distinguished Community Leader Lecturer, Daryl Arnold, for fall semester. The role was created to engage both the local community and the university, providing an opportunity for faculty and students to learn about the work being done related to their areas of study from working professionals.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS



STUDENTS CREATE FLOATING WETLANDS

Students in Green Infrastructure, a course offered by the Institute of Agriculture's Department of Plant Sciences, introduced floating wetlands to the Third Creek ecosystem as part of a capstone project. The wetlands—micro island habitats for plants and wildlife—were made with bamboo harvested from campus and help to clean contaminants from the stream.

ESPORTS CLUB RAISES MONEY FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

UT's Esports Club hosts an annual gaming marathon supporting East Tennessee Children's Hospital through Extra Life, a national program that raises funds for Children's Miracle Network hospitals. Groups and individual

gamers livestream marathons and compete in video game tournaments to raise money toward lifesaving treatments, research, and other children's health services. Since its creation, Extra Life has raised over \$100 million.

CULINARY MEDICINE CLASS OFFERED

UT Knoxville and the UT Health Science Center collaborated to provide a continuing education class in culinary medicine for health care professionals. Based on the Health Meets Food curriculum used by UTHSC, the class included information on how fresh food can be prepared to prevent or reverse chronic diseases.

CHEROKEE HEALTH SYSTEMS PARTNERSHIP ADDRESSES REGIONAL ISSUES

UT announced a new partnership with Cherokee Health Systems to address health issues in the region and advance the development of health education and research to improve the well-being of communities in Tennessee. The collaboration involves research activities, seminars and training, and enhanced education programs. It provides real-world training experiences for students to work with rural populations and underserved communities.

COLLEGE OF NURSING RECEIVES MENTAL HEALTH GRANT

The College of Nursing was awarded a \$3.7 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to provide quality mental health care services to rural communities with underrepresented and minority residents. The project will strengthen diversity within the nursing field while helping to address the mental health needs of Tennessee's rural communities.



BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



UT RISES IN RANKING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UT rose significantly in the Times Higher Education 2022 Impact Ranking. The annual ranking measures institutions' commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals—a group of 17 goals in research, stewardship, outreach, and teaching introduced in 2015 to support a healthier, safer, and more sustainable future for the world. The university rose in the overall world ranking from the 201–300 category in 2021 to the top 100 in 2022 and was in the top 15 among all US institutions in the areas of clean water and sanitation, good health and well-being, and partnerships.

EASTMAN INNOVATION CENTER ESTABLISHED

Eastman and UT strengthened their partnership by establishing the Eastman Innovation Center on the UT campus and outlining joint initiatives that could have far-reaching economic and environmental impacts. A new agreement continues the partnership until 2026, including research topics in fields like neutron science and additive manufacturing.

UT, CONSOLIDATED NUCLEAR SECURITY SIGN AGREEMENT

A \$9.5 million agreement between UT and Consolidated Nuclear Security—which operates both the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas—will run through September 2026. The collaboration supports Y-12 in the implementation of new national security technologies by providing access to UT's students, faculty, and research facilities.

UT-LED TEAM DEVELOPS METHOD TO DETERMINE FLAWS IN RUBBER

A research team from UT and Eastman developed a new method to ensure consistency and quality in rubber manufacturing, which is likely to show real-world impact on material sustainability and durability for products such as car tires. The application of this new method increases the rubber industry's ability to view and predict flaws, which will lead to more consistent quality.



**UT AMONG FOUNDING MEMBERS
OF SEC AI AND DATA SCIENCE
CONSORTIUM**

UT joined 13 other SEC universities to form a new artificial intelligence consor-

tium that will help grow opportunities in the fields of artificial intelligence and data science. Universities in the consortium will share educational resources and best practices to expand oppor-

tunities in the fast-changing fields of AI and data science, which are expected to be foundational for the future of industry, education, and research.



AUSTIN-EAST MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL



PREPARATION FOR SUCCESS

A partnership between the University of Tennessee and Knoxville's Austin-East Magnet High School is affording seniors a new level of confidence during the college application process



by providing support in writing their personal essays. A team of undergraduates, graduate students, and English lecturers from UT's Judith Anderson Herbert Writing Center work individually with the seniors to discover their personal stories and improve their writing skills. The initiative allows high school seniors to prepare for college and gives UT students an opportunity for professional development. Funded in part by the Office of Community Engagement and Outreach, the partnership with the writing center is a part of UT's dedication to having a year-round presence at Austin-East that includes high school visits, college fairs, and information sessions.

CULINARY BOOT CAMP

Thanks to a grant from the East Tennessee American Culinary Federation, Austin-East students got a taste of what it's like to be a professional chef. The boot camp was led by Chef Greg Eisele, president of the American Culinary Federation Smoky Mountain Chapter and director of UT's Culinary and Catering program, who encouraged students to think outside the classroom. Students who stay in the culinary program will be eligible for industry certifications.

PROJECT GRAD SUMMER INSTITUTE

Every summer, 150 students from Austin-East and Fulton High Schools participate in a one-week residential precollege enrichment experience. The program consists of core courses such as college research skills, math, and English, followed by one of seven academic tracks ranging from STEM to recreation and sport management. Students also participate in community service projects, volunteering with local agencies such as the Knoxville ReAnimation Coalition, Knox Area Rescue Ministries, and the Wesley House Community Center. Students who complete summer institutes at both Pellissippi State Community College and UT and who graduate on time with a GPA of at least 2.5 are eligible to receive a \$4,000 scholarship from Project GRAD Knoxville.

PROJECT EXCELLENCE

Last year five students from Austin-East were enrolled in Project Excellence, which brings students to campus for skills coaching and leadership development. Project Excellence Director Kimberly Hill—an Austin-East graduate and UT doctoral candidate—is on a mission to ensure that students from underserved communities have the confidence and resources necessary to succeed in a college environment. Students earned up to 5 hours of credit in educational leadership and policy studies, which can be applied to several programs of study at UT.



GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



ACADEMY FOR GLOBAL SCHOLARS FOSTERS GROWTH

The Academy for Global Scholars, a broad collaboration led by UT's Center for Global Engagement, provides first-year students with a unique opportunity for global learning and individual growth. Participants engage as a group in a summer workshop, service activities, general education courses, and a study abroad experience.

BAKER CENTER, JEJU PEACE INSTITUTE COLLABORATE

Krista Wiegand, director of the Global Security Program at UT's Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy, traveled with Global Security Fellows Sojeong Lee and Wonjae Hwang to Jeju Island in South Korea. They

participated in a joint research workshop with the Jeju Peace Institute and a signing ceremony for an unofficial memorandum of understanding for future research collaboration.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE EMPOWERS STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

The Center for Global Engagement's English Language Institute provides instruction in English as a second language for prospective university students as well as community members. Em Chitty, former interim director of the institute, says it is important for students and community members to fully learn and understand English for their life and career goals.

'FRIENDS ACROSS THE SEA' CONNECTS US, JAPAN

UT students have the opportunity to virtually connect with students from three Japanese universities through the Friends Across the Sea program, hosted by the English Language Institute in collaboration with the university's Japanese Language program. The Japanese students improve their English skills by studying with a UT instructor and conversing online with UT students.

NEW INITIATIVE EXPANDS GLOBAL LEARNING

Samara Akpovo, an associate professor in the Department of Child and Family Studies, has signed an MOU with Kathmandu University in Nepal. Akpovo is developing an online student and faculty exchange through the partnership to build a laboratory school for teacher education programs.

COLLABORATION SERVES INTERNATIONAL STUDENT-ATHLETES

UT's Thornton Athletics Student Life Center partnered with International Student and Scholar Services to provide specialized advising services and foster community among international student-athletes. The collaboration supports international students before and after they arrive on campus by helping with matters such as visas, immigration papers, Form I-20s, and other necessary documentation.

AWARDS AND GRANTS FOR BROADER IMPACTS

DIVISION OF DIVERSITY AND ENGAGEMENT OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

DIVERSITY CHALLENGE GRANTS

Guy Harrison

Assistant Professor, School of Journalism and Electronic Media

Black Ice: An (Auto)Ethnography of Black Hockey Fandom and Media Consumption in the US

Minjie Li

Assistant Professor, Tombras School of Advertising and Public Relations

Together Yet Divided: How Strategic Communication Can Improve the Intergroup Relations Among Marginalized Groups

Briana Rosenbaum

Associate Professor, College of Law
Using History of Discrimination in Legal Education to Promote Critical Conversations about Systemic Racism, Institutional Responsibility, and Restorative Justice

SPONSORSHIP AWARDS

Alison Buchan

Professor and Associate Head, Department of Microbiology

Knoxville-Tennessee Environmental Soil and Stream Testing (K-TESST)

Shannon Hayward

Vice President, Tessera Dance Theater

Creating Growth Opportunities through the Arts for Underrepresented Populations in Knoxville

Lyndsey Hornbuckle

Associate Professor, Department of Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sport Studies

Effect of Partner Support During Exercise in African-American Adults Dyads—Community Advisory Board Expansion

Janiece Pigg

Extension Assistant for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, 4-H Youth Development

Advancing Programmatic Accessibility in Outdoor Recreation and Camping in 4-H Youth Development

MINI GRANT AWARDS

Jennifer Bolden

Associate Professor, Department of Psychology

Strengthening Underserved Communities by Cultivating Engagement and Supporting Scholars (SUCCESS)

Erika Mitchell

Research Assistant Professor, College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences

Understanding Relationship Needs for Foster Care and Adoptive Families: A Provider Perspective

Janiece Pigg

Extension Assistant for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, 4-H Youth Development

Furthering the Establishment of Spanish 4-H Youth Curriculum and Parental Resources

Liz Teston

Associate Professor, School of Interior Architecture

Public Interiority Exhibition Community Design STEAM Installation

DIVERSITY & ENGAGEMENT

Office of Community Engagement & Outreach

2330 Dunford Hall

915 Volunteer Boulevard

Knoxville, TN 37996-4000

865-974-4863

communityengagement@utk.edu

communityengagement.utk.edu

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 54054724.