

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 2026 MEETING

9:00–10:15 a.m. EST
Friday
November 6, 2026

East Tennessee Room
D.P. Culp Student Center
412 J.L. Seehorn Road
Johnson City, TN

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Janet Ayers, Committee Chair
Dr. Steph Frye-Clark
Jon Lundberg
Melissa Steagall-Jones
Tony Treadway
—

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. [Approval of the Committee Minutes from September 11, 2026](#)

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- IV. [Engineering Update](#) – *McCorkle/Bidwell* (15 minutes)
- V. [Quality Assurance Funding Update](#) – *McCorkle/Hoff* (15 minutes)
- VI. [Honors College Update](#) – *Keller* (15 minutes)
- VII. [College of Business and Technology’s Andrew Leadership Academy Overview](#) – *Pittarese* (15 minutes)

GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS

- VIII. Committee Discussions
 - General Discussion
- IX. Other Business
- X. Adjournment

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ACTION ITEM

DATE: November 6, 2026

ITEM: Approval of the Minutes from September 11, 2026

COMMITTEE: Academic, Research, and Student Success

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Adam Green
Board Secretary

The minutes of the September 11, 2026, meeting of the Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee are included in the meeting materials.

MOTION: I move that the Board of Trustees adopt the resolution, approving the minutes as outlined in the meeting materials.

RESOLVED: The reading of the minutes of the September 11, 2026, meeting of the Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee is omitted, and the minutes are approved as presented in the meeting materials, provided that the Secretary is authorized to make any necessary edits to correct spelling errors, grammatical errors, format errors, or other technical errors subsequently identified.

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 11, 2026
Johnson City, Tennessee

The East Tennessee State University Board of Trustees' Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee met on Friday, September 11, 2026, at 9:04 a.m. in the East Tennessee Room of the D.P. Culp Student Center.

I. Call to Order

Trustee Janet Ayers, Chair of the committee, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Board Secretary Dr. Adam Green conducted the roll call. The following committee members were physically present:

Trustee Janet Ayers
Trustee Dr. Steph Frye-Clark
Trustee Jon Lundberg
Trustee Melissa Steagall-Jones
Trustee Tony Treadway

Other Trustees present were Charles Allen, Thomas Bales, Dorothy Grisham, Ron Ramsey, Dr. Bert Smith, and Grant Summers.

III. Approval of the Committee Minutes from May 21, 2026

The minutes from the May 21, 2026, meeting of the Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee were approved as submitted with Trustee Dr. Steph Frye-Clark making the motion and Trustee Tony Treadway seconding the motion. The committee approved the motion by voice vote.

ACTION ITEMS

IV. Recommendation for Promotion and Tenure of Faculty Member

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Kimberly McCorkle recommended to the committee that Dr. Lynette Hamlin be granted promotion and

tenure. She said that Dr. Hamlin was hired, after a national search, to be Associate Dean of Research and Professor in the ETSU College of Nursing. Dr. Hamlin comes to ETSU from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland, where she worked for over nine years, most recently as Professor and Director of the Center for Military Women's Health Research, in the graduate school of nursing. Dr. Hamlin is the recipient of almost \$18 million in grant funding and has authored over 35 peer-reviewed publications and two books.

Trustee Dr. Steph Frye-Clark moved that the recommendation be approved, and Trustee Jon Lundberg seconded the motion. The committee approved the motion by voice vote.

V. Approval of the ETSU Mission Profile

Dr. Michael Hoff, Vice Provost for Planning and Decision Support, summarized the purpose of the mission profile, noting that annual review of the profile is required by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. He indicated that ETSU's revised mission profile includes one editorial change and one substantive change. The editorial change involves a modification of the Carnegie classification language to: "Professional-focused Undergraduate/Graduate-Doctorate-Medium." The substantive change involves the university's new elective classification for Community Engagement. ETSU is among approximately 10 percent of American universities with that classification.

Trustee Jon Lundberg made a motion that the revised mission profile be approved, and Trustee Dr. Steph Frye-Clark seconded the motion. The committee approved the motion by voice vote.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

VI. Academic Notification for Period of January 1, 2026, through July 31, 2026

Provost McCorkle reported that during the first seven months of 2026, ETSU completed 64 academic actions. Twenty-nine of those are required to be reported to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and 35 were approved at the university level. Among the items submitted to the commission were eight new concentrations in areas that include the Health Sciences, Intelligent Enterprise, Filmmaking, Digital Media, and Communications. In addition, there are new certificates in Surveying and Mapping Science and Intelligent Enterprise. Also added is a minor in surveying and mapping science.

Provost McCorkle highlighted the commission's recent approval of the Master of Science degree in Environment, Health, and Disaster Sciences, which will begin this year. She also described a new online pathway toward the Doctor of Public Health degree.

In the second part of her report, Provost McCorkle told the committee that 14 programs have revised admission requirements and that ETSU continues to update existing

curricula to meet changing accreditation standards and workplace needs. Seven programs underwent substantial curricular revisions, including Nursing and Respiratory Therapy. Other programmatic changes focused on student progression and completion. Several policy and curricular changes resulted in the removal of unnecessary credits and the clarification of progression requirements to provide students with more flexibility in completing their degrees. As part of the curriculum revision, Provost McCorkle reported that concentrations were closed or inactivated in programs with low enrollment, including the Master of Science in Allied Health.

Provost McCorkle concluded her presentation by updating the committee on future expansion of engineering programs at the university. With the help of an outside consultant, the university is developing a five-year plan for new engineering programs.

VII. Enrollment Update

Dr. Joe Sherlin, Senior Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment, reported to the committee that fall 2026 enrollment increased by 118 students, for a total enrollment of 14,506. Dr. Sherlin indicated that first-time freshman enrollment stands at 2,288 students, which is the largest freshman class in history. He cited several reasons for the record enrollment figures, including ETSU's academic portfolio, competitive tuition rates, reputation as a low-debt institution, and an engaged and connected student community.

Dr. Sherlin summarized the ETSU Strategic Enrollment Plan and its goals for 2030. Dr. Sherlin noted the growth in military-affiliated students as well as progress in the institution's retention and graduation rates. Dr. Sherlin then pointed to areas for improvement, including enrollment of transfer students and international students. He said strategies are being developed to address both those challenges, as well as the need to increase enrollment of older adults.

Dr. Sherlin reported on the recent opening of the Mary V. Jordan Center, which he described as our "front door to student support and success." In November, Buc Central will open as a one-stop shop for financial aid, the bursar's office, and registration. Dr. Sherlin reiterated the fact that ETSU's 78 percent first-year retention rate is the highest in the history of the university. He added that our four-year graduation rates continue to climb, placing ETSU in the top quartile among regional public institutions in the country in the percentage of students finishing degrees in four years.

Dr. Sherlin references the work of staff such as Ethan Hutchinson, Executive Director of the Office of Academic Advisement, who guided the institution's progress in advising. He highlighted the professional advising that all undergraduate students have access to, as well as mentorship from faculty advisors and the coordinated program of care across campus. Dr. Sherlin then praised the work of Kelvin Tarukwasha, Resident District Manager for Sodexo. Dr. Sherlin said that a decade ago, students were not pleased with the university's food services program. In partnership with the Student Government Association, the administration re-envisioned the food service model. In 2016, 850

students, faculty, and staff were on meal plans. Now, that number is over 3,500. This past year, ETSU set a national record for the greatest increase in voluntary student meal plans. Kelvin Tarukwasha, Dr. Sherlin said, embodies ETSU's value of service, noting that he served hundreds of free meals to responders and those in need during Hurricane Helene and that he has been responsible for the donation of thousands of meals and thousands of pounds of food to families and students experiencing food insecurity. During the pandemic, he delivered meals to students by himself.

VIII. Faculty Research Update

Dr. Aaron Polichnowski, Associate Professor in the Quillen College of Medicine's Department of Biomedical Sciences and an ETSU alumnus, updated the committee on his research into kidney disease and his support from the National Institutes of Health. Since 2016, Dr. Polichnowski said, he and his colleagues at ETSU have been working to identify the mechanics of kidney injury and to develop new approaches to prevent kidney injury and improve recovery.

Dr. Polichnowski noted that kidney disease and hypertension are especially prevalent in the Appalachian region. Some of the questions he is addressing in his research include: Why are some kidneys more susceptible to high blood pressure? What determines injury and recovery? How do forever chemicals affect kidney health? Dr. Polichnowski said the unifying theme among all his funded grants is trying to determine how kidney injury happens and how to prevent it.

Dr. Polichnowski's first NIH-funded project involves studying the ability of blood vessels in the kidney to protect it from hypertensive injury. He indicated that he has developed a novel method to assess the function of blood vessels in the kidney and determine how quickly blood vessels respond when blood pressure changes. His second NIH-funded project involves acute kidney injury and is an effort to understand why anemia develops after such injuries. He reported that he and his colleagues have likely identified the additional mechanism responsible for the development of anemia after acute kidney injury. The third NIH-funded grant is an exploration of forever chemicals and evidence that they are associated with high blood pressure and kidney disease. He said there is very little knowledge of how these chemicals affect renal and cardiovascular function.

Dr. Polichnowski then described the broad impact of funding from the National Institutes of Health on our campus. He noted that having several people within one department or college supported by funding from the NIH improves our ability to apply for and receive instrumentation grants for cutting-edge equipment. NIH funding can lead to building infrastructure, he said. It drives collaboration and team science, both on campus and with colleagues around the country. And, he said, NIH funding creates tremendous opportunities for students. Dr. Polichnowski pointed out that over the past five years, 20 students have been engaged in research in his laboratory, and NIH funding has allowed

him to hire four outstanding research technicians. He concluded his presentation by saying that externally-funded research has an impact far beyond the classroom.

GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS

IX. Committee Discussions

There was no further discussion.

X. Other Business

There was no other business to come before the committee.

XI. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

INFORMATION ITEM

DATE: November 6, 2026

ITEM: Engineering Update

COMMITTEE: Academic, Research, and Student Success

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Kimberly D. McCorkle
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Joe Bidwell
Dean, Phil and Martha Bachman College of Arts and Sciences

ETSU is positioned to advance its engineering education strategy to address growing workforce needs across Tennessee and support regional economic development. Current program offerings include the Joint TTU-ETSU Bachelor of Science in Engineering program, Mechatronics Engineering, Engineering Technology concentrations, Interior Architecture, and Surveying and Mapping Science.

Recent enrollment trends demonstrate strong student demand for engineering degree programs. Enrollment in the Joint TTU-ETSU Engineering Program increased from 24 students in Fall 2018 to 91 in Fall 2026, an increase of nearly 280 percent. Mechatronics Engineering has also grown since its launch, increasing from 7 students in Fall 2024 to 34 in Fall 2026. These trends provide evidence of student interest in expanded engineering opportunities at ETSU.

This growth coincides with substantial workforce demand. A 2024 analysis conducted by Hanover Research projected demand among engineering-related occupations in Tennessee over the next decade, with the largest projected gaps occurring in industrial, mechanical, and civil engineering. ETSU also serves a multi-state labor market encompassing portions of Tennessee, Virginia, and North Carolina. An external review of ETSU's engineering programs identified civil and construction-related fields as areas of particular regional need and recommended expansion in these areas.

ETSU faculty have developed a vision for expanding engineering education in high-demand disciplines. Areas under consideration include new bachelor's degree programs in Biological Engineering and Construction Engineering, along with related certificates, minors, and complementary academic offerings. The university has also engaged external expertise in

engineering education to help evaluate program opportunities and inform its long-term strategic direction.

ETSU has made significant investments in engineering infrastructure, committing \$1.6 million for equipment and \$836,000 for laboratory renovations supporting the Mechatronics Engineering program. Planning is also underway to identify the faculty, facilities, and equipment required for additional engineering programs. Furthermore, staff have submitted a capital project proposal to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission for a new Engineering building that would support both current programs and future expansion.

Pending appropriate approvals and the availability of necessary resources, ETSU is exploring the launch of Biological Engineering and Construction Engineering programs as early as Fall 2027. Additional engineering programs are under consideration as part of the university's longer-term planning. Together, these initiatives provide an opportunity to strengthen ETSU's academic portfolio, expand student access to high-demand careers, and better meet the workforce needs of Tennessee and the surrounding region.



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Engineering Update

Academic, Research, and Student Success Committee ETSU Board of Trustees

Dr. Kimberly D. McCorkle

Dr. Joe Bidwell

November 6, 2026

New Directions: Engineering Programs at ETSU



ETSU Engineering Milestones

- 1970's: First ETSU programs in Engineering Technology implemented and accredited.
- 2015: MOU establishing joint BS in Engineering established between ETSU and Tennessee Technological University.
- 2022: ETSU 125.2-Identified synthetic biology, expanded engineering footprint, and new engineering building as University goals.
- 2023: Mechatronics Engineering Program was established.
- 2026: Applied Technology and Engineering identified as an emphasis area in ETSU's new Research Strategic Plan.

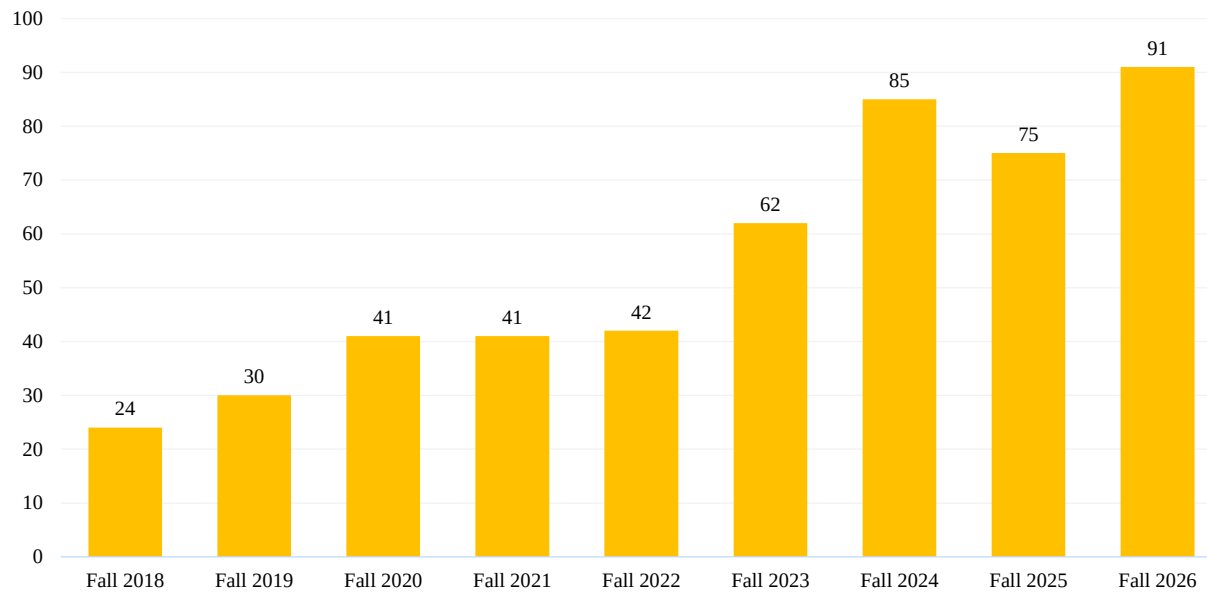


Department of Engineering, Engineering Technology, Interior Architecture, and Surveying

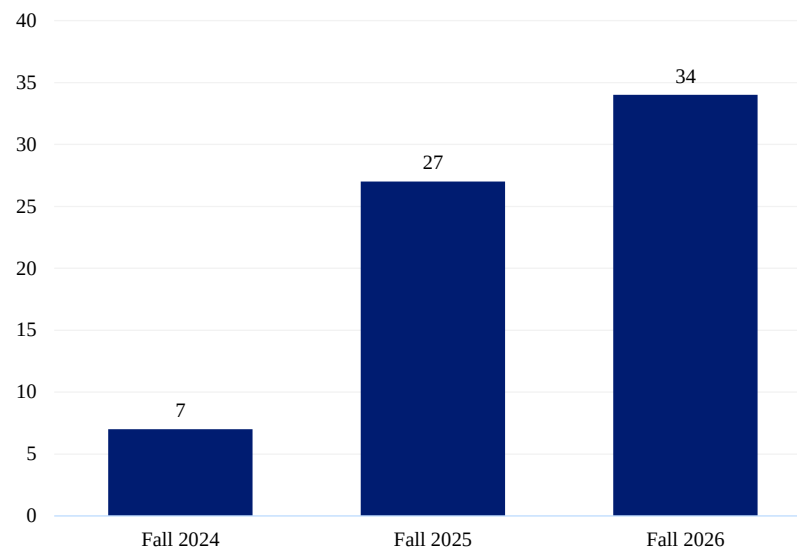
- Current Programs:
 - Mechatronics Engineering
 - Joint Engineering Program TTU-ETSU B.S. Engineering
 - Engineering Technology
 - Biomedical
 - Construction
 - Electronics
 - Industrial
 - Manufacturing
 - Product Development
 - Interior Architecture
 - Surveying and Mapping Science



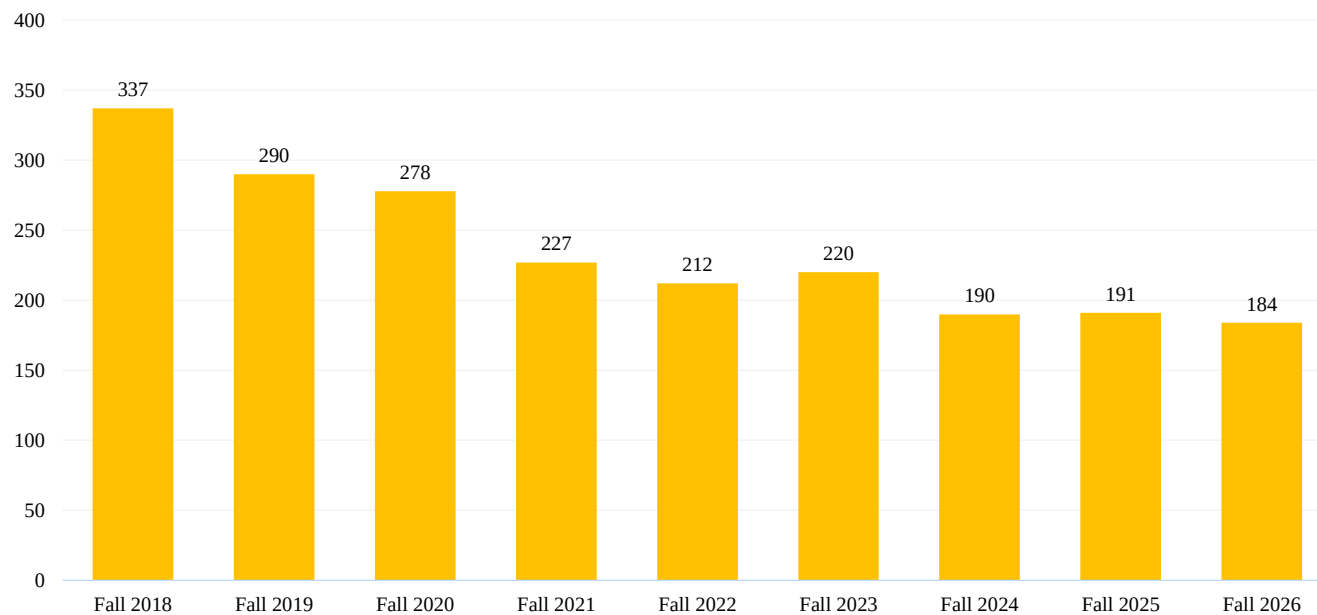
Joint TTU-ETSU Engineering Program Enrollment



Mechatronics Engineering Enrollment



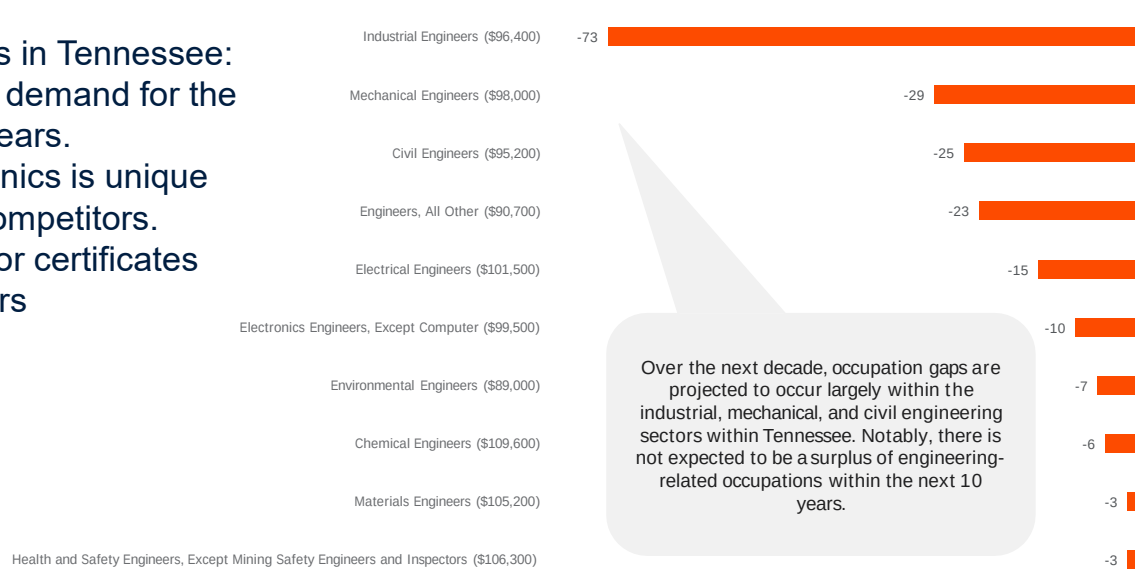
Engineering Technology (Undergraduate) Enrollment



Hanover Portfolio Review

POTENTIAL OCCUPATION GAPS IN TENNESSEE, ENGINEERING-RELATED OCCUPATIONS ONLY, 2024-2032

- Engineers in Tennessee: Will be in demand for the next 10 years.
- Mechatronics is unique among competitors.
- Options for certificates and minors



From: Benchmarking Analysis of Engineering Programs- Prepared for ETSU College of Arts and Sciences, October 2024, by Hanover Research



Hanover Research: Academic Portfolio Optimization

- Develop new programs or specialization areas in:
 - Civil engineering
 - Construction management
 - Mechanical engineering
- Target emerging fields in relation to existing strengths and priorities:
 - Biochemistry
 - Bioengineering and Biomedical Engineering | Biological Engineering



Engineering Bachelor's Degrees by Discipline in the US

(ASEE, Profiles of Engineering & Engineering Technology, 2023)

Discipline Name	Degrees Awarded
Mechanical	29,792
Computer Sci. (inside Eng.)	26,324
Computer Sci. (outside Engr.)	17,412
Civil	11,263
Electrical	11,207
Chemical	8,034
Biomedical	7,920
Computer	7,338
Other	7,051
Industrial/Manufacturing/Systems	5,847
Aerospace	5,251
Electrical/Computer	3,646
Engineering (General)	1,888
Metallurgical and Matrls.	1,643
Civil/Environmental	1,612
Envr. Eng	1,281
Biological and Agricultural	1,128
Architectural	682
Engr. Science and Engr. Physics	591
Petroleum	566
Engineering Management	443
Nuclear	411
Mining	172

* Total does not include computer science (outside engineering).



External Consultant: Dr. Anthony Brizendine, Professor, William States Lee College of Engineering, UNC Charlotte

Process:

- Comprehensive Review of existing programs in the Department:
 - Review of most recent self-study documents and accreditation evaluations.
 - ETSU on-site visit to interview faculty and staff, students, program/department/college leaders, University administrators (academic and research), alumni, program advisory board members, and other external constituents.
 - Independent assessment of strengths, challenges & opportunities for existing programs.
- Review of Hanover Evaluation & Reports related to EETIAS programming.
- Consideration of Future Programming Opportunities in light of regional and state economic and workforce needs:
 - Review of Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) reports related to workforce needs.
 - Interviews with regional industry professionals, regional chambers of commerce, ETSU alumni, etc.
 - Consideration of various engineering disciplines and related programs to meet supply and demand deficits in the region.



ETSU - New Program Options for Consideration

- **BS Biological Engineering** – planning in progress internally.
 - Moderate enrollment potential – high localized industry demand.
- **BS Civil Engineering (CE)**
 - High enrollment potential – high industry demand.
- **BS Construction Management (CM)**
 - Highest enrollment potential in Civil/Construction space – high industry demand for graduates.
- **BS Construction Engineering**
 - Moderate enrollment potential – high industry demand.
- **BS Mechanical Engineering**
 - Highest enrollment potential engineering discipline – high industry demand.
 - Will capture in excess of 40% of the current enrollment in the TTU-ETSU Joint program if launched.
 - May pull some students from the Mechatronics program.
- **BS Electrical Engineering**
 - High enrollment potential – high industry demand in hardware area.
 - Will capture approximately 40% of the current enrollment in the TTU-ETSU Joint program if launched.
 - May pull some students from the Mechatronics program.
- **BS Chemical Engineering**
 - High enrollment potential – high industry demand.



External Consultant Review

The Strategic Opportunity for ETSU: As a crucial regional educational pillar, ETSU sits at the axis of a multi-state hiring corridor where demand in Virginia and North Carolina also draw upon Tennessee supply and vice versa. The combined outlook for meeting the needs in the region indicate that more output of Civil and Construction professionals is critical to all three states and needed in each workforce region in Tennessee. Scaling technical construction engineering, science and management fields represents an immediate institutional opportunity for ETSU and addresses documented workforce shortages in Tennessee.



External Consultant Review

Recommendations for adding BS programs – start with Infrastructure focus (Civil/Construction) to meet state/regional workforce needs:

Group 1 – proceed now

- BS Biological Engineering
- BS Construction Engineering

Group 2 – 3 to 5 years

- BS Construction Management
- BS Civil Engineering
- BS Mechanical Engineering

Group 3 – future / aspirational – date TBD

- BS Electrical/Computer Engineering w/hardware focus
- BS Chemical Engineering – with further study – to serve NE TN regional industry needs



Faculty Visioning for ETSU Engineering

- A Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering with a strong technical and mathematical focus, ABET-accredited and aligned with national certification standards.
- A second Bachelor of Science in Construction Management designed for students seeking a less technically intensive pathway while maintaining strong industry relevance.
- An Engineering Technology minor.
- A “Maker” minor focused on design, fabrication, prototyping, and applied innovation.



Recent Programming Investment

- Mechatronics:
 - \$1.6 million for equipment: Office of the Provost
 - \$836,000 for laboratory renovation: Office of the Provost and ETSU Foundation



Civil & Construction Programming – Preliminary Budget Estimates

- **BS Civil Engineering** – Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC – ABET) accreditation goal
 - Minimum target enrollment = 95 students; 6 FT faculty members, 1 laboratory manager, shared admin support
 - Annual Revenue at Year 5: Tuition - \$1.1M; Engineering Fees - \$86K; Expenditures - \$1.05M
- **BS Construction Management** – Applied & Natural Science Commission (ANSAC – ABET) or American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) accreditation goal
 - Minimum target enrollment = 110 students; 4 FT faculty members, 1 laboratory manager, shared admin support
 - Annual Revenue at Year 5: Tuition - \$1.27M; Engineering Fees - \$99K; Expenditures - \$677K
- **BS Construction Engineering** – Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC – ABET) accreditation goal
 - Minimum target enrollment = 50 students; 4 FT faculty members, 1 laboratory manager, shared admin support
 - Annual Revenue at Year 5: Tuition - \$580K; Engineering Fees - \$45K; Expenditures - \$547K

Note: Tenure Track Faculty Start-up is not included in these course budget estimates

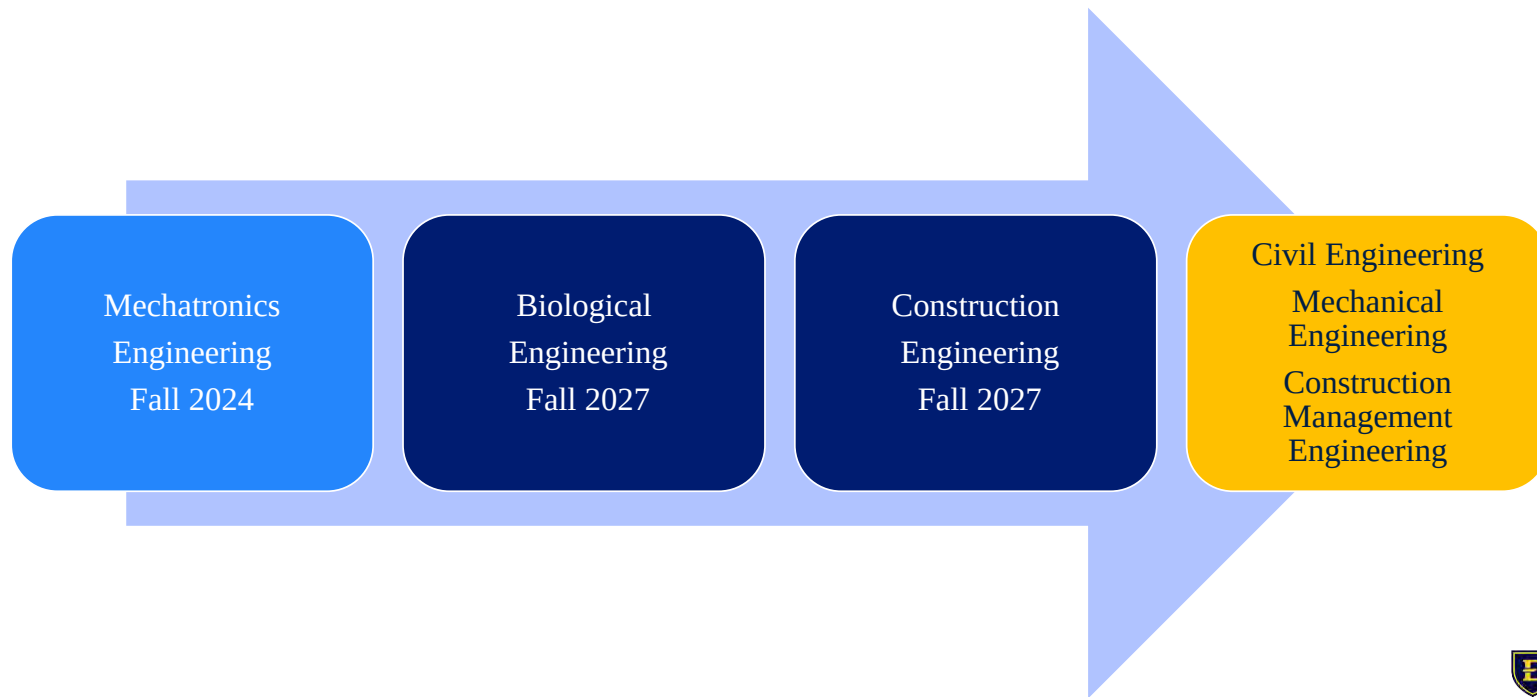


Resources for New Programs

- Biological Engineering
 - Laboratory Renovation: \$750,000
 - Equipment: \$2,890,000
 - Faculty: Two tenure track over 5 years, ~\$300,000 salaries and benefits per annum, recurring.
 - Faculty research startup: \$500,000
- Construction Engineering
 - Laboratory Renovation: \$300,000-\$500,000
 - Equipment: \$250,000
 - Faculty: Two hires over two years, ~\$250,000 salaries and benefits per annum, recurring.
 - Faculty research startup: \$400,000



Program Implementation Plan- 5 Years





Appendix B1



CLARKNEXSEN

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Board Discussion and Questions

Dr. Kimberly D. McCorkle

East Tennessee State University
*Provost & Senior Vice President
for Academic Affairs*

Dr. Joe Bidwell

*Dean, Phil and Martha Bachman
College of Arts and Sciences*



EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

INFORMATION ITEM

DATE: November 6, 2026

ITEM: Quality Assurance Funding Update

COMMITTEE: Academic, Research, and Student Success

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Kimberly D. McCorkle
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Michael Hoff
Vice Provost

Staff will provide an update regarding the changes to the Quality Assurance Funding process. Tennessee was the first state to utilize quality and academic performance metrics in state funding; for over 40 years, QAF, previously known as Performance Funding, has provided incentives for all public colleges and universities to measure student learning and institutional effectiveness as part of the continuous improvement process. Institutions may earn an additional 5.45 percent over operating budgets based on performance on metrics particular to their sector and aligned to the Tennessee Higher Education Master Plan. The funding from the QAF initiative is beyond that which is provided by the state through the outcomes-based funding formula.

Tennessee Quality Assurance Funding Cycle Changes						
Cycle	2015-2020		2020-2025		2025-2026	2026-2031
Standard	Max	ETSU	Max	ETSU	GAP YEAR NO SCORE	Max
General Education	15	15	10	10		NA
Major Field Assessment	15	13.2	15	14.3		30
Academic Programs	25	19.4	35	31.7		60
Institutional Satisfaction	10	9	10	9		10
Student Equity	10	9	10	7.6		NA
Student Access and Success	25	23	20	19.3		NA
Total	100	88.6	100	92		100

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

INFORMATION ITEM

DATE: November 6, 2026

ITEM: Honors College Update

COMMITTEE: Academic, Research, and Student Success

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Chris Keller
Dean, Honors College and Senior International Officer

Staff will provide an overview of the Honors College’s mission, structure, academic programs, and data related to university Key Performance Indicators. Staff will highlight new initiatives focused on career readiness and workforce preparation, with particular emphasis on student internship success. The presentation will also showcase achievements in student success, experiential learning, and other high-impact educational experiences.



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Honors College Update

ETSU Board of Trustees Meeting
November 06, 2026



College Structure & Overview



Honors College Snapshot

Mission Statement

- The Honors College at ETSU offers students a coherent and strategic balance of curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular opportunities that empowers them to find and open new doors of opportunity, pursue purposeful work and careers, and elevate communities in Appalachia and around the globe.

Honors College Structure

- Honors Scholars Programs
- Office of Prestigious Awards
- Office of Undergraduate Research

Fast Facts

- Total number of students: ~450
- Average ACT: 27.4
- Average GPA upon Graduation: 3.76
- Retention Rate: ~98%
- Average Time to Graduation: ~3.5 Years



Honors College Scholars Programs

Changemaker Scholars

- Mission: We challenge students to make a meaningful impact in their communities

Quillen Honors Scholars

- Mission: We shape physician-leaders dedicated to providing care in the region and beyond

Undergraduate Research Scholars

- Mission: We facilitate impactful undergraduate research activities that promote student success, career readiness, and enhance research excellence at ETSU

Biotechnology Scholars (Forthcoming)

- Mission: Collaborate to attract and develop exceptional Biotechnology students who engage in research and innovation to advance the future of Appalachia.



Office of Prestigious Awards

Mission:

We expand opportunities for ETSU students by preparing them to compete for prestigious, merit-based national and global awards and fellowships.

Recent Successes:

- Fulbright Awards
- Goldwater Scholarships
- Truman Scholarships
- Rhodes Scholarships
- Others
 - Gilman
 - JET
 - Critical Language Scholarship
 - Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX)



Office of Undergraduate Research

Mission:

We facilitate impactful undergraduate research activities that promote student success, career readiness, and enhance research excellence at ETSU.

Activities:

- Research Discovery Program
- Faculty-Student Research Collaborations
- Dr. Jay W. Boland Symposium
- Posters at the Capitol
- Industry-Engaged Research Abroad





Honors College New Initiatives

2026-2027



Honors College's Career and Workforce Related Initiatives

Honors Career-Design Studio

- The Career Design Studio helps students intentionally connect their interests, experiences, and strengths to purposeful careers and meaningful lives Honors Internship Routes Program

Honors College Internship Routes Program

- The Honors College's Internship Routes program builds internship opportunities across the region, the United States, and around the world to provide access to quality internships at a point in time when opportunities are limited.

Medical Futures Hub

- A new Medical Futures Hub seeks to guide more ETSU students from aspiration to admission through individualized mentoring and integrated research, service, global learning, and professional preparation.





Recent Honors College Highlights

2025-2026



Harvard University Summer Program



The Honors College at ETSU partners with Harvard University to offer summer program opportunities to honors college students. Summer programs take place on the Harvard University campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where selected students take two Harvard courses for academic credit over the course of seven weeks, live in Harvard residence halls, and engage in experiential learning and professional development activities across Boston.



Kendall Robertson & CBYX Award



ETSU honors student Kendall Robertson was selected for the prestigious CBYX Fellowship and will spend a year studying, interning and living in Germany. Robertson is one of only 65 Americans selected nationwide each year from a highly competitive pool of over 600 applicants. Kendall is currently applying to become ETSU's first-ever Marshall Scholarship awardee.



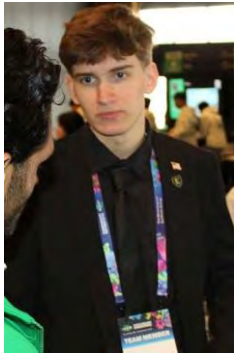
Noah Wren & Harold Love Award



- ETSU honors student Noah Wren, a 2025 graduate, was named a recipient of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's Harold Love Award, which recognizes exceptional leadership, volunteerism, and service across Tennessee higher education.
- Noah recently completed his Master of Public Health degree in biostatistics through ETSU's accelerated bachelor's-to-master's program.



2026 Honors Goldwater Awardees



Trent Lewis and Raina Desai were awarded the Barry Goldwater Scholarship, which Congress established in 1986 to support the next generation of scientists, engineers and mathematicians. The scholarship recognizes students who show exceptional promise as future research leaders. Their selection places Lewis and Desai among an elite group of students nationwide chosen for their academic achievement and research potential. They join former honors student and ETSU graduate Piper Floyd (2022 awardee) as the most recent ETSU undergraduates selected for this honor.



Thank You!

Dr. Christopher Keller
Dean of Honors College &
Senior International Officer
Professor of English
kellercj@etsu.edu



EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

INFORMATION ITEM

DATE: November 6, 2026

ITEM: College of Business and Technology's Andrew Leadership Academy Overview

COMMITTEE: Academic, Research, and Student Success

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Tony Pittarese
Dean, College of Business and Technology

Mr. Jim Harlan
Professor of Practice & AFG Chair of Excellence in Business and Technology

Staff will provide an overview of the College of Business and Technology's (CBAT) Andrew Leadership Academy, a leadership opportunity within the College of Business and Technology that enhances the professional development of select senior and graduate students through educational experiences and service leadership opportunities. The Academy brings together a diverse cohort of students from across the college, engaged faculty, external speakers, and dedicated sponsors to provide learning and service opportunities that are foundational for developing future servant leaders in the region.

Since 2021, 243 CBAT Ambassadors have graduated from the Academy. The 2026-2027 cohort is the sixth and largest cohort with 62 CBAT Ambassadors representing undergraduate and graduate programs within the college, including students from the BlueSky Tennessee Institute.



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

CBAT Andrew Leadership Academy

November 6, 2026

CBAT Andrew Leadership Academy

- Unique leadership opportunity offered to rising seniors and graduate students in the College of Business and Technology
- Brings together a diverse cohort of students, engaged faculty and community leaders
- Focuses on professional leadership development through educational experiences and service opportunities
- Academy graduates are recognized as CBAT Ambassadors and are the face of the College during their senior and graduate years
- Since 2021, we have graduated 243 CBAT Ambassadors from the Academy



Visionary Leadership

The Academy's scholarship endowment was made possible by regional business leaders, Dewey and Scott Andrew

Additional impactful support has been provided by:

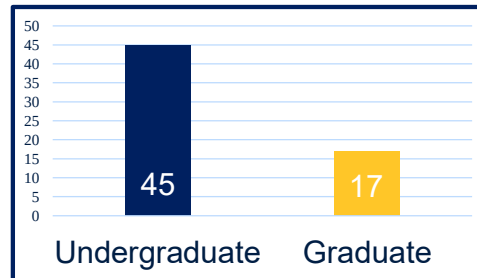
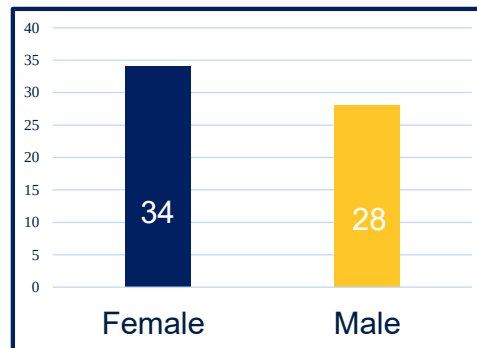
- Steven DeCarlo, CBAT Alumnus and Executive Chair of Amwins Group, Inc.
- Juan DeAngulo, CBAT Alumnus and Co-Founder of Inselligence
- Greg Perdue and First Horizon
- Kim Carmichel and Goodwill Industries of Teneva, Inc.
- Jim and Donna Harlan Charitable Fund



Welcomed Academy's largest cohort in 2026-2027



Cohort Diversity



2026-2027 Cohort
Largest cohort with 62 new Ambassadors
Culturally diverse
Includes representatives from all CBAT departments and BlueSky Tennessee Institute
Average GPA 3.76



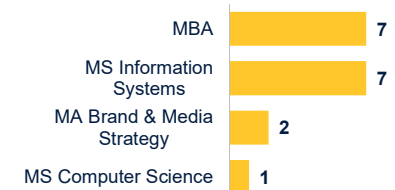
Academic Diversity

Undergraduate Majors (45)



* Dual major

Graduate Programs (17)



6

Ambassadors pursuing dual majors

2

BlueSky Tennessee Institute students



Academy's Leadership Sponsor



2026-2027 Leadership Academy Speakers

Greg Perdue – Tri-Cities Market President, First Horizon

Bob Cantler – President and CEO, Johnson City, Jonesborough, and Washington County Chamber

Daniel Beverly – Principal, Eastern Business Brokerage & Consult, LLC

Dr. Chris Libutti – Assistant Professor of Business Strategy, ETSU

Mark Hecht – Executive Coach and Best-Selling Author of *Revealing the Invisible*

Dr. Heather L. Moore – Senior Lecturer, Economics and Finance, ETSU

Jasdeep Sethi – Global Sourcing Director, Eastman Chemical Company

Dr. Michelle Sullivan – Assistant Professor of Marketing, ETSU

W. Robert Wagner – Director of Global Capital Procurement, Eastman Chemical Company



Leading Well



Academy's Service Sponsor



Serving Well



From Our Ambassadors

“ I just wanted to say thank you for an incredible Leadership Academy weekend. I am driving home from the Ambassador Celebration Dinner, and I had to pull over to have a mini cry session. This weekend has filled me with so many quotes to put in my backpack. Thanks for investing in me but most of all, thanks for believing in me.

2023–2024 CBAT Ambassador

“ Your net worth is your network, and the Leadership Academy has allowed me to build my network within the college and community by learning from some great servant leaders.

Jackson Hester, 2021–2022 CBAT Ambassador

“ The leaders and speakers of the Leadership Academy are manifestations of whom I would love to be in the future, and I hope that someday I will.

Victor Achilam, 2021–2022 CBAT Ambassador

“ Words cannot express how thankful I am to have been a part of this year’s Leadership Academy. I can honestly say that this was the best experience I have had the entire time I have been at ETSU.

Chris Koubele, 2022–2023 CBAT Ambassador



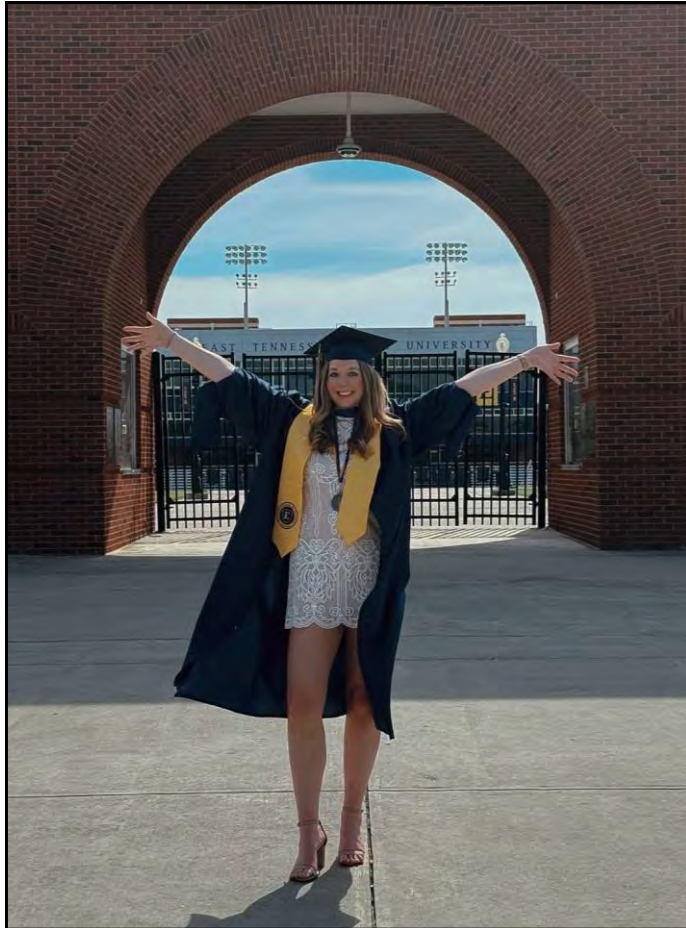


Chigozie Agwubuo

2023-2024 Cohort – MS, Information Systems

ETSU Project and Business Manager for
University Marketing and Communications





Sarah Wicker

2024-2025 Cohort - CBAT Student Excellence, MBA

Cardinal Glass Industries, Human Resources





Lead Well – Serve Well

