



**TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

<b>STUDENT AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE</b>	
Thursday, May 7, 2026 9:00 a.m. CT	Virtual Live Stream Link: <a href="https://www.tnstate.edu/board/livestream.aspx">https://www.tnstate.edu/board/livestream.aspx</a>

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Opening Remarks by the Committee Chair
- IV. Adoption of Agenda
- V. Approval of Minutes: February 20, 2026, Student and Academic Affairs Committee Meeting (Action)
- VI. Proposed Academic Programs and Academic Units Actions (Action)
- VII. Academic Affairs Report
- VIII. Student Affairs Report
- IX. Enrollment Management Update
- X. Adjournment

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ACTION ITEM

DATE: May 7, 2026

ITEM: Approval of February 20, 2026, Student and Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval

PRESENTED BY: Trustee Jeffery Norfleet, Committee Chair

**Background Information**

The committee conducted the meeting(s) referenced below. The document reflecting the minutes from the meeting(s) are included in the Board materials:

February 20, 2026, Student and Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

**Committee Action**

The Committee Chair will call for a motion recommending adoption of the meeting minutes.

**MOTION: I move to approve the February 20, 2026, Student and Academic Affairs Committee meeting minutes, as contained in the Board materials.**

**Meeting of the Tennessee State University Board of Trustees  
Student and Academic Affairs Committee Meeting  
February 20, 2026  
Tennessee State University – The Farrell Westbrook Complex (the “Barn”)**

**MINUTES**

**Committee Members Present:** Trustees Jeffery Norfleet, Terica Smith, Azana Bruce, and Artenzia Young-Seigler. Other Board members present: Dakasha Winton, Trevia Chatman, Marquita Qualls, Dimeta Smith Knight, and Leticia Towns

**University Staff Present:** President Dwayne Tucker; Ginette Garza Brown, Interim General Counsel and Board Secretary; Dr. Robbie Melton, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs; Sterlin Sanders, Chief Information Officer; Dr. Eric Stokes, Vice President of Enrollment Management; Dr. Bridgett Golman, Vice President of Student Affairs

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Trustee Norfleet called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**II. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

Committee Chair Norfleet declared that all members were present, constituting a quorum. Secretary Brown conducted the roll call. The following committee members were present: Trustees Jeffery Norfleet, Terica Smith, Azana Bruce, and Artenzia Young-Seigler.

**III. OPENING REMARKS BY THE COMMITTEE CHAIR**

In the opening remarks, Trustee Norfleet recognized Provost Milton for being named a leading innovator in technology for African Americans. He commended Provost Milton’s achievements and expressed appreciation for the hard work and contributions of all individuals present.

**IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Trustee Norfleet proposed a modification to the agenda, recommending the removal of item number nine, Update on Research and Sponsored Programs, to be discussed at a later meeting. Trustee Smith moved to adopt the agenda as modified, and the motion was seconded by Trustee Young-Seigler. A voice vote was taken, with all committee members present voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 21, 2025, STUDENT AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes from the November 21, 2025, meeting of the Student and Academic Affairs Committee were approved as submitted, with Trustee Young-Seigler making the motion and

Trustee Smith seconding the motion. A voice vote was taken, with all committee members present voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VI. REPORT ON UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT UPDATE**

Committee Chair Norfleet introduced the next agenda item, the undergraduate enrollment report, and invited Dr. Eric Stokes, Vice President for Enrollment Management, to present. Dr. Stokes provided an overview of Enrollment Management operations, including admissions, registrar functions, recruitment, orientation, scholarship administration, and enrollment communications.

Dr. Stokes reported significant progress on strategic enrollment initiatives, noting that nearly all key objectives are now in progress or completed, with one remaining initiative requiring a broader university-wide effort. He highlighted organizational enhancements within the division, including key hires and expanded use of the Slate CRM system to improve data management and communications.

He provided an update on spring 2026 enrollment, reporting increases in both freshman and transfer student enrollment, as well as an 87 percent freshman retention rate from fall to spring. Dr. Stokes also noted improvements in operational efficiency, including reduced turnaround times for transfer credit evaluations.

Regarding fall 2026, Dr. Stokes reported that applications and admissions are trending above the prior year, with improvements in academic quality indicators such as GPA and standardized test scores. He outlined multiple application sources contributing to growth, including institutional applications, the Common Black College Application, the Common Application, and the State of Tennessee Direct Admit initiative.

Dr. Stokes also discussed revised scholarship strategies aimed at improving financial sustainability while maintaining competitiveness, noting that a majority of admitted students have received scholarship offers. He emphasized enrollment goals for the upcoming fall class and presented projections based on application, admission, and yield rates.

He concluded with an overview of yield strategies, including expanded recruitment travel, targeted communications, enhanced financial aid outreach, and increased collaboration across campus units. Board members engaged in discussion regarding retention, scholarship continuity, recruitment strategy timelines, application duplication processes, graduate recruitment, and transfer partnerships. Dr. Stokes responded to questions and emphasized ongoing efforts to strengthen enrollment growth and student success.

Dr. Stokes concluded his presentation, and the committee thanked him for the report.

## **VII. STUDENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

Committee Chair Norfleet introduced the next agenda item, the Student Affairs report, and invited Dr. Bridgett Goldman to present. Dr. Goldman provided an overview of the Division of Student Affairs, emphasizing its focus on student engagement, well-being, and retention through co-

curricular programming and student support services aligned with the University's mission and board priorities.

Dr. Goldman reported that Student Affairs has hosted more than 300 programs during the semester, including over 135 student activities and more than 200 Residence Life programs led by resident assistants. She highlighted intentional programming designed to support student development, leadership, and wellness, as well as innovative initiatives aimed at increasing student participation and engagement.

She provided updates on student conduct, noting ongoing efforts to uphold the University's code of conduct, including case resolutions, interim suspensions, and disciplinary processes that support student accountability and development.

Dr. Goldman also reported on Residence Life and housing operations, noting an 85 percent occupancy rate in the fall and 77.5 percent in the spring. She highlighted operational adjustments, including single-room conversions that generated additional revenue, and the implementation of a new housing management system to improve efficiency and student experience.

In student health services, Dr. Goldman reported more than 1,450 clinic visits and expanded utilization of the TimelyCare platform, which provides 24/7 medical and mental health services. She also noted ongoing wellness initiatives, preventive health programming, and new partnerships to expand student access to care.

Dr. Goldman concluded with an overview of spring priorities, including continued focus on student engagement, wellness initiatives, data-informed decision-making, and operational improvements. A committee member emphasized the importance of increasing mental health awareness efforts, particularly among underrepresented student populations. Dr. Goldman concluded her presentation, and the committee thanked her for the report.

## **VIII. REPORT ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Committee Chair Norfleet introduced the next agenda item, the Academic Affairs report, and invited Provost Melton to present on behalf of the Office of Academic Affairs. Provost Melton noted that the report included both informational items and academic program actions requiring approval and began with an update on the University's institutional accreditation status.

At Provost Melton's request, Dr. Charlize Anderson provided an overview of the University's progress on its SACSCOC fifth-year interim report. She reported that the report has been completed through a collaborative effort involving faculty and staff across the University and will be submitted to the SACSCOC portal the following week. She noted that the review committee is expected to convene in late April, with official results anticipated in June or July.

Turning to student success metrics, Provost Melton provided updates on retention and progression for first-time, full-time freshmen. She reported that 92 percent of fall 2025 freshmen were enrolled in 15 or more credit hours after the purge period, reflecting progress in ensuring on-time degree pathways. She further reported that 378 of 427 freshmen returned in spring 2026, resulting in an

89 percent retention rate, a 10 percent increase over the prior year. She noted that non-retention was primarily attributed to financial challenges.

Provost Melton then presented academic program modifications for Board approval. Dr. Anderson outlined proposed changes, including the termination of select concentrations and graduate certificates, a renaming of the Ph.D. program in Agricultural Sciences to Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences with the addition of new concentrations, the establishment of an Artificial Intelligence concentration within the M.S. in Data Science program, and adjustments to admissions deadlines for select health sciences programs. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the academic program actions as presented, with all members voting in favor.

Provost Melton also provided a spring 2026 graduation update, reporting that approximately 1,300 students are expected to graduate, with a total of 1,399 degrees anticipated to be awarded. She noted that five commencement ceremonies are planned to accommodate the large graduating class and improve the overall experience for students and families, while remaining within budget.

Board members engaged in discussion regarding retention definitions, alignment of academic programs with workforce demands, and graduation logistics. Provost Melton emphasized ongoing efforts to align academic offerings with market trends, particularly in high-demand fields such as business, health sciences, and technology, including artificial intelligence initiatives.

Provost Melton concluded her presentation, and the committee thanked her for the report.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Young-Seigler moved to adjourn, with the motion seconded by Trustee Smith. A voice vote was taken, with all committee members present voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ACTION ITEM

DATE: May 7, 2026

ITEM: Proposed Academic Programs and Academic Units Actions

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Erik Schmeller, Interim Provost and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

**Background Information**

The ongoing review and evaluation of Tennessee State University’s academic programs and academic units is a critical component for the institution to maintain regional and specialized accreditation. Academic programs that are mission-oriented, market-driven for student recruitment and workforce development, and cost-conscious are essential indicators in program evaluation and productivity. It is critical that the University communicates on an ongoing basis the performance of its academic program inventory.

Summary of Academic Actions: Academic Programs is presented in this agenda item. The Division of Academic Affairs is requesting approval of the following academic program modifications:

<b>College</b>	<b>Academic Program or Academic Unit</b>	<b>Academic Action</b>
Business	Business Administration, MBA	1. Establishment of New Concentration: 4+1 Accelerated BBA/MBA Pathway
Engineering	Computer Science, MS	2. Establishment of New Concentration – Artificial Intelligence Concentration within the MS in Computer Science

### **Committee Action**

The Division of Academic Affairs is requesting approval of the academic unit modifications. The Committee Chair will call for a motion on the requested action.

**MOTION: To recommend to the full Board the approval of the academic actions outlined in Table 1, as contained in the Board Materials. The proper officers of the University are authorized to take other actions as may be necessary and deemed appropriate to effectuate the successful implementation of the proposed academic actions, and work with the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) to implement these academic actions for academic programs and academic units.**



# Meeting of the TSU Board of Trustees

Student and Academic Affairs Committee

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## TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### AGENDA ITEM

- I. Action Item—Program Modifications
  - A. 4+1 Accelerated BBA/MBA Pathway
  - B. Artificial Intelligence Concentration
- II. Informational Items
  - A. Academic Unit Achievements

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## Program Modifications

College	Academic Program or Academic Unit	Academic Action
Business	Business Administration, MBA	1. Establishment of New Concentration: 4+1 Accelerated BBA/MBA Pathway
Engineering	Computer Science, MS	1. Establishment of New Concentration – Artificial Intelligence Concentration within the MS in Computer Science

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## Academic Unit Achievements

- Student Achievements: Political Science major named TSU's first-ever finalist for Truman Fellowship; Accounting majors served over 200 individuals with the VITA tax program.
- Dr. Andrea Ringer awarded the OVC Outstanding Faculty Commitment to Student Success
- Grant Success: Agriculture secured \$17.1 M; Engineering received \$6.5 M including a \$1 M US Department of War award to launch a Robotics & AI Lab.
- Re-Accreditation: College of Education-CAEP

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## Academic Advising, Dual Enrollment, and Trio Programs

- Pre Advising for Fall 2026 currently—84%
- Spring 2026 Freshmen retention—89%
- Dual Enrollment of 135 students for over \$82,000 in revenue
- Two MNPS MOUs with increased potential revenue
- TRIO Programs submitting Upward Bound and Ronald McNair renewals

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TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

INFORMATION ITEM

DATE: May 7, 2026

ITEM: Academic Affairs Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No action

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Erik Schmeller, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Background Information**

Tennessee State University's academic colleges entered the Spring 2026 semester with considerable momentum, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to research excellence and institutional growth. A primary driver of this success is the aggressive pursuit of external funding, highlighted by the College of Agriculture securing \$17.1 million in grants, and the College of Engineering receiving \$6.5 million, including a pivotal \$1 million award from the U.S. Department of War to establish a state-of-the-art Robotics and AI Laboratory. This research enterprise is strengthened by major physical and academic milestones, including site preparation for a new \$60 million Engineering Building. In addition, the successful re-accreditation of programs in Education, Social Work, and Public Administration ensures TSU will continue to be a premier destination for high-caliber scholarship and professional licensure.

Innovation remains a central theme as the University evolves its curriculum to meet the demands of a technology-driven workforce. Academic departments are integrating artificial intelligence into their offerings through new concentrations in Data Science and Computer Science, while the College of Liberal Arts has expanded access through fully online degree pathways in English and Sociology. These advancements are empowered by strategic investments, such as a \$500,000 scholarship gift from FedEx to the College of Business and substantial equipment and lab support from Cummins. Such partnerships ensure that our students have the industry-standard resources and financial security necessary to persist toward graduation and thrive in the global marketplace.

The ultimate impact of these initiatives is found in the extraordinary achievements of our students

and their deep-rooted engagement with the community. TSU students continue to excel on the national stage, exemplified by a Political Science major being named the University's first-ever finalist for the prestigious Truman Fellowship. Beyond the classroom, our students are actively bridging the gap between theory and practice, from accounting majors serving over 200 individuals through the VITA tax program to psychology students providing mentorship within Metro Nashville Public Schools. By combining rigorous academic instruction with high-impact service, Tennessee State University is not only honoring its celebrated legacy but is also preparing a diverse, career-ready cohort of leaders poised to shape the future.

Full summary reports from each academic college are provided within the Board materials.

## **College of Agriculture Achievements Summary Spring 2026**

### **Grant Awards Secured**

The college secured 27 external grants totaling \$17.1 million to support innovative agricultural research and student projects, with awards received from federal agencies such as USDA-NIFA, as well as Tennessee Department of Agriculture, foundations, and private industry partners.

### **Professional Presentations**

Delivered 18 presentations at conferences and professional meetings, including 5 presented by students and 13 by faculty members.

### **Scholarly Publications**

The college produced 15 publications this duration, including 12 peer-reviewed journal articles and 3 fact sheets. Students authored three of these publications, while faculty senior authors contributed 12, demonstrating strong research productivity across the college.

### **Student Success**

- Students traveled to Farm Credit Mid America Headquarters to participate in the Pathways to Professional Success Program
- Launched the 2026 New Farmer Academy
- Hosted Tennessee 4-H for the 79<sup>th</sup> 4-H Congress
- Provided a tour for John P. Freeman Optional School, Memphis, TN
- Hosted the 1890 EDEN (Extension Disaster Education Network) Face-to-Face meeting
- Hosted the AGU College of Fellows Distinguished Lecture Series, Dr. Eric Davidson
- Attended CARET meeting, HBCU, TSU and Ag Days on the Hill
- Hosted an interactive farm visit for Whites Creek High School, Nashville, TN
- Hosted the Future Earth Challenge sponsored by The Nature Conservancy

## **Departmental Specific Achievements**

### **Human Sciences**

- Partnered with the TSU library to participate in World Read Aloud Day at Hadley Park
- Dual Credit meetings/partnerships with Riverdale High School in Rutherford County and Macon County High School
- Present at Central Region Extension Planning Day
- Guest reader for St. Mary Villa
- Voted Secretary for Nashville Area Association for Family and Consumer Sciences (NAAFCS)
- Hosted Metro Health Department speaker on Positive Childhood Experiences
- Hosted Riverdale High Schools Students on campus
- Coordinated with TSU and community agencies to host area Childcare centers for Celebration of the Young Child event on campus
- Graduated from the Tennessee Extension Leadership Academy (TELA)
- Hosted Department of Human Sciences Welcome Back for Students

- Launched Mental Awareness Circuit for TSU Students with Line Dancing Workshops, Tactile Through Crochet Workshop and Healthy Meals Workshops

### **Agribusiness and Education**

- **Santosh Kafle:** Santosh Kafle - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place winner, 3M Thesis Competition, Southern Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, Louisville, KY January 31-Feb 03, 2026
- **James Clay:** Second prize for Poster Presentation at the Tennessee Academy of Science Annual Meeting, Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville, TN, November 14, 2025
- **Stinson Parks:** Second prize for Poster Presentation at the Tennessee Academy of Science Annual Meeting, Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville, TN, November 14, 2025

**College of Business  
Achievements Summary  
Spring 2026**

**Faculty:**

- Sixteen (16) articles published, two (2) articles accepted for publication, nine (9) articles under review
- Nine (9) conference presentations/participation
- Two (2) Book Chapters
- Two new faculty members started in January 2026

**Students:**

- Nineteen students in SIE & Bloomberg certification pipeline
- Active Beta Gamma Sigma and Beta Alpha Psi chapters and student inductions
- More than eight students placed internships
- Students participating in TVA Investment Challenge and conference
- Two outstanding students attended FedEx-HBCU Career & Leadership Event in LA, CA
- Five outstanding students attended PbExpo 2026 in Florida

**College/Department Activities:**

- COB Alumni Advisory Board semester kick-off meeting on January 28, 2026
- Dean's 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Faculty Enrichment Event on January 25 and February 25, 2026
- VITA Program continues: 15 student volunteers, 200+ individuals served so far
- Five financial literacy workshops reaching 150+ students
- Several guest speakers came to the classrooms to talk to our students
- GEP hosted a Meet & Greet on March 10 and a Career Session on March 11
- Supply Chain Week on March 23–26, 2026

**Recruitment Efforts:**

- The COB leadership team met with the TSU enrollment management team on February 18, 2026, to enhance collaboration on enrollment and recruitment efforts
- Whitehaven High School students visited the College on February 18, 2026
- The COB team visited NSCC on February 26, 2026
- The COB team visited Lead Academy and Pearl Corn High School on March 4, 2026
- An Undergraduate Virtual Orientation was held on March 16, 2026
- COB Team will visit NSCC on March 24, 2026
- COB Graduate Programs Office organized/participated:
  - January 7 - New Graduate Student Orientation
  - February 13 - Beyond the Bachelor Graduate Panel
  - February 26 - Organized Graduate Programs Virtual Open House
  - March 5 - Michigan State University Graduate Program Presentation
  - March 9 – Virginia Tech University Graduate Program Presentation
  - March 17 – MTSU Graduate School Fair
  - March 18, 2026 – University of Cincinnati
  - March 19, 2026 – Kentucky State University and Central State University
  - March 27 – TSU Career Fair

**Grants:**

- FedEx awarded \$500,000 to the College to support scholarships and career pathways, providing \$125,000 annually over four years.
- Cummins provided \$60,000 for equipment and subscriptions for the Financial Trading and Data Analytics Hub, offering \$30,000 per year for two years.

**College of Education  
Achievements Summary  
Spring 2026**

**Office of Educator Preparation - Dr. Nicole Arrighi, Assistant Dean**  
**Reporting Period:** March 2026

### **1. Accreditation & Regulatory Milestones**

In February 2026, the **State Board of Education** reviewed our specialty area programs.

**Approval Status:** The Board granted **Full Approval with Minor Stipulations** for the majority of our programs, with minor stipulations.

**Impact:** This CAEP and State Board of Education accreditation approval maintains our standing as a premier educator preparation provider (EPP) and ensures our graduates remain eligible for state licensure.

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### **2. Teacher Residency & Workforce Development**

Our residency model continues to address the regional teacher shortage through the **TNDoE Teacher of Record: Seven (7) Residency candidates** have been hired by partner districts to serve as the teacher of record while completing their student teaching. This accomplishment increases our completion rates while supporting the teacher shortages in the state.

- **Strategic Benefit:** This distinction allows students to earn a professional salary while finishing their degree, which significantly improves our program completion rates and provides immediate relief to district staffing needs.

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### **3. Student Support & Professional Development**

The Office of Educator Preparation(OEP) launched the "**OEP on the Town**" series, connecting aspiring educators and child development candidates with Nashville's cultural and civic leaders.

- **Community Partners:** Events were held at the **Country Music Hall of Fame, Nashville Children's Theatre, Nashville Zoo, Tennessee Education Association, and MNPS Family & Community Partnerships.**
- **Learning Outcomes:** Candidates engaged with educational extension curricula to support **High Leverage Practices (HLPs)** in diverse environments.
- **Career Support:** These sessions serve as a bridge to summer internships and specialized scholarship opportunities.

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### **4. Community Engagement & Curriculum Innovation**

- **MNPS Mentorship: 19 Psychology students** are serving as active mentors in local schools this semester.

- **New Coursework:** The undergraduate program successfully introduced **Multicultural Psychology** and **Psychology of Crime** to the upper-division curriculum to address high student demand for specialized behavioral science.

**Summary of Impact**

From the State Board’s validation of our programs to the innovative "Teacher of Record" placements, the College of Education is demonstrating its commitment to both academic excellence and workforce readiness. We are not only preparing students for the classroom; we are placing them in leadership roles before they graduate.

**Department of Psychological Sciences & Counseling – Dr. Joshua Shive, Chair**  
**Reporting Period:** March 2026

**1. Graduate Admissions & Enrollment Pipelines**

The graduate recruitment cycle has reached a significant milestone. All three graduate programs have successfully concluded their interview processes for the Fall 2026 cohort. The high caliber of applicants this year is reflected in the following admissions

**The recruitment cycle for Fall 2026 is progressing ahead of schedule across both graduate and undergraduate levels .**

Program	Status	Offers/Acceptances
Ph.D. in Psychology	Interviews Complete	10 Acceptances
M.S. Counseling (School)	Interviews Complete	8 Offers
M.S. Counseling (Clinical)	Interviews Complete	18 Offers
B.S. Psychology	Ph.D. Track Success	4 students accepted to Ph.D. programs

Our undergraduate program continues to serve as a high-tier pipeline for advanced research and doctoral studies.

- **Ph.D. Placements:** We are proud to announce that **four B.S. Psychology students** have already received and accepted offers from Ph.D. programs for the upcoming academic year. This achievement underscores the strength of our undergraduate research mentorship.

**2. Community Engagement & Impact**

The department’s partnership with **Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS)** has seen robust growth this semester.

- **Mentorship Program:** **19 Psychology students** are currently active as mentors within MNPS schools.
- **Value:** This initiative provides our students with vital field experience while providing local schools with much-needed social-emotional support and academic guidance for their students.

### **3. Curriculum Innovation**

To stay at the forefront of the field and address contemporary societal needs, the undergraduate program has officially launched two new upper-division courses this semester:

1. **Multicultural Psychology:** Focusing on the impact of culture, race, and ethnicity on psychological processes.
2. **Psychology of Crime:** Exploring the intersection of behavioral science and the criminal justice system.

#### **Curriculum Innovation**

To stay at the forefront of the field and address contemporary societal needs, as cited above, the undergraduate program has officially launched two new upper-division courses this semester:

#### **Curriculum Innovation**

**Note:** Initial student feedback for these courses has been overwhelmingly positive, with high enrollment reflecting a strong interest in specialized psychological subsets.

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#### **Summary of Impact**

Between the successful recruitment of new graduate cohorts and the expansion of our community footprint through MNPS, the department is effectively bridging the gap between academic theory and real-world application. Our students aren't just learning psychology; they're practicing it where it matters most. Students have already received and accepted offers from Ph.D. programs for the upcoming academic year. This achievement underscores the strength of our undergraduate research mentorship.

## **College of Engineering Achievements Summary Spring 2026**

### **1. PROGRAMS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

In the College of Engineering (CoE), the new approved Minor of Mining Engineering has been launched in Fall 2025 and attracted over 20 students in this minor. The new approved Minor of Material Science and Engineering will be launched in Fall 2026. The new concentration in AI in the MS of Data Science program has been pending for approval. The MS of Computer Science is proposing to add AI concentration. The Master of Engineering program has been replaced with MS of Engineering for better branding and recruitment purposes. The college is working with VP Admission Eric Stokes office to recruit more engineering students. The college established additional blue-white scholarships to attract top enrolled students in engineering majors.

The Applied and Industrial Technology program has passed their accreditation ATMAE renewal. The Master of Engineering program just passed the THTC program external review for the past five years cycle in February 2026. The review comments are very positive. The new Engineering Building architect team has finished the space and exterior design, with a proposed 68,000 ft<sup>2</sup>. The site at Clay Hall has been prepared after demolishing Clay Hall in Spring 2026 semester. State Building Commission has approved the contraction of engineering building with \$60 M.

The College has developed Engineering Exploration Curriculum for incoming freshmen students who cannot be enrolled in MATH 1910 Calculus I class. Engineering Exploration Curriculum can help students to select engineering courses and other courses within the curriculum. The College also developed a faculty workload policy based on university workload policy.

### **2. GRANTS AND AWARDS**

The College of Engineering faculty received 15 news external research grants, with total amount of \$6.5M as PI or co-PIs since July 2025. The 38 active research faculty published 30 articles and presented 41 conference papers. Dr. Shirkhodaie received \$1.1 M from Air Force and Army Grant to advance sensor data fusion research. Dr. Richard Mu received NSF grant to enable thermal transport in polymers. Dr. McCurry received \$997,599 from DoW for Human Machine Teaming Design and Operation. Dr. Lin Li received \$500,000 from INROADs to establish an endowed professorship in Sustainability. Industrial partners, such as Boeing, Honda, Turner Construction, Nyrstar Mining, Cummins, Southern Gas provided \$360,000 scholarships and activities funding to support students in the College.

### **3. NEWS MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**

**TSU Engineering Student selected for Prestigious 3DEXPERIENCE World Conference** on November 25, 2025: Tennessee State University engineering student Mariah McKinney has been selected to attend 3DEXPERIENCE World 2026, one of the industry's leading global conferences for designers, engineers, and advanced technology innovators. The week-long event, hosted by Dassault Systèmes, a leading French software corporation, will take place in early

Feb. 2026 and will attract thousands of participants from around the world.. (TSU Newsroom <https://tnstatenewsroom.com/tsu-engineering-student-selected-for-prestigious-3dexperience-world-conference/> )

**TSU Computer Science Students Shine at National Hackathon with ‘People’s Power’ App** on November 20, 2025: Five Tennessee State University computer science majors recently impressed judges at a 24-hour national coding challenge with “People’s Power,” an AI-powered civic engagement app designed to help young adults get informed and involved in local issues. The students, Genesis Bookard, Tuna Kurucu, Andrew LeClair, Tobenna Ugwuanyi, and Ace Watson, presented their project at Black Enterprise’s 10th annual BE Smart Hackathon presented by American Airlines in Charlotte, North Carolina, from Nov. 5 to 8. The students are all upperclassmen and were accompanied by Dr. Tamara Rogers, associate professor and chair of TSU’s Department of Computer Science... (TSU Newsroom <https://tnstatenewsroom.com/tsu-computer-science-students-shine-at-national-hackathon-with-peoples-power-app/> )

**TSU Receives Major Gift from Industrial Giant Cummins to Enhance Engineering Education** on November 17, 2025: Tennessee State University has received a major donation from Cummins, a global power technology leader, as part of a long-standing partnership between TSU and the company. On Nov. 11, during a ceremony on the main campus, the industrial giant presented the College of Engineering with a Cummins QSB 6.7 engine, a vital resource that will provide students with hands-on learning opportunities and reinforce their education in engine design, performance, and sustainability. “This remarkable donation exemplifies Cummins’ commitment to supporting education and developing the next generation of engineers,” said Dr. Robbie Melton, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at TSU. “I would like to recognize Dean (Lin) Li and acknowledge our deepening relationship with Cummins. We are thrilled to receive this engine, which will greatly enhance our engineering curriculum. This partnership shows that our students are valued, and that Cummins believes in their potential to excel in the field.” (TSU Newsroom <https://tnstatenewsroom.com/tsu-receives-major-gift-from-industrial-giant-cummins-to-enhance-engineering-education/> )

**TSU Receives \$1 Million U.S. Department of War Grant to Launch Innovative Robotics and AI Laboratory** with March 16, 2026: Tennessee State University has received a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of War to establish a Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, Visualization, and Simulation (RAIVS) Laboratory. The initiative aims to fulfill an urgent national need by enhancing educational programs that train students in Human-Machine Teaming (HMT) skills, preparing them for key roles in a technology-driven workforce. The RAIVS Laboratory will integrate advanced robotics and artificial intelligence into existing curricula, with the goal of equipping students with hands-on experience and essential skills necessary to thrive in a rapidly evolving technological landscape. Engineering faculty at TSU say the focus is not only on enhancing technical knowledge but also on meeting the increasing demand for professionals who can operate and maintain sophisticated systems that blend human and machine capabilities.

(TSU Newsroom <https://tnstatenewsroom.com/tsu-receives-1-million-u-s-department-of-war-grant-to-launch-innovative-robotics-and-ai-laboratory/> )

**College of Health Sciences  
Achievements Summary  
Spring 2026**

The College of Health Sciences, comprising the School of Nursing and Respiratory Care, Occupational Therapy, Human Performance and Sport Sciences, Physical Therapy, and Speech Pathology and Audiology, demonstrates strong performance in student success, faculty scholarship, community engagement, and program innovation.

**Student Success & Workforce Development:**

Across programs, the College produced over 60 graduates in Human Performance and Sport Sciences, 24 Occupational Therapy graduates, and achieved a 100% on-time graduation rate for the Doctor of Physical Therapy Class of 2026. Nursing students earned commencement speaker honors and national recognition, while students across departments took on leadership roles and engaged in professional advocacy, strengthening the healthcare workforce pipeline.

**Research, Scholarship & Innovation:**

Faculty secured internal seed funding and advanced research in areas such as artificial intelligence in nursing education, clinical practice improvement, and workforce development. Faculty across Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy delivered keynote and peer-reviewed presentations, while interdisciplinary research initiatives continue to expand innovation and scholarly impact.

**Community Engagement & Partnerships:**

Speech Pathology and Audiology provided comprehensive clinical services through programs such as SPEAK OUT! Therapy, pediatric and geriatric clinics, and community outreach initiatives. Occupational and Physical Therapy programs led service-learning, advocacy events, and engagement at national conferences. Partnerships with organizations, including Vanderbilt and community agencies, enhance experiential learning and community impact.

**Program Growth & Experiential Learning:**

Programs maintained strong enrollment and recruitment, including 30 confirmed Occupational Therapy students, despite national declines. Human Performance and Sport Sciences expanded experiential learning through professional sports partnerships and applied lab experiences. Physical Therapy and Speech Pathology advanced clinical training and accreditation readiness, ensuring continued program excellence.

**Awards & Recognition:**

Faculty and students received state and national honors, including the Tennessee Nursing Excellence Award, APTA Tennessee awards, and ASHA leadership recognition. Faculty also serve in leadership roles across professional organizations, reinforcing the College's regional and national reputation.

Overall, the College of Health Sciences continues to advance its mission by preparing career-ready graduates, producing impactful research, and strengthening community partnerships to meet healthcare workforce needs.

**College of Liberal Arts  
Achievements Summary  
Spring 2026**

The College of Liberal Arts faculty are recognized for high-impact teaching, active scholarship, and student-centered mentorship that extend learning beyond the classroom. Notably, **Dr. Andrea Ringer (History; Africana Studies)** was recognized by the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) with the Outstanding Faculty Award, reflecting the College's strength in mentorship-driven pedagogy and cross-divisional engagement.

Within the **Department of HPGA**, **Dr. Learotha Williams** further enhanced the University's public profile through his appointment as Davidson County Historian and his continued leadership of the Nashville Conference on African American History and Culture, an award-winning partnership between Tennessee State University and the Metropolitan Historical Commission. Additionally, **Dr. Andrew Patrick** supports pre-college academic pipelines through his coordination of Tennessee History Day, engaging middle and high school students in original historical research hosted annually by the College of Liberal Arts and the History Program. **Olivia Blausler, a Political Science major (Class of 2027)**, has been selected as one of the national finalists for the Truman fellowship. This is a significant achievement as TSU has never had a Truman Fellow. Her home state on the link is Pennsylvania.

<https://www.truman.gov/2026-truman-finalists> **Alexis Bartlett, a Political Science major (Class of 26)**, has accepted a fully funded scholarship to attend Mississippi College of Law in the Fall. **Quannah Webster, a History major**, has secured a paid internship at the Oneida Nation Cultural Center in De Pere, Wisconsin, this summer.

The **Department of Music** has expanded experiential learning through collaboration with the SMART Global Technology Innovation Center, integrating digital recording technology into sound-related coursework and immersive experiences such as the Xtreme Spring Break Music Business Accelerator, strengthening students' exposure to industry-relevant tools and practices.

The **Department of Languages, Literature, and Philosophy** has expanded curricular access and degree pathways by developing fully online offerings and Bachelor of Science options in English, aligning program delivery with student demand, workforce needs, and institutional recruitment and retention priorities. LLP's January 2025: Professional Development – LLP hosted Faculty Professional Development retreat with invited speakers from COLA, Service Learning, Global Online, and the Education Department. In February 2025, the Black Literature cohort hosted the annual African American Read-In. LLP's upcoming events in March and April include multiple film screenings, the new "I Want to Read" Program, and the annual "I Want to Write Poetry Workshop Series."

Additionally, LLP hosts the following several weekly/biweekly student organization meetings: Soul Fire Poetry Group, Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society, The LLP Dungeons and Dragons Campaign, Nerd Culture Club. The department sponsors four student interns. With the guidance of faculty mentors, the participating students gain work experience in their service to the college, language program, and department, respectively.

The **Department of Criminal Justice** continues to bolster student access and transfer opportunities by establishing memorandums of understanding with community colleges. The department has also broadened its online degree offerings at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. **Dr. Burris-Kitchen** has contributed significantly to scholarship with a book review titled "Bombs Bursting in Air: Music and the State," edited by M. Callahan, to be published in *Socialism & Democracy*. **Dr. Ronald Craig** has actively presented papers at the American Society of Criminology (ASC) and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) conferences. **Dr. Montgomery** authored the article "Utilizing Probit Analysis to Explain Marijuana Policy Adoption Across the Fifty States," which has been accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Education and Social Science*.

Across departments, the College continues to provide high-impact experiential learning opportunities through undergraduate research, performances, exhibitions, internships, conferences, accelerator programs, and community-engaged learning, supporting student retention, degree completion, and post-graduate success.

### **Appendix A: Departmental Faculty and Program Highlights**

<u>Department</u>	<u>Highlights</u>
History, Political Science, Geography, & Africana Studies	Dr. Learotha Williams was appointed Davidson County Historian and continues leadership of the Nashville Conference on African American History and Culture; Dr. Andrew Patrick coordinates Tennessee History Day, supporting pre-college historical research and civic engagement.
Music	Faculty collaborate with the SMART Global Technology Innovation Center to integrate digital recording technology into sound-related coursework and experiential learning, including participation in the Xtreme Spring Break Music Business Accelerator.
Languages, Literature, & Philosophy	The department is advancing work on fully online program delivery and Bachelor of Science degree options in English to expand access, recruitment, and degree-completion pathways. The English program continues to receive good news about graduates' acceptances in law schools and more.
Criminal Justice	The department is advancing memoranda of understanding with community colleges to support transfer pathways and has online degree pathways in Criminal Justice, including online graduate-level

	<p>delivery. The department is hard at work on developing both an interdisciplinary minor and a major concentration in Forensic Science. Criminal Justice students participate in hands-on, experiential learning through internships at a variety of local agencies, including Gean Crowe Family Advocacy Center, Metro Police Department, Nashville Davidson County Juvenile Justice Court, Nashville Davidson County General Session Court, and Davidson County Sheriff's Office</p>
<p>Art &amp; Design</p>	<p>Faculty emphasize experiential learning through exhibitions, critiques, and professional preparation. And responding to student demand, the Department will be introducing shortly classes in animation, game design, and user experience and user interaction design. The program is consulting with Computer Science for future collaborations.</p>
<p>Communication</p>	<p>Faculty support applied learning through media production, public communication projects, and experiential coursework.</p>
<p>Sociology</p>	<p>Faculty integrate research, theory, and applied learning to support workforce and graduate-study pathway all through a fully online BS option that includes internship options. The Sociology Department hosted a highly successful Meet and Greet Reception for majors and alumni on Wednesday, 11/15/25.</p>

**Recruitment Overview: Learn From Faculty Who Are Recognized — and Invested in You**

At the College of Liberal Arts, students learn from award-winning faculty while benefiting from programs designed for flexibility, innovation, and real-world relevance.

Students gain hands-on experience with industry-relevant technologies through opportunities such as Music's collaboration with the SMART Global Technology Innovation Center and immersive experiences like the Xtreme Spring Break Music Business Accelerator. History faculty connect students to public scholarship and civic leadership through nationally recognized conferences and community-based research, while Criminal Justice and Sociology students benefit from online degree pathways and strong community college transfer partnerships. Through online programs, experiential learning, and strategic partnerships, the College of Liberal Arts ensures that faculty excellence translates directly into student opportunity, access, and career readiness.

**College of Life & Physical Sciences**  
**Achievements Summary**  
**Spring 2026**

**Department of Mathematical Sciences**

1. The Department of Mathematical Sciences hired a new faculty member, Dr. Talon Johnson, who has come into the department and has started strong in his first year.
2. The Department of Mathematical Sciences hosted the National Association of Mathematicians 2025 MATHFest Undergraduate Research Conference which is a regional, annual, three-day conference which highlights research performed by undergraduate (and some graduate) math students. The conference was well attended and included talks from students of many different institutions.
3. Dr. Nolan McMurray gave the keynote address at the National Association of Mathematicians 2025 MATHFest Undergraduate Research Conference.
4. The Department of Mathematical Sciences had two students, Deja Story and Ty’Kuan Smith, give oral presentations at the National Association of Mathematicians 2025 MATHFest Undergraduate Research Conference. In fact, Ty’Kuan Smith won the best oral presentation award at the conference.
5. The Department of Mathematical Sciences will have 5 students who will have graduated during the 2025-2026 academic year: Deja Story, Deanna Ramirez, Myammee Harris, Elizabeth Johnson, and Ty’Kuan Smith.
6. The Department of Mathematical Sciences had several faculty members give research presentations at regional conferences during the 2025-2026 academic year.

**Department of Chemistry**

**STUDENTS:**

**Aria Adams**, a Senior Chemistry major, has received the 2026 ACS Undergraduate Award in Physical Chemistry.

**Keturah Badie** - At the ACS Spring 2026 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Keturah was invited to give a little presentation to fellow young scientists about her journey with ACS

**Storm White**, a graduate student, will defend her Master’s thesis on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The thesis is titled “Computational Analysis, Pharmacokinetic, and Drug-likeness Properties of Some Selected Anticancer Acridone Compounds” Advisor is Dr. Okoro

**FACULTY:**

**Dr. Al-Masum** – (a) His article titled “A Remarkable Regioselective C-3 Allylation of Indoles Using Potassium Allyltrifluoroborate Under Palladium Catalysis” has been accepted for publication in the International Journal of Organic Chemistry, Vol. 16., No. 1, March 2026. (b) He served as Speaker at the Tennessee Academy of Science Meeting hosted by Pellissippi State

Community College in November 2025. (c) He also was a Speaker at the ACS Spring 2026 Annual Meeting in Atlanta.

**Dr. Beni, Dr. Guha, and Dr. Kaleh Karim** – (a) Dr. Beni Funded grant as PI, Title: Improved Thermoplastic Biocomposite Materials for Food Packaging, Funding Agency: The Evans-Allen Research Program, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Amount: 45,000 (a) Book Publication by SCIRP Title: Invisible Threats; Contaminants, Inequality and the Quest for Safe Drinking Water in the Modern World, by Kaleh Karim, Sujata Guha, and Ryan Beni, Publication Date: In galley proof phase and will be published soon.

**Dr. Boadi** – Has a publication titled “The Effects of Bitter Melon Extract on Three Human Cancer Cell Lines: BT549, A549, and PC3” in American Journal of Plant Sciences, Vol. 17(3), pp 338-353 (2026) by William Boadi, Elbert Byles, Venkataswarup Tiriveedhi, and Christian Davis.

**Dr. Okoro** – Has a publication titled “In Silico ADMET Optimization Studies of Potential Inhibitors of Topoisomerase II” in Open Journal of Medicinal Chemistry, vol. 16(1), pp. 15-23 (2026), by Cosmas Okoro and Aaliyah Flake.

**Dr. Vercruyse** – Received a grant with his student, Tylor Miller, from the Tennessee Technology Advancement Consortium worth \$14,000 in support of the project, “Coating of substrates with melanin or melanin-like materials.”

**Dr. Whalen** - 2 students, Brian Townsend and Cameron Bennett (both Biology majors) working in my research lab won 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes for their poster presentations at the Meharry Medical College/ Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center/ Tennessee State University Cancer Partnership 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Cancer Symposium held at Meharry Medical College on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The titles of their poster are-

**2<sup>nd</sup> place undergraduate poster presentation award. Townsend B**, Bray E, Lewis M, Whalen M. Hexabromocyclododecane-Induced Stimulation of IL-6 Production by Human Immune Cells Relies on MyD88. Meharry Medical College/ Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center/ Tennessee State University Cancer Partnership 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Cancer Symposium, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN, February 21, 2026

**3<sup>rd</sup> place undergraduate poster presentation award. Bennett C**, Bray E, Whalen M. Tributyltin-Induced Increases in Toll-Like Receptor Expression in Human Immune Cells. Meharry Medical College/ Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center/ Tennessee State University Cancer Partnership 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Cancer Symposium, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN, February 21, 2026.

**Dr. Wayu** – Dr. Wayu’s collaboration with the TSU TIGER Institute was included in the Research Highlights section of RSP’s Research Horizons publication, vol. 4(1), January 2026. Dr. Wayu is a part of the new Photonics and Optics Lab and research team with Dr. Richard Mu, Dr. Anthony Hmelo, and Dr. Akira Uedu (Fisk University).

## **Department of Biological Sciences**

### **Bashiyar Almarwani**

- Secured TTAC (Tennessee Technology Advancement Consortium) LaunchTN’s Proof of Concept Program (POC) Grant Award
- Featured Faculty Spotlight in February 2026 Research Horizons Newsletter: Volume 4(2)
- Awarded TTAC Innovation Fellowship – Spring Cohort

### **Kimberly Cooney**

- Co-Chair 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Tennessee State University-Wide Research Symposium

### **Joshua Ohair**

- Submitted IFF Grant with Kansas State University, \$5000 TTAC Technology and Innovation award
- Currently accepted to the ICORE entrepreneurship program with TSU
- Attended the SXSW Conference on behalf of the Office of Technology Transfer and Innovation at Tennessee State University. March 12-18, 2026
- Shannon Jeffries (Graduate Student) accepted into the NSF Innovators Entrepreneurship Bootcamp

### **Sarika Saraswati**

- Awarded a *Certificate as High Performer for Outcomes Assessment* (Assessment Certificate of High-Performance for succeeding as a high performer in Outcomes Assessment in 2024-2025)
- Delany Bradford (Graduate Student) selected to deliver the commencement address for Spring 2026

### **Dafeng Hui**

- Avedananda Ray's (Graduate Student) paper has just been published today.
- Lovish Kasrija's (Graduate Student) paper was published in Field Crop Research.
- Dr. Hui attended the USDA ARD 2026 meeting in New Orleans and gave an oral presentation last week.

### *Publications:*

Ray, A., Li, X., Chen, Y., Yang, X., Zhang, W. and Hui, D., 2026. Predicting Biochar-Induced Changes in Soil Organic Carbon with Ensemble Machine Learning. GCB Bioenergy <https://doi.org/10.1111/gcbb.70112>

Kasrija, L., Hui, D., Ray, A., Ren, W., Wang, L., Fay, P.A., Smith, D.R., Li, J., Illukpitiya, P. and Tian, H., 2025. Mega-analysis of no-tillage and reduced tillage impacts on crop yields and greenhouse gas emissions. Field Crops Research, 334, 110167.

Hui, D., Christian, J., Hayat, F., Fatima, M., Chen, Y., Ricciuto, D.M. and Tian, H., 2025. Climate variability and nitrogen legacy effects on corn yield and soil nitrous oxide emissions: a 40-year simulation study. Frontiers of Earth Science, 1-15.

### **Xiaofei Wang**

- Began recruiting the second cohort for the AGTC undergraduate research training program.
- One PhD student completed and passed dissertation defense.

### **Artenzia Young-Seigler**

- Awarded a *Certificate as High Performer for Outcomes Assessment* (Assessment Certificate of High-Performance for succeeding as a high performer in Outcomes Assessment in 2024-2025)
- Served as Advisor and Emcee for Women in Pre-Med (WIPM) Pink Coat Ceremony on February 20, 2026
- Guest Panelist for *Booked, Busy, and Still Leading: Time Management Workshop* on March 10, 2026

### **Department Activities, Awards and Recognitions**

- Learning Improvement Team Selection to Continue and Present at the ADW (Assessment Development Work Conference hosted by the Center for Assessment and Research Studies at James Madison University) on May 12-16, 2026
- New Graduate Student Orientation on January 7, 2026
- Discovering Biology: Virtual Open House for Future Scientists on March 13, 2026
- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Virtual BCDC (Biology Career Day Conference) on March 20, 2026
- TSU Day at Nashville State Community College on March 24, 2026
- TSU Campus-Wide Career Fair on March 27, 2026
- Biology Day 2026: A Day of Discovery, Innovation and Community on April 8, 2026
- Updated B.S. in Biology, General Biology Concentration Curriculum
- Secured Funding with Kendall-Hunt to support student scholarships
- Developing MOU with Vanderbilt University Medical Center to offer a 3+1 Nuclear Medicine Concentration
- Many faculty and student participants in the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual TSU University-Wide Research Symposium

### **Dissertation Defenses**

Wenjun Zhu, March 11, 2026

Nevein Soliman, March 27, 2026

Delany Bradford, March 27, 2026

**College of Public Service  
Achievements Summary  
Spring 2026**

**College of Public Service Achievements – Dean Rodney Stanley**

**EVENT: College of Public Service Black History Month Event – 2026.** "The Soul of the Street: Jefferson Street's Past and Promise". 2/26/26, Zoom. Partnership with Nashville chapter of Young Professionals in Transportation.

- **EVENT:** Upcoming - "**AI and the Modern Public Service Professional**" - Drs. Julie Roberts, PhD PPA alumna, Tennessee Higher Education Commission and Meg Streams, TSU. Friday, 3/27/26 12 pm - 1 pm, Zoom.
- **EVENT:** Upcoming - "**Issues in Elder Care and Policy**" - TSU social work students Marion Scott and Sean Fitzgerald, CARES Interns, TSU Department of Social Work. Friday, 4/3/26 12 pm - 1 pm, Zoom.
- **EVENT:** Upcoming - "**Social Movements Theory - Student Projects**" - MSW students in Dr. Cynthia George's "Social Welfare Policy" Course. Friday, 4/10/26 12 pm - 1 pm, Zoom.

**Department of Social Work and Urban Studies – Chair Cara Robinson**

**ACCREDITATION: Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) re-accreditation of the BSSW program** was received in March.

**EVENT: Hollace Brooks Symposium (Social Work)** – annual student policy symposium in recognition of the late Social Work Director, Dr. Hollace Brooks. 3/9/26

- **STUDENT:** Scholarship winners – Paris Lewis-Washington (BSSW) and Quanisha Flynn (MSW)

**EVENT: Urban and Community Research Center Community Research Roundtable (Urban Studies)** – first annual community research roundtable to gather input on future research initiatives of the UCRC. 2/12/26

**EVENT: Urban and Community Research Center Faculty Interest Workshop (Urban Studies)** – first annual faculty interest workshop to identify interdisciplinary research opportunities on TSU's campus. 2/26/26. attendees from the math, nursing, public health, geography, agriculture, HPSS, accounting, and other campus departments.

**EVENT: Center on Aging Research and Education Services Speaker Series (all)** – virtual speaker series held 4-6 times per academic year with experts in aging and older adults. 2/17/26 (Greater Nashville Regional Council) and 3/18/26 (Fifty Forward)

**PROGRAM: Professional Management Academy (Urban Studies)** – first class of fifth cohort of the PMA – a partnership between CPS and the Tennessee Department of Correction. Class held March 2 – March 6 [URBS 2010 – Intro to Urban Studies]

**Department of Public Administration – Chair Meg Streams**

**ACCREDITATION: Completed NASPAA Site Visit for the TSU MPA degree program** – March 17-18. Led by Dr. Streams and Dr. Paez.

**FACULTY: Dr. Chilton** featured as housing policy expert, WPLN episode "This is Nashville" 1/21/26: "[Real Estate Reality Check.](#)"

**FACULTY: Dr. Paez** serves on [Public Administration Review](#) (PAR) editorial board; annual meeting of American Society for Public Administration, Los Angeles, CA. *PAR consistently ranked among top journals in the world in the field of public administration.*

**FACULTY: Dr. Sekwat** to present: World Social Science Conference, Albuquerque, NM 3/26/26. “Managing Climate Change in the Sahel Region: Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies.”

**FACULTY: Dr. Stanley** to present: World Social Science Conference, Albuquerque, NM 3/26/26. “Utilizing Probit Analysis to Explain Marijuana Policy Adoption Across the Fifty States.”

**ALUM: Dr. Erika Leicht** (2025 alum, PhD in public administration and policy) presented at American Society for Public Administration, Los Angeles, CA 3/20/26. “Gentrification and Voter Turnout in Urban School Board Elections.”

**STUDENT: Anne McIntyre-Lahner** (current student, PhD in public administration policy program) will present at the annual national meeting of the American Society for Public Administration, Los Angeles, CA 3/22/26. “Working Together to Build a Bridge to Renewal and Resilience in Sacramento, CA.”

**PROGRAM: Cynthia Howell** successfully defended her dissertation in February 2026 (PhD public policy and administration) Two additional PhD PPA students are scheduled to defend their dissertation the week of March 23, 2026.

**PROGRAM: PhD PPA Roundtable for Spring 2026: “Navigating the PhD dissertation process”** - an alum and student panel scheduled for April 9, 2026 5:30 – 6:30 pm Central, Zoom. Part of Graduate Student Appreciation Week.

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
INFORMATION ITEM

DATE: May 7, 2026

ITEM: Student Affairs Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No action

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Bridgett Golman, Vice President of Student Affairs

**Background Information**

Dr. Golman will present a report on the Division of Student Affairs.

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## OFFICE OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND LEADERSHIP

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The Office of Student Engagement and Leadership (OSEL) at Tennessee State University fosters student growth through dynamic, diverse programming that nurtures intellectual, ethical, and social development. OSEL's mission aligns with institutional academic outcomes by promoting active engagement in registered student organizations, providing intentional leadership development opportunities, and encouraging meaningful collaboration across the Division of Student Affairs and the broader community. Through these efforts, students are empowered to strengthen leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills while contributing to a vibrant co-curricular experience that enhances their overall university journey.

Throughout the 2025–2026 academic year, OSEL intentionally implemented a comprehensive slate of programs aligned with the University's T.I.G.E.R. Programming Model, reinforcing our commitment to holistic student development, belonging, and engagement. These initiatives were designed to support students' academic and personal success while fostering community connection, leadership growth, and institutional pride. Over the course of the year, OSEL facilitated numerous programs and initiatives, providing consistent opportunities for students to engage meaningfully both inside and outside the classroom.

In addition, student organizations remained a critical component of campus life, with numerous organizations successfully conducting membership processes that reflect the continued strength and sustainability of student involvement at the University. These efforts ensured that students remained connected to communities that support their development, accountability, and leadership capacity.

In the first week of April, the University community successfully elected the next cohort of student leaders, including the Student Government Association and Royal Court. This transition represents the continued legacy of student leadership at Tennessee State University and underscores the University's commitment to cultivating student leaders who lead with excellence, integrity, and purpose.

The following is a detailed overview of OSEL's programming efforts, student organization membership engagement, and leadership transitions that defined this academic year.

From August through April, the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership (OSEL) hosted 87 programs to engage the campus community and support classroom learning through co-curricular experiences aligned with the University's T.I.G.E.R. Programming Model. These initiatives were intentionally developed to reinforce student success, leadership development, and holistic growth. During this same period, OSEL proudly inducted 35 students into Alpha Lambda Delta, recognizing their academic excellence and commitment to scholarship in their first year. Additionally, 28 student organizations successfully conducted membership processes, including 8 National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) organizations, reflecting a strong and active culture of student involvement and leadership development across campus.

During the 2025–2026 academic year, the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership (OSEL) strengthened its commitment to academic excellence by increasing the minimum GPA requirement for membership intake to 2.75. This enhancement reinforces the University's focus on scholastic achievement alongside student involvement. As a result, 8 of the 9 National Pan-Hellenic Council

(NPHC) chapters successfully conducted membership intake processes this year, demonstrating both strong interest and adherence to elevated standards.

Membership activity spanned both the fall and spring semesters, with a total of **277 new members** welcomed across NPHC organizations.

The distribution of new members is outlined below:

Semester	Organization / Chapter	New Members
<b>Fall</b>	Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Alpha Theta Chapter	26
	Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Alpha Psi Chapter	95
	Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. Delta Beta Chapter	4
	Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Rho Psi Chapter	18
<b>Spring</b>		
	Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Alpha Beta Chapter	33
	Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Zeta Alpha Chapter	10
	Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Beta Omicron Chapter	26
	Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Alpha Chi Chapter	65

These figures reflect a balanced and successful membership cycle across both semesters, highlighting the continued vitality of NPHC organizations at Tennessee State University. The increase in academic standards, coupled with strong participation, underscores OSEL’s commitment to fostering excellence, accountability, and leadership within the fraternity and sorority community.

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## OFFICE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

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Case Status	Total
Closed	28
In progress or under investigation	23
Interim Suspension	0
TUAPA Hearings Pending	0
No-Contact Directive entered	4
Resolved, Sanctions Pending	17
Student Suspension	5
Student Expulsion	1

### 1. Update the Student Code of Conduct

Revise and edit the existing Student Code of Conduct to address current issues, remove outdated language, and align with best practices in student conduct management.

- In progress- Currently reviewing best practices for policies regarding vaping, cyber conduct, and off-campus
- Revised policies submissions will be completed by April 21, 2026, for approval.

**2. Establish Standard Operating Procedures for Adjudication**

Create a clear and comprehensive set of standard operating procedures for the student adjudication process to ensure consistency, fairness, and transparency.

- In progress
- The sanction rubric will be used beginning Fall 2026.

**3. Define Roles and Create a Manual for the Student Court**

Clearly outline the roles and responsibilities of the Student Court, justices, and clerks, and develop a manual that details procedures, expectations, and resources for court members.

- In progress
- A Student Court Handbook has been drafted. Edits are expected to be completed by May 2026.
- 2026-2027 Student Court application launched on April 16, 2026. It will close on May 8, 2026.

**5. Provide Updated Training for Maxient Users**

Organize and conduct training sessions for all Maxient users to ensure they are proficient in using the software to report and manage student conduct cases.

- Dr. Lewis attended the University of Kentucky Symposium and Training, February 2-3, 2026, in Lexington, Ky. The training will focus on compliance with the Clery Act and the Stop Hazing Act.
- On-Campus User Training took place on February 5, 2026. 20 campus users attended.
- All former staff member accounts have been locked or removed. Cases previously assigned to former staff members have been reassigned to current staffers.

**6. Launch a Discipline Awareness Campaign**

Develop a campaign focused on educating students about common discipline issues such as smoking/vaping, alcohol use, and fighting, including resources and support for positive behavior change.

- Student Intern and Student Court have designed and advised on a new campaign to ensure it is student-focused and engaging. The campaign will launch for Fall 2026.

**7. Recruit Additional Hearing Committee Members**

Actively recruit and select at least 3 additional members for the hearing committee to ensure a diverse and representative group is available for adjudicating cases.

Identify and recruit a second student member to enhance student representation and perspective in the hearing committee.

- Student Court members now serve as members of the hearing committee to avoid scheduling conflicts and delays. This ensures that a student representative is always available for hearings.

**8. Update and Remove Maxient Letters**

Review all existing Maxient letters, update any that are outdated, and remove any that no longer serve a purpose to ensure clear, relevant communication.

- Old letters have been identified for removal at the close of the Spring 2026 semester.

- Currently used letters have been updated.
- A letter nomenclature will be established.

**OFFICE OF RESIDENCE LIFE AND HOUSING**

**Spring 2026 Housing Statistics:**

For the Spring 2026 semester, we have a total of 2,658 beds reserved on campus, achieving an occupancy rate of 78%. We placed 99 new students for Spring 2026.

At this time, we have 809 students in housing reported to graduate in May 2026 (30% of our current on-campus population)

**Summer 2026 Housing:**

During Summer 2025, Housing generated \$270,954 in revenue from camps and conference housing. For Summer 2026, we project similar base revenue, with additional growth expected from hosting the *Urban League Annual Youth Conference* in late July. Housing is partnering with other campus entities (facilities, technology, Aramark, events management) to coordinate this conference, which is projected to generate approximately \$250,000 in total revenue for the university, including an additional \$131,000 in housing summer camps and conference revenue.

**Fall 2026 Applications Data:**

<b>Fall 2026 Applications Data (as of 4/10/2026)</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Fall 2026 First Time Freshmen (FTF)</b>	156	470	626
<b>Fall 2026 Returning (RET)</b>	353	752	1105
<b>Fall 2026 Transfer/Readmit (TRRA)</b>	30	40	70
<b>Total Applications (Overall)</b>	539	1262	1801
<b>Fall 2025 Applications Data (as of 4/10/2025)</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Fall 2025 First Time Freshmen (FTF)</b>	42	85	127
<b>Fall 2025 Returning (RET)</b>	680	1434	2114
<b>Fall 2025 Transfer/Readmit (TRRA)</b>	1	8	9
<b>Total Applications (Overall)</b>	723	1527	2250

At this time, based on current occupancy projections and the anticipated impact of a large graduating class in May 2026, Residence Life is partnering with Facilities Management to identify a residence hall that may be closed for the 2026–2027 academic year. This closure would provide an opportunity to complete the capital improvements needed and enhance building efficiency. Potential scenarios are outlined below.

**PROJECTIONS FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS IN HOUSING (2026-2027)**

Total	Male Projection	Female Projection
1200	408	792

**Scenario 1 - Close Eppse Hall**

Keeps Wilson Co-ed

**BREAKDOWN OF RESIDENCE HALL SPACES**

	Males	Females	Returning Student Allocation	Freshmen Allocation	Returning Student Allocation	Freshmen Allocation
Wilson Hall	162	378	0	162	0	378
Rudolph		420	0	0	170	250
Boyd	350		144	206	0	0
Hale	130	189	110	20	169	20
Watson	81	69	81		69	
NHF	242	458	222	20	308	150
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>1514</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>798</b>

**Scenario 2 - Close Boyd Hall**

Keep Wilson Co-Ed / Eppse is an all male hall

	Males	Females	Returning Student Allocation	Freshmen Allocation	Returning Student Allocation	Freshmen Allocation
Wilson Hall	162	378	0	162	0	378
Rudolph		420	0	0	170	250
Eppse	273		67	206	0	0
Hale	130	189	110	20	169	20
Watson	81	69	81		69	
NHF	242	458	222	20	308	150
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>1514</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>798</b>

**Scenario 3 - Close Hale Hall**

Wilson Hall Female again

	Males	Females	Returning Student Allocation	Freshmen Allocation	Returning Student Allocation	Freshmen Allocation
Wilson Hall	0	540	0	0	0	540
Rudolph		420	0	0	170	250
Eppse	273		67	206	273	0
Boyd	350		150	200	0	0
Watson	81	69	81		69	
NHF	242	458	222	20	308	150
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>1487</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>940</b>

**Process Improvements:**

**Facilities and Maintenance:**

The Department conducted an internal process review with JLL (Jones Lang Lasalle) Facilities to address opportunities for improvement in areas such as maintenance response times, communication of maintenance status updates to students, and access to student spaces. This collaboration focused on improving communication protocols, educating residence facility staff and students on the timelines for maintenance tasks, and ensuring that students receive timely updates regarding the status of their maintenance requests. This allowed the Department to implement/update standard procedures for maintenance operations in the residence facilities, which were included in the proposed updates to the Campus Living Guide. [Provide weekly WO data].

**Technology:**

This spring, the department successfully launched the Fall 2026 housing application using the new StarRez housing software system. Initial feedback from students and parents has been overwhelmingly positive, with many noting that the new portal is easier to locate and navigate.

While additional components of the software are still being implemented, the department is intentionally incorporating feedback from both students and staff to guide the system’s design, functionality, and overall user experience.

**Marketing and Engagement:**

As we close the Spring 2026 term, we are completing our first full year with the Housing Marketing Team intern program. This spring, two interns will graduate: Patrick Boone (Cardiorespiratory Health), who has accepted a position with Vanderbilt Pediatrics in the Cardiology Department, and Mariah Brown (Art), our Marketing Team Lead, who is currently exploring professional opportunities in Atlanta.

Looking ahead to next Fall, we are excited to launch a new partnership with the Mass Communication Department to identify student interns who can earn academic credit while supporting Housing marketing initiatives.

Additionally, as part of the mission to integrate education and out-of-class learning through student engagement, leadership opportunities, and social interaction, the Department has continued to engage students during the spring 2026 term through programming in and around the residence facilities. So far, approximately 185 programs have been planned and executed by the residence facility staff, targeting areas such as Cultural, Health & Wellness, Educational, Service Learning, and Social (C.H.E.S.S.). The table below shows the breakdown of program types facilitated by the Department as of 4/16/2026 for the term; others are still scheduled through 4/22/2026.

<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Cultural</b>	<b>Health &amp; Wellness</b>	<b>Educational</b>	<b>Service Learning</b>	<b>Social</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Spring 2026</b>	26	49	44	14	52	<b>185</b>

**Professional Development and Training:**

On February 5, 2026, housing staff participated in comprehensive training on the Maxient Case Manager platform at the Brown-Daniel Library. Organized by Dr. Erica L. Lewis of the Office of Student Conduct, the training consisted of two sessions, facilitated by a Maxient representative: a general session for all users and an advanced session for Level 4 and Level 5 users. The program served both as a refresher and an introduction, covering key functions such as case creation from incident reports, report editing, communication management, case closure, Clery reporting requirements, and user management.

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**THE ARISTOCRAT OF BANDS**

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**Overview**

The Tennessee State University Aristocrat of Bands (AOB) continues to uphold a legacy of excellence, leadership, and innovation in musical performance and student engagement. As one of the university’s most visible ambassadors, the AOB promotes the TSU brand nationally and fosters pride throughout the university community.

We have a diverse group of students in the band program representing various majors and disciplines, thereby enriching the university's academic environment. Below is a chart showing students sorted by their majors.

### **Performance Highlights**

- Memphis Recruitment Tour Performance
- All home basketball games
- Nashville Predators HBCU Night January 22
- NMAAM Conference
- NCAA Basketball Tournament
- HBCU All-Star Weekend
- Preview Day
- Blue and White Spring Football Game
- Ensemble's Week Performances (Percussion, Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz)

### **Upcoming Performances Events**

- Groundbreaking ceremony for the new engineering building.
- Summer Band Camp

### **Recruitment Initiatives**

We are still recruiting for the band program. Recruiting efforts that have taken place thus far this Spring included:

Collaborations with the TSU Admissions/Recruiting team.

- Memphis Recruitment Tour—Included performances at high schools, participation at battle of bands which included a collaboration performance with several high schools and middle schools. The tour included an audition fair for high school students.
- Nashville performance tour at Cane Ridge... included performance collaboration with their band and auditions of interested students.
- Recruitment at The Nashville Band Jamboree. The event brought together band programs from multiple high schools and middle schools.
- HBCU Audition Fair in Jonesboro, GA.
- HBCU Audition Fair in Snellville, GA. Included collaboration with the TSU Enrollment area.
- Travel to Huntsville for auditions.
- Auditioned students from Nashville High Schools.
- TSU Campus Auditions
- Held a Zoom Informational for interested students.

### **Spring 2026 End-of-Semester Initiatives**

- We held our annual AOB awards/selection event. This event included a Banquet for selected student leaders for the 2026-2027 Season (Section leaders and Drum Majors) and honored our Seniors Who Were Granted Superlative awards.
- Collection of AOB equipment
- Recruiting

## **Staff and Leadership**

- Professor James Sexton, Interim Band Director
- Dr. Derrick Greene – Assistant Band Director
- Professor Ashley Crawford – Assistant Band Director
- Dwight Pope – Sophisticated Ladies Coach
- Sharika Starks – Assistant Sophisticated Ladies Coach
- Felicia Sweatt – Uniform Quality Control Manager
- Dr. Gerald Davis – “The Voice of the AOB” / Drum Major Coach

## **Acknowledgments**

We extend our sincere appreciation to President Tucker, the Student Affairs Staff, the music department, and all other campus entities for their support throughout the year.

## **Conclusion**

The Aristocrat of Bands remains a pillar of excellence at Tennessee State University, embodying the university’s values of innovation, leadership, and service. Through performance, recruitment, and community engagement, the AOB continues to elevate the TSU brand locally, nationally, and globally.

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## **CHEERLEADERS AND SOPHISTICATED LADIES**

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### **Community, Academic, and University Engagement Report**

Under the leadership of Dwight Pope, Director of Cheer and Dance, with 31 years of distinguished service as a Head Coach and College Coaches Facilitator, the Tennessee State University Cheerleaders, and the Sophisticated Ladies Dance Line for the Aristocrat of Bands (AOB) experienced a year defined by athletic excellence, artistic performance, academic achievement, leadership development, and national recognition.

Both programs maintained a strong and consistent presence across campus, within the HBCU community, and on the national stage. Through performances, competitive success, professional engagement, and community outreach, the teams exemplified discipline, accountability, service, and pride as they represented Tennessee State University with distinction.

### **Tennessee State University Cheerleaders**

The TSU Cheerleaders supported major athletic and institutional events throughout the academic year, including:

- John Merritt Classic (August 31) vs. North Carolina A&T
- Legacy Series matchup vs. Alabama A&M
- TSU Homecoming Week, including Pep Rally and Game Day performances.

During Homecoming, the team energized audiences with spirited performances and participated in a Siri Activation with Jeezy, contributing to a high-visibility, interactive engagement experience.

### **Expanded Athletic and National Engagement**

- Attended and supported OVC Tournaments
- Represented TSU at NCAA Tournaments alongside the AOB Pep Band
- Participated in the HBCU Cheerleading Combine at Trevecca Nazarene University
- Represented TSU at the HBCU Conference in Atlanta, Georgia

### **National Competitive Achievement**

- Competed at the NCA College Nationals
- Earned 5th Place in the Nation in the All-Girl Division I
- Ranked among the top national programs in a division of 30+ teams, including HBCU representation

### **Upcoming Program Initiatives**

- Cheerleading Tryouts: April 17–19

### **Sophisticated Ladies Dance Line – Aristocrat of Bands (AOB)**

The Sophisticated Ladies Dance Line continued to deliver dynamic, precise, and culturally rich performances in support of the Aristocrat of Bands throughout the season.

### **Performance and Engagement Highlights**

- Football games and major university events
- Homecoming Week performances
- Campus and community showcase
- National Representation and Cultural Impact
- Performed at the HBCU All-Star Games alongside the AOB Pep Band, expanding national visibility.
- Selected to participate in the New York-based production “MAJOR”, featuring Sophisticated Ladies Majorettes and Drumline, highlighting the national influence of HBCU band culture.

### **Upcoming Program Initiatives**

- Majorette Tryouts: April 24–26

### **Coaching Excellence and Certifications**

All coaching staff within the Office of Cheer and Dance are professionally trained and certified, reinforcing a strong commitment to safety, structure, and excellence.

### **Staff Certifications**

- USA Cheer Certified
- USASF (United States All Star Federation) Certified

### **Director Dwight Pope – Professional Certifications**

- AACCA (American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators)
- USA Cheer Certified
- USASF (United States All Star Federation) Certified
- Background Screening (Verified Clearance)
- Crash Course Concussion Training Certification

- Athlete Protection Course Certification
- USA Cheer Safety and Risk Management Certification

These certifications ensure that all training, performances, and competitions are conducted in accordance with nationally recognized safety standards while prioritizing athlete well-being, risk management, and program integrity.

### **Lil Tigers Cheerleaders Program – Recruitment and Fundraising Impact**

The Lil Tigers Cheerleaders Program continues to serve as a vital pipeline for recruitment and community engagement at Tennessee State University.

- Introduces youth (ages 6–13) to TSU traditions and culture
- Strengthens early brand connection and long-term recruitment
- Drives game-day attendance and ticket revenue, with each participant bringing approximately 3 to 6 supporters

### **Impact Metrics**

Consistent increase in family-based attendance and ticket engagement

Serves as a direct feeder program for future TSU cheerleaders

Provides hands-on leadership training for current student-athletes

Additionally, the program reinforces a culture of service, mentorship, and legacy-building within the Office of Cheer and Dance.

### **Academic Performance and Student Success**

Academic excellence remains a priority across both programs:

- Approximately 87% of participants earned Dean’s List honors
- Strong emphasis on discipline, time management, and accountability

### **Graduating Seniors (May 2026)**

- 5 Cheerleaders
- 5 Sophisticated Ladies

These graduates exemplify leadership, resilience, and academic excellence, serving as role models within their respective programs.

### **Program Impact and Key Metrics**

The TSU Cheerleaders and Sophisticated Ladies Dance Line continue to produce measurable outcomes that support university priorities:

- Top 5 National Ranking at NCA College Nationals
- Engagement across multiple high-visibility university events and athletic platforms
- Representation at conference, national, and HBCU-focused events
- Participation in national media and cultural productions (MAJOR)
- 87% academic achievement rate (Dean’s List)
- 10 graduating senior leaders entering the workforce or graduate programs
- Increased game-day attendance and community engagement through the Lil Tigers program
- Full coaching staff operating under national safety and certification standards

### **Conclusion**

The Tennessee State University Cheerleaders and Sophisticated Ladies Dance Line remain vital contributors to:

- Athletic engagement
- Academic achievement
- Leadership development
- Community and national representation

Their collective success reflects positively on Tennessee State University and reinforces the institution's mission of excellence, integrity, and student success.

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## STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES CENTER

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### I. Overview

The Student Health Services Center (SHSC) remains a critical access point for preventive, acute, and ongoing medical care for TSU students. Throughout the 2025-2026 Academic Year, the department focused on maintaining continuity of care, expanding access through telehealth partnerships, strengthening campus and community collaborations, and providing proactive health education—despite continued staffing issues and reduced operational funding. These efforts continue to support student retention, academic success, and overall well-being.

### II. February 1, 2026 – April 17, 2026, Overview

#### A. Continued Expansion of Access to Telemedicine Care Through TimelyCare

Student Health Services continued its partnership with TimelyCare to provide students with **24/7 access to care**, allowing evaluation and treatment from any location within all 50 states. This platform offers comprehensive services, including on-demand mental health support through TalkNOW, scheduled counseling sessions, and virtual medical visits with licensed providers. Students can receive services comparable to in-person care, including prescriptions, school excuses, and referrals to Student Health Services, urgent care, or emergency departments as clinically appropriate. TimelyCare has served as a critical extension of campus-based medical services, ensuring continuity of care during periods of limited nursing capacity or when the clinic reaches capacity.

#### B. Clinic and TimelyCare Utilization & Service Metrics

##### TimelyCare Registrations

- February 1, 2026 – April 17, 2026: 132 student registrations
- Total Registrations All-time: 1,136 students
- February 1, 2026 – April 17, 2026, Percentage of All-time Registrations: 11.6%

##### TimelyCare Service Utilization (February 1, 2026 – April 17, 2026)

- Total Visits: 328
  - MedicalNow (On-Demand Medical Visits): 92
  - Scheduled Medical Visits: 0
  - Health Coaching: 3

## **Student Health Services Center (February 1, 2026 – April 17, 2026)**

- Total Visits (February 1, 2026 – April 17, 2026): 846
- GYN: 12
- Immunizations: 178

TimelyCare continues to play a vital supportive role in meeting student medical needs when on-campus providers are unavailable, helping to reduce delays in care while maintaining appropriate clinical oversight and referral pathways. Overall student visit volume remained comparable to the previous reporting period, reflecting sustained demand for services and effective continuity of care.

## **C. Proactive Health Outreach & Educational Engagement**

Student Health Services sustained its commitment to preventive care and health education through targeted outreach and awareness initiatives under the theme “**Your Health Matters.**” Programming emphasized early intervention, health literacy, and student empowerment.

### **Key outreach efforts included:**

- Give Me a Break – Finals Wellness Initiative (April): Healthy snacks to be distributed during finals week along with education on the importance of sleep, nutrition, and stress management.
- Club TSU – A Social Experience (April): Club TSU is a structured, experiential learning event designed to simulate a social nightlife environment while promoting student health and safety. The program incorporates interactive activities that address topics such as alcohol use, peer influence, and personal risk awareness. Through this approach, students are encouraged to apply critical decision-making skills in realistic scenarios, reinforcing strategies that support safer behaviors and overall well-being. The event was well attended (60 students, multiple faculty and staff) with positive feedback and requests for additional events in the Fall and Spring semesters of the next academic year.

In addition to structured programming, clinic staff routinely screened students for elevated blood pressure during visits. It provided home-monitoring devices to students who required ongoing tracking, reinforcing preventive care practices.

## **D. Standing Health Services & Ongoing Care**

**Daily: Blood Pressure Screening:** Students with elevated blood pressure readings are provided with blood pressure monitors to support home monitoring and follow-up.

**Monthly: On-Campus STI Testing:** Provided by the Metropolitan Nashville Health Department, offering confidential testing and education.

**Year-Round: Sports, Band, and Work Physicals:** Student Health Services continues to provide required physical examinations for athletes, band members, and students.

**A Non-Mandatory Fee Proposal** has been submitted to begin charging a modest fee for these physicals, aligning with practices at peer institutions and supporting long-term sustainability of clinical services.

- **Referral to Outside Resources:** Based on the level of clinical need, referrals to partner clinics and external resources have remained an integral component of student care. Moving forward, these partnerships will be further expanded to enhance service offerings and improve access to comprehensive care for students.

### **III. Strategic Partnerships & Service Expansion**

#### **A. Lentz Metro Health Department Partnership**

Student Health Services is on track to expand its collaboration with the Lentz Metropolitan Health Department to provide free, on-campus STI testing at the clinic, beginning with one day per week and expanding to two days per week as demand allows.

##### **Services will include:**

- Female STI screening and symptomatic treatment provided by two Nurse Practitioners
- Male STI testing provided by one Registered Nurse
- Tests offered: Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, Hepatitis, and Trichomonas

This partnership would significantly improve access by allowing students to receive confidential testing and treatment at no cost and without leaving campus, reducing common barriers such as transportation, time, and cost. Once the Memorandum of Understanding has been submitted and approved, this initiative will be targeted to begin in the Fall 2026 Semester.

During the Spring 2026 semester, Student Health Services continued its partnership with the local Health Department to provide on-campus STI testing for students. This collaboration remains a critical component of expanding access to preventive care and promoting student wellness. A total of 42 students were tested in February-April, compared with 52 during the same reporting period in the spring 2025 semester.

#### **B. Staffing Transitions & Continuity of Care**

- **Retirement of Dr. Edward Hills, MD**  
Dr. Hills retired effective February 1, 2026, after decades of dedicated service providing women's health care to TSU students. His contributions to student health and well-being have been invaluable, and he will be greatly missed.
- Dr. Kendra Hayslett, a distinguished graduate of Meharry Medical College and a respected OB/GYN, now serves the Tennessee State University (TSU) student population by providing comprehensive sexual and women's health services, including preventive care. As an African American female physician and an HBCU graduate, she offers a relatable and culturally responsive perspective that resonates with many students. Her approachable demeanor, strong clinical expertise, and exceptional bedside manner have fostered trust and engagement among students at the clinic.

#### **C. Continued Partnership with Music City PrEP Clinic**

As in previous semesters, the Music City PrEP Clinic has continued to provide STI testing, treatment, and PrEP therapy to TSU students at no cost. This partnership has significantly enhanced the scope of services offered through Student Health Services. Plans are underway to formalize and expand this collaboration through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the coming months.

**Total number of Students Tested February 2026: 22**

#### **IV. Operations, Access & System Enhancements**

##### **A. Appointment-Based Care Model**

Due to current staffing constraints and in alignment with practices at most in-state peer institutions, Student Health Services will begin a gradual transition to an appointment-only care model, with full implementation targeted for Fall 2026. Currently, appointments are scheduled only for sports, band, and work physicals.

While this will represent a change for students, the shift is necessary to:

- Ensure safe, efficient, and predictable patient flow
- Reduce waiting times
- Optimize provider availability and clinical coverage

Clear communication and phased implementation will support student adjustment to this model.

##### **B. Electronic Medical Record Enhancements**

Student Health Services will fully utilize the newly added modules within the Point and Click electronic medical record system before the start of the 2026-2027 Academic Year. These improvements will allow students to:

- Schedule appointments electronically
- View visit summaries and test results securely

These improvements will streamline clinic operations, enhance communication, and increase student autonomy in managing their health care.

#### **V. Campus Collaboration & Student Success Liaison Integration**

The addition of a Student Success Liaison (SSL) and a Student Ambassador has been able to strengthen Student Health Services' ability to engage students and deliver impactful programming. SSL supports event planning, outreach, and coordination across divisions. Provision of Health Services information, along with TimelyCare registrations, occurs at tabling events and campus-wide initiatives (including residence halls and campus eateries) multiple times per week.

#### **VI. Shared Programming & Events**

Student Health Services continues to collaborate closely with the University Counseling Center on past and planned wellness initiatives, including joint outreach and education events throughout the Academic Year. Such events included:

- BE SMART: Safe Sex Tabling
- CLUB TSU: A Social Experiment

These events reinforce an integrated approach to physical, emotional, and social wellness and have solidified relationships and collaboration with the University Counseling Center.

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**WELLNESS CENTER**

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**Wellness Center**

The Ralph H. Boston Wellness Center offers a diverse array of social, sports, and recreational opportunities designed to cater to the varied interests of students, faculty, and staff. Dedicated to fostering inclusivity and engagement, the Wellness Center actively seeks student feedback to inform its decision-making and program development, aligning with its mission to provide “something for everyone.” Additionally, a range of indoor recreational activities is accessible across campus in Kean Hall and other designated areas, including billiards, board and card games, cornhole, volleyball, and basketball.

The Gentry Center swimming pool is conveniently situated next to the Ralph H. Boston Wellness Center. Participants can easily access the aquatic amenities through the men’s and women’s locker rooms during pool operating hours. The Aquatics Department offers a range of recreational and fitness enhancement opportunities. Visitors are invited to take advantage of features such as Water Walk, Lap Swim, Free Swim, and Help Swim, all of which are available depending on lifeguard staffing.

The Wellness Center boasts a modern fitness area featuring a variety of traditional weight-training machines, free weights, and an extensive selection of cardiovascular equipment, including treadmills, recumbent bicycles, rowing machines, and elliptical trainers. To enhance the workout experience, multiple televisions are available throughout the space. Additionally, the facility includes a spacious aerobics and dance studio, exceeding 1,300 square feet, equipped with padded, slip-resistant hardwood flooring, mirrors, and ballet bars to accommodate a range of fitness classes and activities. The Wellness Center is open five days a week and welcomes all TSU students, faculty, and staff; a valid TSU ID is required for entry.

### **Ralph H. Boston Wellness Center Facilities & Operational Hours**

A fully equipped gym (weights, cardio, aerobic/dance studio) and an Olympic-size indoor pool.

- Hours: Monday - Friday: 8 AM - 7 PM and closed Saturday and Sunday

### **Wellness/Gentry Complex:**

Racquetball courts, indoor track, training & weight rooms, dance studio, and Olympic swimming pool.

### **Highlights**

Grand Opening for the TSU Aquatics Department. This report offers an overview of recent initiatives and achievements within the Wellness Center and the Aquatics Department, emphasizing ongoing efforts to promote safety, student engagement, and overall well-being. Through strategic programming, collaborative partnerships, and a sustained commitment to high operational standards, both departments have endeavored to enhance the campus experience and support students’ holistic health and success. The following summary outlines key activities, outcomes, and advancements reached during this reporting period.

- Dr. Gerald Davis delivered a presentation at the AKA fireside chat that centered on both mental and physical fitness.
- The Wellness Center conducted a training session on policies and procedures for the work-study staff, covering essential topics such as employee expectations, front desk etiquette, lobby and locker-room awareness, and weight-room safety.

- Additionally, the Wellness Center staff collaborated weekly with the University Counseling Center to promote the TimelyCare Program. They engaged students by hosting an informational table and encouraged participation through QR code registration. The TimelyCare app offers students access to eight services, including MedicalNow, TalkNow, scheduled medical and counseling appointments, health coaching, psychiatry, self-care content, and a peer community, all aimed at supporting a comprehensive approach to student well-being.
- The Aquatics Department has demonstrated a robust commitment to safety, education, and community engagement through a series of key initiatives. The department hosted an American Red Cross Water Safety Training and organized a lifeguard mock emergency scenario in collaboration with the TSU Police Department, which reinforced preparedness and response protocols.
- Notably, the Gentry Swimming Pool achieved an impressive score of 98 out of 100 from the Tennessee Health Inspector, highlighting its high operational standards. To further enhance on-site safety, a new AED unit has been installed. Additionally, the Aquatics Department partnered with the Graduate School to plan and host the Grad Splash Celebration, honoring graduating students.
- As of March 1, to April 9, 2026, total attendance stands at **3,405** students and **183** staff members. Additionally, from July 1, 2025, to April 9, 2026, the total attendance is 21,185 students and 1,168 staff members.
- In terms of swimming participation, there are **193** students and staff members involved from March 1 to April 9, 2026. Furthermore, from September 7 to April 9, 2026, there are **888** participants, including both students and staff.

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## THE COUNSELING CENTER

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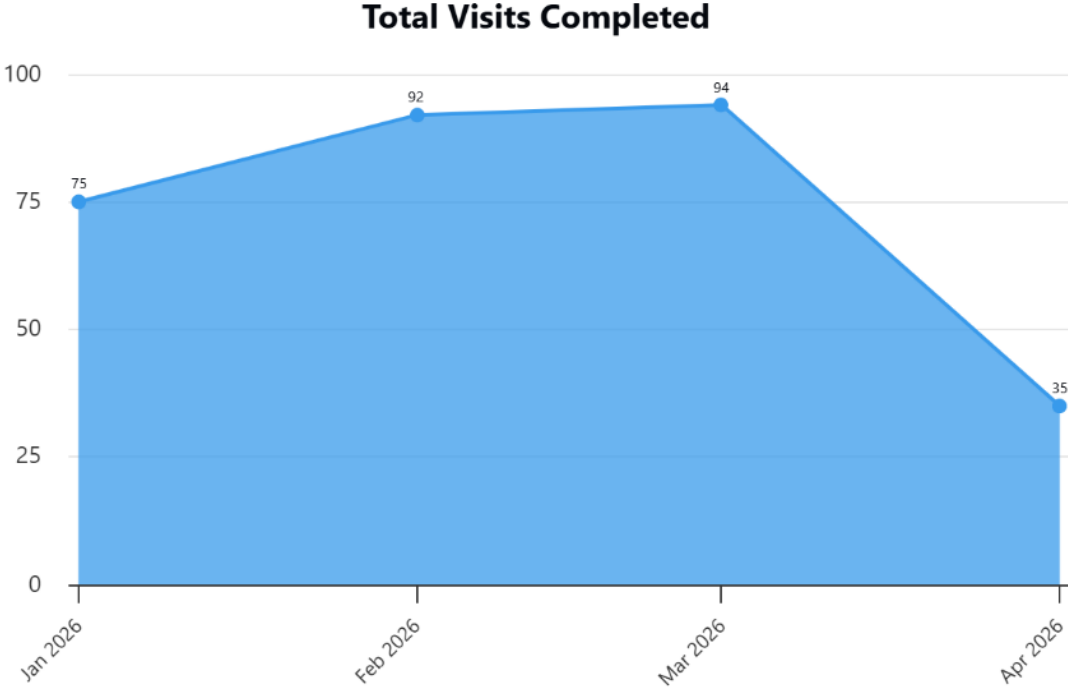
The TSU Counseling Center continues to expand students' access to mental health services through its partnership with TimelyCare, which provides 24/7 virtual mental health support nationwide, including evenings, weekends, and academic breaks. These services supplement campus-based counseling and ensure continuity of care when in-person services are unavailable.

During the 2025–2026 academic year, 456 students enrolled in TimelyCare, reflecting a slight increase in utilization driven by improved referrals and outreach. From January 2026 to April 13, 216 students enrolled in TimelyCare and generated 295 mental health visits, with 45.9% occurring after hours or on weekends, underscoring the demand for around-the-clock support. Services included scheduled counseling, on-demand TalkNow sessions, and psychiatry appointments, all demonstrating strong reported improvement outcomes of at least 70%.

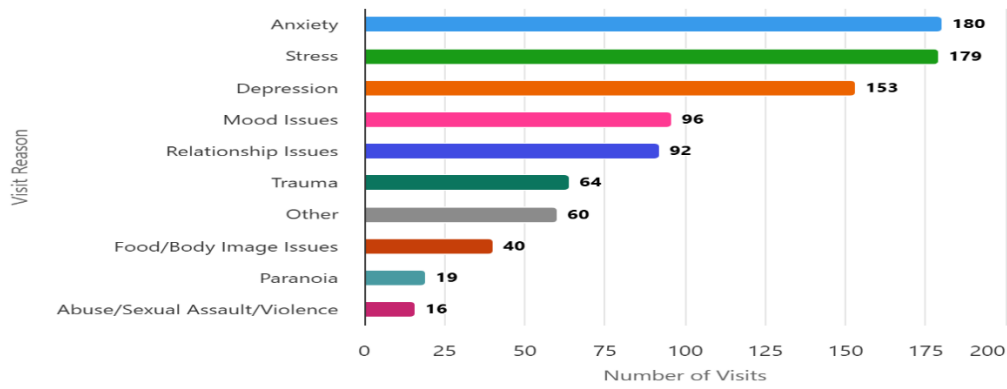
As of April 13, a total of 309 undergraduate and 97 graduate students accessed TimelyCare, most frequently for anxiety, stress, and depression. Additionally, 99 students engaged with Digital Self-Care tools, particularly resources focused on depression, anxiety, and sleep.

In-person counseling services resumed on February 9, with 26 sessions provided as of the end of business day on April 13. The Counseling Center remains committed to a hybrid service model. It

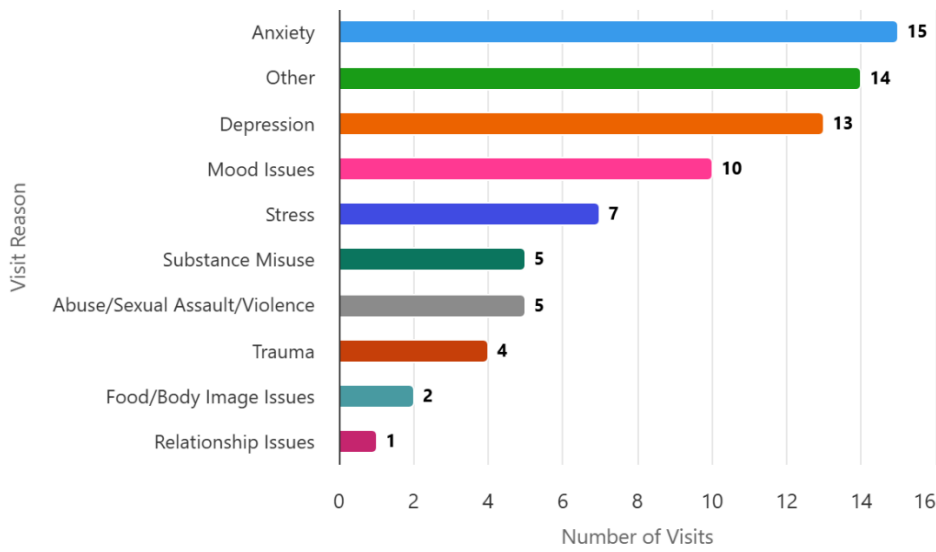
continues to offer up to three counseling sessions per student per academic year, complemented by TimelyCare to maximize access and responsiveness to student mental health needs.



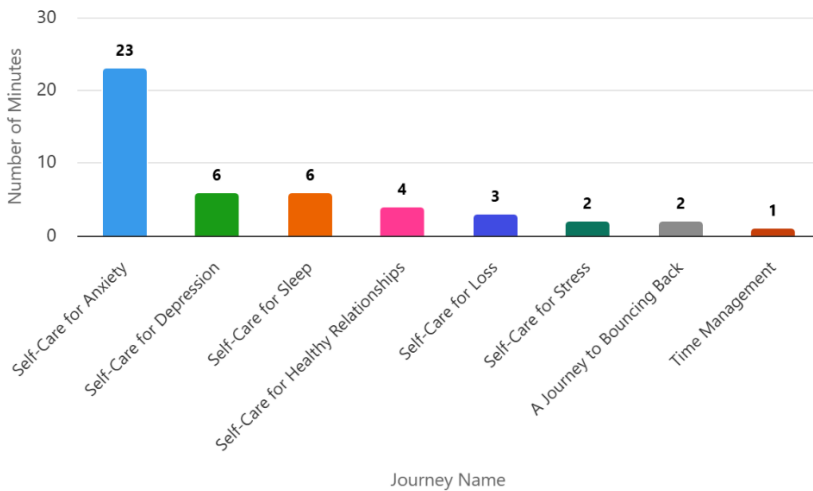
### Top 10 Visit Reasons - Mental Health



### Top 10 Visit Reasons - Psychiatry



### Self-Care Minutes Spent by Journey



## **Counseling Center Outreach Services and Support**

- January 9, 2026 – TimelyCare Training for Student-Athletes Led a targeted virtual training course for student-athletes, resulting in over 50 athletes successfully enrolling in TimelyCare. This session provided comprehensive education on virtual counseling, medical services, peer support, guided yoga, and meditation, increasing access and reducing barriers to care.
- January 20, 2026 – Campus-Wide TimelyCare Training (All Body) Facilitated campus-wide virtual training (10 attendees), identifying a need for enhanced outreach strategies and diversified engagement methods to increase utilization.
- February 9, 2026 – Miss TSU Cupid’s Cuties Galentine’s Event (Female Students Only) Supported a targeted engagement event with flower arrangement stations and promotion of Counseling Center and TimelyCare services, creating a low-barrier, culturally responsive environment.
- February 12, 2026 – Financial Literacy Workshop Coordinated a workshop with Mr. Herman Hicks (supported by Dr. James) covering 401(k), Roth IRAs, generational wealth, and financial stability, connecting financial wellness to mental health.
- February 12, 2026 – Tabletop Thursday with Rep At Large Asia Asbury and former Intern Enyla Henderson (Positive Affirmations & Outreach). Provided affirmations, giveaways, and direct promotion of Counseling Center services and TimelyCare to increase visibility and engagement.
- February 2026 – Weekly Resource Spotlight Campaign (Instagram-Based) Implemented weekly Instagram spotlights highlighting Nashville mental health agencies to expand off-campus resource awareness.
- February 26, 2026 – Honoring Our Elders (Black Mental Health Village) Engaged in a community event honoring TSU alum, strengthening culturally relevant partnerships. Ongoing Outreach Efforts (Expanded Campus Presence).
- Conducted consistent outreach at New Residence Hall, Avon Williams Campus, Wellness Center, Rudolph Hall, and cafeteria areas. These efforts enhanced awareness, accessibility, and trust in Counseling Center services.
  - Promoted TimelyCare at every engagement point
  - Assisted students with real-time sign-ups
  - Built relationships with students and faculty
  - Increased departmental visibility across campus
- March 12, 2026 – Mental Health Workshop (Interdisciplinary Collaboration Doctoral Students of Psychology and Dr. Slay Department of Social Work). Collaborated with the Department of Social Work and doctoral psychology students to deliver therapy awareness and stigma reduction programming.
- March 18, 2026 – “Girl, We Got You” Panel (Female Students Only) Student Government Association, TSU PD. Served as a panelist providing a safe space for discussions on safe sex, body image, dating, and relationships.

- March 19, 2026 – Generational Healing Panel (Trauma-Informed Engagement) Hosted by Rep At Large Asia Asbury, C.U.B.S, ABPSI, and Office of International Affairs. Supported an open, trauma-informed discussion on generational trauma and healing.
- March 26, 2026 – Mental Health Workshop in partnership with the Department of Social Work (Student-Athletes). Supported the Psychology Doctoral students in re-delivering targeted mental health education to student-athletes. Collaboration with Dr. Slay
- April 15, 2026 – Club TSU: Nightlife Simulation Experience (High-Impact Programming). Designed and executed a large-scale interactive program focused on nightlife safety, decision-making, and harm reduction.
  - Included scenarios: spiked drinks, sobriety checks, legal consequences
  - Collaborated with Judge Bell, Dr. James (Health Services), and vendors (Music City Prep, street works, STARS, TSU PD)
  - Integrated education with experiential learning

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## THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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During the Spring 2026 semester, the Career Development Center (CDC) delivered a series of programs designed to enhance student career readiness, expand employer engagement, and increase access to internship and employment opportunities. The semester began with foundational outreach efforts, such as Resident Assistant training and EMPOWER orientation, followed by a variety of employer engagement events, including multiple Lunch and Learns with partners such as Teach for America, Franklin Road Academy, Aramark, and Bank of America. The CDC also hosted targeted workshops and presentations focused on resume development, interview preparation, and career readiness for specific student populations, including agriculture seniors and graduating students. Collaborative programming with student organizations and employer partners, such as Schneider Electric and HCA, further strengthened connections between students and industry while promoting hands-on learning and professional development.

As the semester progressed, CDC expanded its impact through large-scale events and high-engagement opportunities. Signature programs such as the Career Fair Networking Mixer and the Campus Wide Career Fair connected hundreds of students with dozens of employer partners, significantly increasing exposure to internships and job pathways. Additional immersive experiences, including employer site visits, multi-day employer engagements like GEP's sessions, and specialized events such as the Live Nation informational and graduate student workshops, provided students with deeper insight into career options and professional expectations. The semester will conclude with ongoing programming, including the Regions' financial literacy workshop and EMPOWER student presentations, reinforcing the CDC's commitment to comprehensive career development. Collectively, these spring initiatives strengthened students' professional skills, broadened employer partnerships, and supported successful transitions from academic life to the workforce.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event / Activity</b>	<b>Description / Partners</b>	<b>Number of Student Attendees</b>
January 5, 2026	Resident Assistant Spring Training	The CDC team spoke with Resident Assistants about the center and invited them to visit and to let their residents know as well.	90
January 15, 2026	EMPOWER Orientation	Empower Activity Grant – meeting the new students on the grant, reviewing expectations, and signing their contracts	25
January 19, 2026	HCA Food Drive for the Tiger Pantry	Employer Partner Collaboration: HCA collected over 500 cans of food for the Tiger Food Pantry.	45
January 20, 2026	Teach For America Lunch and Learn	Overview of TFA with their recruitment team and Lunch and Learn	30
January 23, 2026	Franklin Road Academy Lunch and Learn	Overview of FRA with their leadership team and Lunch and Learn	30
January 30, 2026	Senior Drop-in Day – STAR Method Interview/Resume/Handshake	CDC Workshop Series	23
February 3, 2026	Aramark Lunch and Learn	Overview of Aramark and its on-campus work opportunities	13
February 6, 2026	Super Bowl Career Kickoff Celebration	Celebration and CDC Overview with Handshake/ Career Navideer/ Quinncia Site review	45
February 9, 2026	Career Readiness Presentation – Agriculture Senior Seminar	The CDC team presented to Ag seniors about their professional development plan and about updating their resumes before graduation.	42
February 9, 2026	Phi Beta Sigma Panel: Professionalism and Power Moves	Phi Beta Sigma Professional Development Series	10
February 13, 2026	Schneider Electric Campus Visit / Company Overview/ Resume Workshop	Schneider Electric Alumni visited campus to give an overview of the company and assist students with their elevator pitch and resumes	25
February 16-20, 2026	Career Development Team Training	The CDC team built out the spring calendar/Handshake training	18
March 9, 2026	LYLAS (Love you Like a Sister) student organization professional development collaboration	Cohosted presentation with LYLAS to discuss career readiness, timely care, and CDC resources	50
March 10, 2026	GEP: Meet and Greet Lunch and Learn	GEP Overview/ leadership team visited and discussed internship and job opportunities for students	30
March 11, 2026	GEP: Career Session	GEP returned for a second day to assist students with their resumes and separated them into breakout rooms so each GEP team member could have a 1:1 conversation with students regarding opportunities at GEP or assist students with their resumes.	21
March 13, 2026	Senior Drop-in Day – STAR Method interview overview/resume/ Handshake	CDC Workshop Series	18

March 24, 2026	LIVE Nation Informational	LIVE Nation Entertainment visited the campus to discuss their company's summer internship and job opportunities	87
March 26, 2026	Career Fair Networking Mixer	Ten employer partners visited campus for the mixer to discuss their company's job opportunities and future partnership opportunities with TSU	105
March 27, 2026	Campus-Wide Career Fair	84 Employer Partners participated in the campus-wide career fair to discuss their job and internship opportunities.	581
March 30, 2026	Bank of America Lunch and Learn	Bank of America hosted a workshop to assist students with applying for their internship and job opportunities	17
March 31, 2026	Schneider Home Office Tour	Schneider Electric invited students to visit their headquarters in Franklin, TN, to meet their leadership team and have lunch, a tour, and breakout sessions to discuss opportunities within the company	22
April 10, 2026	Graduate School Event: Polish your Professional Profile	The CDC participated in the graduate school celebration week by hosting a workshop for graduate students. We assisted with reviewing their resumes, provided a tour and an overview of the Career Development Center, and scheduled a 1:1 appointment with the students.	10
April 16, 2026	Regions: Reality Check Financial Literacy Workshop	The Student Engagement and Career Development Center will co-host a financial literacy event presented by our TSU banking partner, Regions Bank	Anticipating at least 50+ students.
April 24, 2026	EMPOWER Grant activity student presentations	Student Cohort will present their final presentations for the semester.	Student cohort will present (25)

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## STUDENT NAVIGATION 1STOP CENTER

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### **Student Navigation 1Stop Center**

The Student Navigation 1Stop Center serves as a centralized access point for student affairs and support services. The office addresses student needs on a case-by-case basis and assists with a wide range of matters, including admissions, bursar support, degree tracking, financial aid, registration, excused absences, and other student support functions. By consolidating these services in one location, the department enhances the university's customer service and helps students resolve concerns and complaints without having to navigate multiple offices across campus.

#### Backup Support

In addition, the Navigation 1Stop Center, led by Dr. Bryant and Mr. Greg Williams, provides backup support for the university's main phone line (615-963-5000).

During the Spring 26 semester, the Navigation 1Stop Center served over 500 walk-ins, 700 call-ins, and email responses that are not yet measurable. As a result of the partnerships and collaboration, the Navigation 1Stop Center's presence is increasing as the recruitment period peaks toward Fall 26.

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## VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE

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### **Veteran's Affairs Office**

Unit Focus: The Veterans Affairs Office continues to be a vital support pillar for the military-affiliated community, focusing on benefits certification, immigration compliance, and promoting holistic academic success and transition support.

Current Caseload and Benefit Utilization (Certified)

The office is actively supporting **183 military fund recipients** this semester.

- **Enrollment Breakdown:** 20 Graduate, 72 Seniors, 37 Juniors, 32 Sophomores, and 22 Freshmen
- **Top Benefits Used:** CH 31 = 10- TSU invoices for payment, CH 35 DEA= 111- monthly stipend, CH 1606 Reserves = monthly stipend, and CH 33 Post-9/11 –GI Bill 46 directly to TSU,

### **Core Services and Advocacy**

The office maintained strict compliance with VA record-keeping requirements, ensuring students received the correct in-state tuition rate and accurate enrollment certifications.

Changes in VA deferments: The office has received notice from our Veteran population that they are not allowed to register for the upcoming semesters due to the balance held on registration accounts. Following a follow-up with our Bursar, it has been confirmed that, in the future, we will not allow students to register with prior balances. Some of whom get funding from Chapters, who will not pay out until after grades are reported for the current semester. This could potentially impact the Veterans' summer enrollment.

In the Fall Veteran students can opt to use a payment plan. We aim to communicate this change to the population in the upcoming week.

Future Growth: The Office is excited to see the dedicated space open for our Veterans in the coming months.

This centralized hub will provide a critical sense of belonging, study space, and coordinated access to resources, significantly enhancing support for this key student demographic.

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## THE OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES (ODS)

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**Unit Focus:**

To ensure equitable access to education and support for all students by providing reasonable accommodations and fostering an inclusive campus environment. The unit's goal is to empower students with disabilities to succeed academically and socially while addressing the stigma surrounding mental health and disabilities. Through collaborative initiatives and services, we aim to raise awareness, offer essential resources, and promote full participation in university life. The office is committed to supporting students with cognitive, physical, and mood impairments, helping them thrive and achieve their academic and personal goals.

**The Office of Disability Services focuses on the following three areas:**

**Customer Service** -The time to produce accommodation memos for our students from request receipt to submission to the student and faculty.

**Knowledge and Awareness of Disability Services** – Intentional engagement (both on-campus and off-campus) through event participation and information dissemination for students, faculty, and the community

**Persistence and Self-Advocacy** – Focuses on encouraging students with impairment needs to take advantage of the unit and request/receive accommodations each semester of their matriculation at the university.

Each of these areas is supported by the increased knowledge and development of the unit's team members. Knowledge, specifically of pertinent legislation, best practice, and student voice, is critical.

**Office of Disability Services Effort Summary:**

Accommodation memoranda continue to be produced for students who request them, according to their needs. To date, 187 accommodation memoranda have been issued for the spring 2026 semester. These accommodations address academic, nutritional, and residence-life needs. The office is actively supporting 134 students this term registered with the office.

The Office of Disability Services (ODS) continued to provide consistent student support throughout the reporting period, issuing accommodation letters each week and maintaining frequent contact with students through office visits, phone calls, emails, and virtual meetings. The office also remained operationally flexible, ensuring continuity of service during remote work periods and sustaining students' access to support without interruption.

ODS made meaningful progress in outreach, visibility, and campus engagement. Staff developed and distributed a unit flyer, expanded social media activity, and shared brochures at Spring Preview Day to increase awareness of services and encourage earlier student engagement. The office also collaborated with campus partners in areas such as commencement planning, service learning, residence life, and career services.

Leadership and staff participated in multiple professional development and compliance-related trainings, including sessions on accessibility, Title IX intersections, behavior intervention, compliance reporting, assessment, and communication. These efforts reflect the office's focus on strengthening service delivery while preparing for evolving institutional and legal expectations.

ODS also continued important internal work related to budget planning and process improvement. The team launched a spring program effectiveness survey to gather student feedback and identify

opportunities for improvement. This data-driven approach will help guide future planning and service enhancements.

### **Office of Disability Services Key Accomplishments**

1. For the Spring 2026 semester, 134 students have been actively supported through the production of 187 accommodation memoranda.
2. The office led two outreach/awareness activities:
  - The unit engaged in digital presence enhancement tasks. More detailed process language and staff pictures were added to the unit landing page (web), and the unit held a social media campaign on its Instagram page for February. The goals of this campaign were to increase the page's activity so it would appear in more individuals' feeds, thereby normalizing interaction and engagement with disability resources, and to highlight persons of color who also have impairments, thereby raising awareness and, hopefully, reducing stigma. (7 posts for February vs 2 in January, 25 and 3 in 2025)
  - The office collaborated with The Center for Service Learning & Civic Engagement to deliver a presentation for faculty (primarily) and staff focused on accessibility for all students engaging in high-impact practices entitled Engaging Every Learner: Understanding Disability Services and High Impact Practices
3. The unit gained access for all team members to the EAB Navigate Student Information System platform. This platform integration was implemented to improve unit efficiency, engagement documentation, and intelligence.
4. Office staff attended multiple professional development opportunities, including
  - Maxient training (02/26)
  - ODS unit Navigate introductory training (3/26),
  - TN AHEAD (Tennessee Association on Higher Education and Disability) monthly meetings (2/26- 4/26),
  - TNAHEAD Annual Conference (3/26)

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## **INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES (ISSS)**

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### **Unit Focus:**

ISSS is committed to building a globally inclusive campus by offering a wide range of services to support international students, scholars, and exchange visitors. Our focus is on enhancing international student enrollment, ensuring adherence to immigration regulations, and promoting cross-cultural engagement. Through targeted recruitment initiatives, comprehensive support services, and global partnerships, we strive to create an environment in which international students can excel academically, socially, and professionally.

### **Spring 2026 International Student Enrollment**

Currently, there are 229 international students enrolled for the spring 2026 semester.

A total of **41** international students have been approved for graduation in May 2026, consisting of **22 undergraduates** and **19 graduate** students. Among these graduates, 10 students have achieved

a perfect 4.0 GPA, while an additional 5 students have GPAs exceeding 3.9. The average GPA for the May graduating class stands at 3.67.

### **Enrollment & Compliance Initiatives**

- Processed and registered international students in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), ensuring compliance with federal non-immigrant student regulations for both the university and the students.
- Assisted students with their applications for Optional Practical Training (OPT) employment.
- Evaluated requests for Curricular Practical Training (CPT), determined eligibility, and granted authorization when appropriate.
- Processed immigration documents for new J-1 Visiting Scholars.

### **Fall 2026 Preparation:**

- Communicated with applicants to address inquiries about admissions, immigration, and enrollment issues. Issued I-20 forms for incoming international students for Fall 2026, allowing them to obtain student visas.

### **Programming**

- **March 4, 2026:** Sponsored a vibrant Holi Festival organized by students from South Asian countries on the Administrative Lawn, with participation from over 70 faculty, staff, and students. Holi, a significant Hindu celebration, is known as the festival of Colors, Love, and Spring.
- **March 19, 2026:** Hosted the Annual Spring Cultural Celebration, featuring the crowning of Mr. and Miss Collegiate International, a fashion show, cultural performances, and a delightful sampling of international cuisines from around the globe.
- **April 24, 2026:** Organized a reception to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our international student graduates.

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## **THE FLOYD PAYNE STUDENT CENTER (FPSC)**

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The Floyd – Payne Student Center stands as the central hub of the university, serving as the focal point for campus activities. We provide a diverse range of social, recreational, and athletic offerings tailored to the varied interests of our students, faculty, and staff, reflecting our commitment to "something for everybody." The center is dedicated to promoting holistic development and facilitating experiential learning beyond the confines of the traditional classroom.

### **Strategic Leadership and Operations**

The FPSC plays a crucial role in campus life and hosts university-wide events. We collaborate with the Athletic Department and Student Engagement to organize volleyball games and practices, as well as regular student activities and special events. In our efforts to enhance recreational

programming for the broader student body, the director's role is vital in ensuring the logistical success of the university's key traditions and significant administrative milestones.

Including:

- Commencement / Graduation Exercises
- Faculty and Staff Institute
- New Student Orientations
- Preview Days / Campus Tours
- President's Annual Holiday Celebrations
- One Stop Shop" late registration event in Kean Hall

### **Student Engagement Management and Collaboration**

The FPSC remains the ultimate gathering place for the campus community. Whether participating in intramural sports or free play, using the game room for card games and pool, attending movie night in the forum, or engaging in collaborative study sessions, students rely on the FPSC for daily activities.

To maintain this high level of activity. The director works closely with the Office of Student Activities and Academic Affairs to coordinate weekly courtyard/tabletop events alongside major student programs. Academic Affairs always has a place in the FPSC to display its many achievements and accolades.

### **Facilities Management and Special Events**

Maintaining a facility of this size (229,000 sq ft) necessitates meticulous oversight and commitment. The director works closely with JLL to identify and address maintenance and housekeeping requirements, ensuring that the building remains clean and inviting for all visitors.

During peak times, such as Homecoming week, the FPSC staff extends their support beyond regular building operations. This includes preparing Kean Hall for prominent events such as the annual coronation, Levi Watkins' White Coat ceremony, volleyball games, the Breakfast of Champions, and the President's Society Luncheon. Through these varied efforts, the FPSC staff continually demonstrate their commitment to the university's mission of excellence and service.

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
INFORMATION ITEM

DATE: May 7, 2026

ITEM: Enrollment Management Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No action

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Eric Stokes, Vice President of Enrollment Management

**Background Information**

Dr. Stokes will present an update on enrollment management.



**Meeting  
of the  
TSU Board of Trustees**

Student and Academic Affairs Committee

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**TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

AGENDA ITEM

VI. Enrollment Report

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# Division of Enrollment Management

Presentation Topics:

1. Summary of Spring Recruitment Activities
2. Leveraging Data and Innovations
3. Fall 2026 New Student Enrollment Update
4. Yield Initiatives



3

# Regional Recruitment Events



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## Tigers on Tour Event Summary

Date	Event Name	Total Registered	Total Attended	Percent Attended
02/27/2026	Tigers On Tour   Chattanooga, TN	62	16	25%
03/03/2026	Tigers On Tour   Knoxville, TN	36	21	58%
03/11/2026	Tigers On Tour   St. Louis, MO	72	31	43%
03/17/2026	Tigers On Tour   Birmingham, AL	67	37	55%
03/24/2026	Tigers On Tour   Murfreesboro, TN	40	15	38%
03/25/2026	Tigers On Tour   Clarksville, TN	38	19	50%
04/16/2026	Tigers On Tour   Chicago, IL	124	49	40%
04/23/2026	Tigers On Tour   Atlanta, GA	130	38	29%
04/28/2026	Tigers On Tour   Jackson, TN	47	12	26%
04/29/2026	Tigers On Tour   Memphis, TN	237	71	30%

**Additional Regional Travel:**

- ✓ Washington DC
- ✓ Detroit, MI
- ✓ Louisville, KY
- ✓ Cincinnati, OH

**Big Blue Breakfast for Counselors:**

- ✓ Chattanooga, TN
- ✓ Birmingham, AL
- ✓ Clarksville, TN
- ✓ Atlanta, GA

## Spring 2026 Campus Visits Summary



## Campus Recruitment Events Summary

Date	Event Name	Audience	Total Students Registered	Total Students Attended	Total Attended with Guests
03/03/2026	Memphis Shelby Schools Bus Trip	Admitted HS Seniors	139	79	79
04/11/2026	Spring Preview Day	Admitted Seniors & HS Juniors	651	305	950
04/12/2026	Academic Excellence Scholars Brunch	Renaissance Scholars	94	58	149
05/04/2026	Virtual Office Hours Begin	Admitted Students			
05/TBD/2026	MNPS Trailblazer Virtual Event	MNPS Trailblazers			
05/07/2026	Former Tiger Reclamation Virtual Event	Stop-out Students			

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## Leveraging Data & Innovations



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# Dynamic Applicant Portal

# TSU Enrollment Dashboard

### TSU Enrollment Pipeline

Applications by Decision Type

Decision	# of Students
Admit	9,582
Deny	1,336
Admit/Matric (Confirm)	1,178
Admit/Decline	287
Withdraw	109
Closeout Duplication	18
Cancel	10
Expire	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,521</b>

Applications by Source

10.31K (82.04%)  
3.53K (21.24%)  
2.04K (12.29%)

Application Source

- State-Hosted A...
- Common Black...
- Common Appl...
- Tennessee Dire...

**89.21%**  
Admission Rate

**10.66%**  
Matriculation Rate

**16,673**  
Total Applications

**4,152**  
Total Pending Applications

FTIC

Transfer

### Applications Time Series

● Total Applications ● Total Admitted Students ● Total Matriculated Students

Month	Total Applications	Total Admitted Students	Total Matriculated Students
Nov 2025	4,345	2,735	415
Jan 2026	8,606	4,357	685
Mar 2026	11,510	7,042	1,178
May 2026	14,406	8,583	-
Jul 2026	16,673	11,047	-

### Applications by State

State	Total Applications	Awaiting Decision	Admitted Students	Matriculated Students	Matriculation Rate
TN	6,379	1,698	4,186	597	14.3%
GA	1,967	324	1,498	109	7.3%
IL	1,038	284	635	56	8.8%
IN	482	129	288	47	16.3%
AL	517	89	409	41	10.0%
OH	466	112	296	40	13.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,673</b>	<b>4,152</b>	<b>11,047</b>	<b>1,178</b>	<b>10.7%</b>

**993**  
Average of SAT

**18.58**  
Average of ACT

**3.22**  
Average of HS GPA

# Fall 2026 Enrollment Update



## FRESHMAN ENROLLMENT FALL 2026

	Applied	Admitted	Confirmed (Paid \$100 Deposit)	NSO Registration
Freshman	13,861	9,908	1,319	895
Avg. GPA	3.32	3.52	3.35	
Avg. ACT	19	20	18	
Avg. SAT	991	1006	968	

Data as of 4/30/26 – 9:28pm

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## TRANSFER ENROLLMENT FALL 2026

	Applied	Admitted	Confirmed (Paid \$100 Deposit)	NSO Registration
Transfer	930	435	168	107
Avg. GPA	2.99	3.10	3.03	

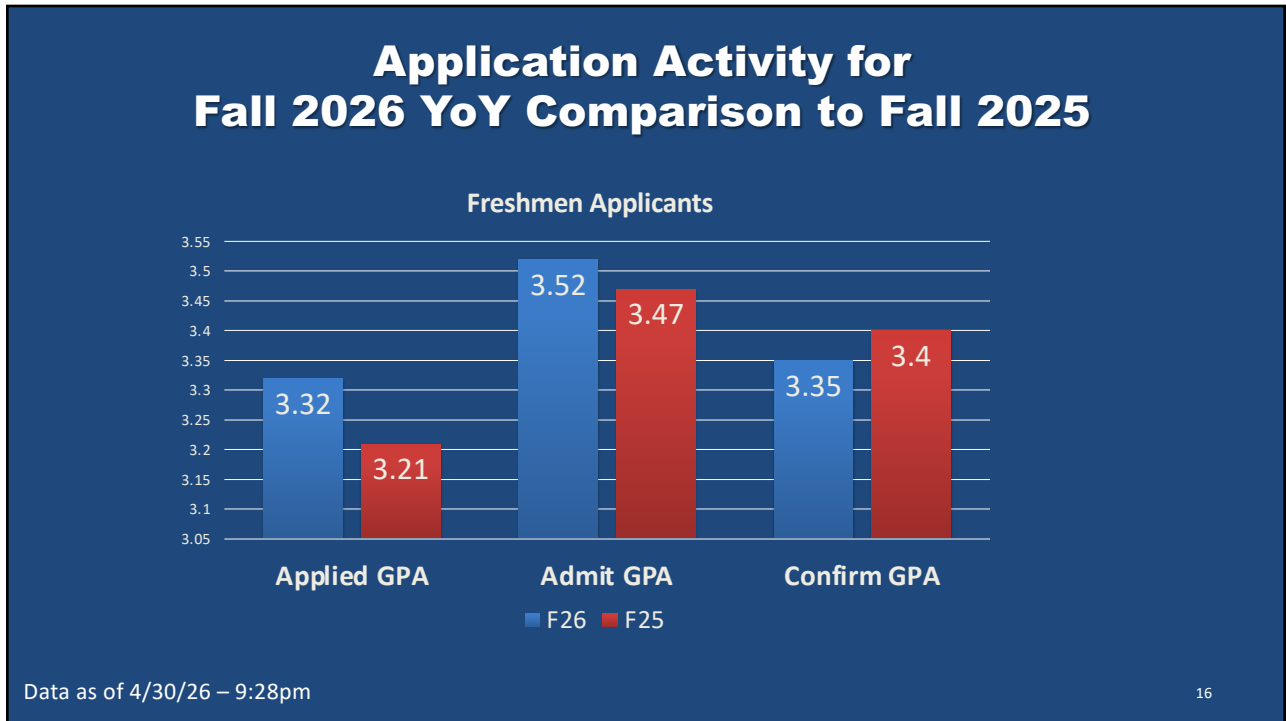
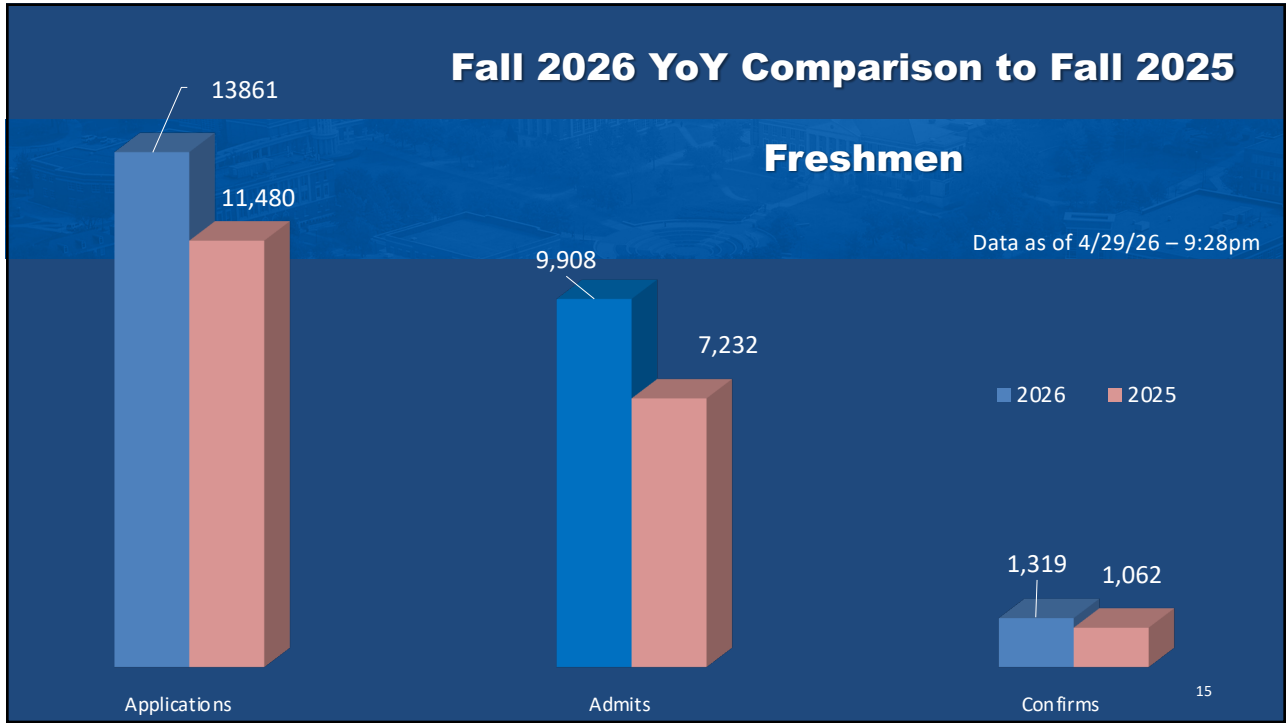
Data as of 4/30/26 – 9:28pm

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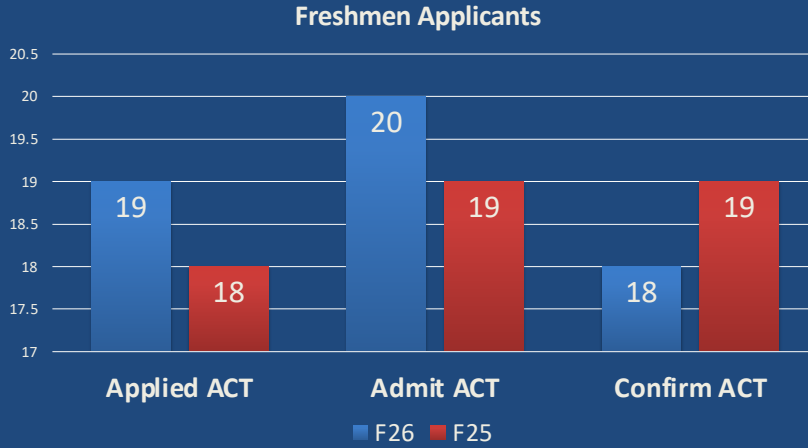
## Fall 2026 vs. 2025 Comparative Enrollment



14



## Application Activity for Fall 2026 YoY Comparison to Fall 2025

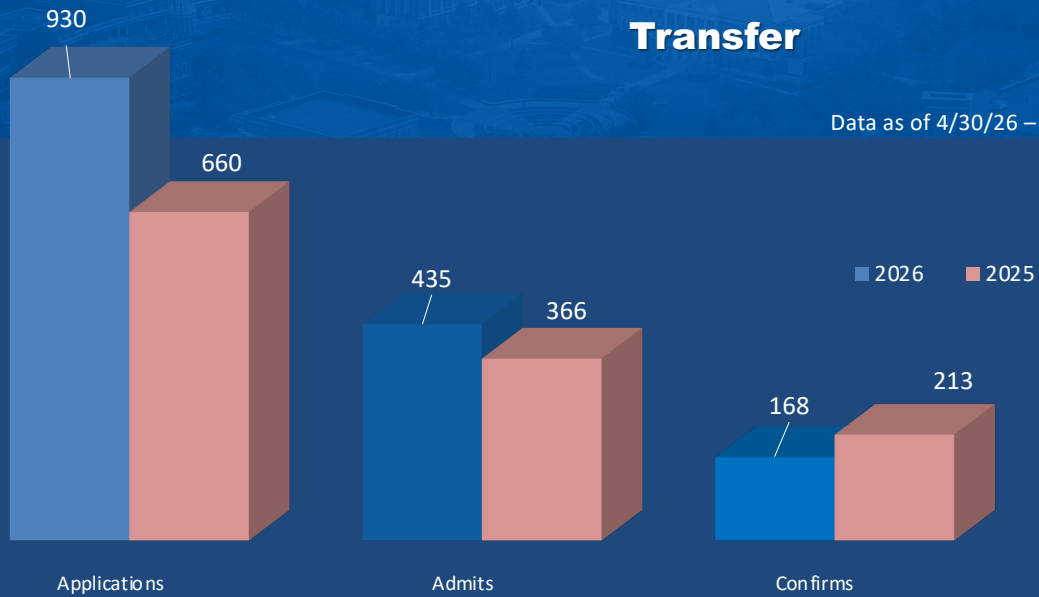


Data as of 4/30/26 – 9:28pm

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## Fall 2026 YoY Comparison to Fall 2025

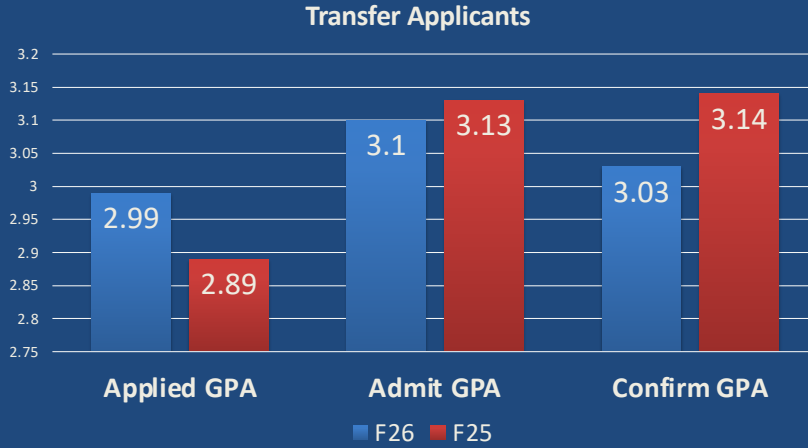
### Transfer



Data as of 4/30/26 – 9:28pm

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## Application Activity for Fall 2026 YoY Comparison to Fall 2025



Data as of 4/30/26 – 9:28pm

19

## Fall 2026 Enrollment Goals by Student Type

20

## Freshman Progress Towards the Goal

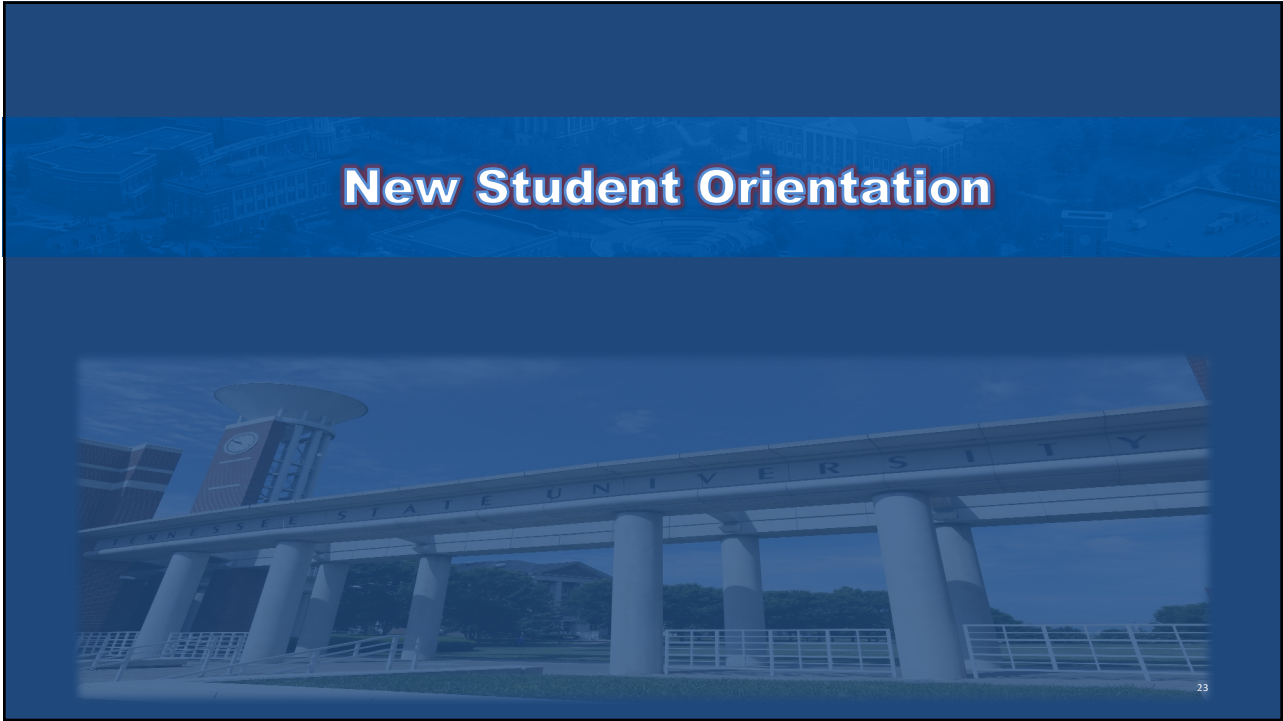
App Funnel Stage	Target	Current	% Toward Goal
Freshman Applications	11,904	1,322	<b>116%</b>
Freshman Admits	8,333	9,908	<b>119%</b>
Freshman Confirms	1,575	1,322	84%
Freshman Enrollment	1,200 - 1,500		

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## Transfer Progress Towards the Goal

App Funnel Stage	Target	Current	% Toward Goal
Transfer Applications	650	931	<b>143%</b>
Transfer Admits	377	115	<b>115%</b>
Transfer Confirms	245	168	69%
Transfer Enrollment Goal	175		

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## New Student Orientation Dates

Session	Summer 2026 Date(s)	Time	Audience / Format	Location / Notes
NSO #1	Tue, May 19, 2026	5:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Non-Traditional Student Orientation	Avon Williams Campus
<b>NSO #2 (Full)</b>	Wednesday-Thursday June 3-4, 2026	4pm check-in on 6/3 4pm check-out on 6/4	Freshman Optional Overnight	Main Campus
<b>NSO #3 (Full)</b>	Tuesday-Wednesday June 9-10, 2026	4pm check-in on 6/9 4pm check-out on 6/10	Freshman Optional Overnight	Main Campus
NSO #4	Tuesday-Wednesday June 16-17, 2026	4pm check-in on 6/16 4pm check-out on 6/17	Freshman Optional Overnight	Main Campus
NSO #5	Thursday-Friday June 25-26, 2026	4pm check-in on 6/25 4pm check-out on 6/26	Freshman Optional Overnight	Main Campus
NSO #6	Wednesday-Thursday July 8-9, 2026	4pm check-in on 7/8 4pm check-out on 7/9	Freshman Optional Overnight	Main Campus
NSO #8	Tuesday-Wednesday July 14-15, 2026	4pm check-in on 7/14 4pm check-out on 7/15	Freshman Optional Overnight	Main Campus
NSO #9	Thursday-Friday July 23-24, 2026	4pm check-in on 7/23 4pm check-out on 7/24	Freshman Optional Overnight	Main Campus
NSO #10	Tuesday July 28, 2026	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Transfer Student NSO	Main Campus
NSO #11 (Hidden Date)	Tuesday August 11, 2026	8:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Long-distance freshmen and late admits	One Stop   Kean Hall Welcome Week 8/10

# Yield Initiatives

Spring Recruitment Events and High School Visits

Financial Aid Award Packets and Value Proposition

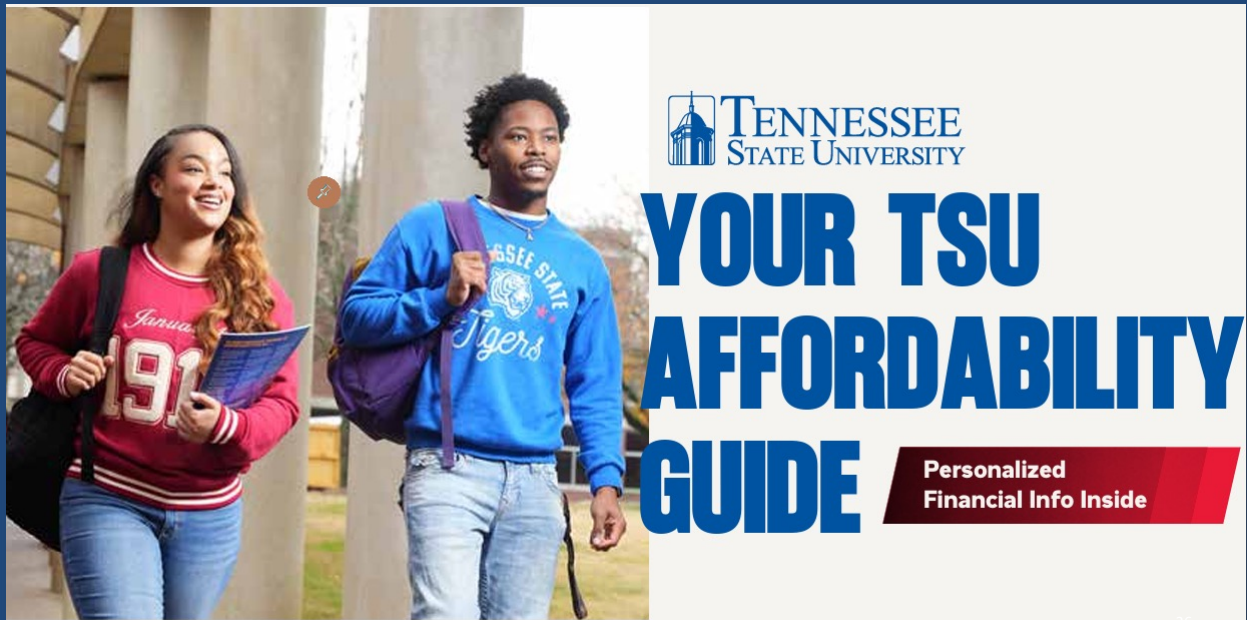
Confirm Enrollment and Register for New Student Orientation

Personalization and Relational Connections

Collaboration with Academic Colleges and Alumni Chapters

25

# Financial Aid Award Brochure



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## YOUR TSU FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE

You may view your financial aid package anytime in your MyTSU portal. This is also where you see if you have any requirements to complete for financial aid. The estimated cost of attendance and award amounts on this page are as of **April 2026** and may be subject to change. Any external scholarships you have are not included here.

The table below represents an estimated cost\* of attendance for a first-year student living on campus:

ESTIMATED COSTS	FALL TERM	SPRING TERM
Tuition & Fees	\$12,132	\$12,132
Housing	\$2,576	\$2,576
Meals	\$2,708	\$2,708
Books	\$610	\$610
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED BILLABLE COSTS</b>	<b>\$18,026</b>	<b>\$18,026</b>

The following table\*\* indicates your TSU Financial Aid Package:

AWARD TYPE	FALL TERM	SPRING TERM	TOTAL
Institutional Merit Scholarship	\$1,230	\$1,230	\$2,460
TSU Renaissance	\$2,750	\$2,750	\$5,500
Federal Pell Grant	\$3,698	\$3,697	\$7,395
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
TN Hope Scholarship	\$2,250	\$2,250	\$4,500
TN Student Assistance Award	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$3,500
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
<b>TOTAL AID OFFERED</b>			<b>\$28,132</b>

\* Costs associated with this table are based on 15 credit hours for Fall 2025–Spring 2026 terms.

\*\* The amounts in this table are rough estimates and are subject to change.

**Indirect Costs:** Estimated expenses like books, transportation, and personal costs. These costs are not included on your bill.

**Installment Payment Plan (IPP):** A flexible way to spread out payments over time throughout the semester. The earlier you enroll, the more manageable your payments will be.

**Maintenance Fee:** For in-state students, this represents your in-state tuition.

**Merit Scholarships:** Institutional scholarships that honor high-achieving academic performance for first-time freshmen, transfer, and international students. Awarded automatically after admissions. Students can only be awarded one merit scholarship.

**Out-of-State Tuition:** What non-resident Tennessee students pay in tuition.

**Regents Online Degree Programs (RODP):** Online courses that require an additional cost and are not covered by tuition discounts or merit scholarships.

**Scholar Rate/Scholar Rate Plus Discount Program:** High-achieving out-of-state students may be eligible for a discounted tuition rate. Check [tnstate.edu/bursar/fees.aspx](https://tnstate.edu/bursar/fees.aspx) for the most up to date information.

**Stacking Awards:** The ability to combine scholarships and grants to reduce total cost. Generally, you may stack awards up to the estimated cost of attendance.



**Subsidized Loans:** Need-based federal student loans that do not charge interest while you're in school.

**TSU Foundation Scholarship:** A scholarship awarded to full time undergraduate students with a minimum GPA of 2.5, a declared major of study, and proven financial need.

**Unsubsidized Loans:** Non-need based federal student loans that charge interest while you're in school.

**Work Aid:** Part-time on-campus jobs for students.

**Work-Study:** Part-time on-campus jobs for students with financial need according to their FAFSA Student Aid Report.

\* Some colleges offer scholarships for new students.

## SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, & WAYS TO PAY

At Tennessee State, there are many avenues to make your education as affordable as possible.

### Scholarships & Grants

To learn more about the scholarships available, visit [tnstate.edu/financial\\_aid/scholarships.aspx](http://tnstate.edu/financial_aid/scholarships.aspx).

### Loans

Complete the FAFSA to be considered for federal loans. If eligible, loans will appear in your financial aid offer. Repayment begins after you leave school or drop below half-time enrollment. For more information, visit [tnstate.edu/financial\\_aid/federal\\_stafford.aspx](http://tnstate.edu/financial_aid/federal_stafford.aspx).

### Work-Study

View work-study opportunities at TSU by visiting [tnstate.edu/financial\\_aid/fin-fws.aspx](http://tnstate.edu/financial_aid/fin-fws.aspx). Please remember that you must have an accepted Work-Study award in MyTSU in order to be considered for employment.

### Installment Payment Plans

Allow students to spread payments throughout the semester. Visit [tnstate.edu/bursar/Financing%20Your%20TSU%20Education.aspx](http://tnstate.edu/bursar/Financing%20Your%20TSU%20Education.aspx).

## YOUR NEXT STEP

Ready to take the next step and secure your spot at Tennessee State University? **Submit your enrollment deposit to confirm your seat.** Once you submit your deposit of \$100, you can sign up for orientation and apply for housing.

Visit [mytsu.tnstate.edu](http://mytsu.tnstate.edu) to get started. Once you log into MyTSU, click on Banner Services and then Financial Aid to view the most up-to-date award package.



## Post Card Series



# Post Card Series



# Strategic Comm Plans

Admit-to-Commit

Confirm Enrollment and Register for New Student Orientation

Scholarship Reminders

Submit and/or Check Your FAFSA Status

Sophomore and Junior Cultivate

# Division of Enrollment Management

## Questions & Discussion

