

SPRING 2024 COMMENCEMENT



# SPRING COMMENCEMENT

Nine o'clock in the morning and  
two o'clock in the afternoon Friday,  
May 3, 2024 Hooper Eblen Center

Welcome to the Spring Commencement ceremony of Tennessee Technological University's 2023-2024 academic year. Commencement is the most important ceremony in the life of Tennessee Tech University.

The entire Tennessee Tech community extends cordial greetings to parents, spouses, relatives and friends gathered here for this significant ceremony. We celebrate the success of our graduates, who have spent years of study to earn a Tennessee Technological University degree.

## **9:00 A.M. CEREMONY**

College of Graduate Studies  
College of Agriculture & Human Ecology  
College of Business  
College of Engineering  
College of Fine Arts

## **2:00 P.M. CEREMONY**

College of Graduate Studies  
College of Arts & Sciences  
College of Education  
College of Interdisciplinary Studies  
Whitson-Hester School of Nursing

For our undergraduate and graduate students, today's ceremonies recognize their academic achievements at Tennessee Tech and inaugurate a new era in their careers. A single theme unites us all today — the joy of accomplishment!

### **IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY**

If at any time during the program an emergency arises in which the building needs to be evacuated, guests seated on the floor should exit through the tunnel and cross the street to the parking lot. Those seated in the remainder of the arena should exit to the top of the concourse, vacate the building by the nearest door and proceed to any adjacent parking lot to allow for entrance of emergency vehicles.

In case of severe weather, everyone should move to the tunnel area and areas leading off the tunnel. Please remember that in any emergency situation, patience and orderliness are the keys to a safe evacuation.

# THE COLLEGES, SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

Chartered in 1915, Tennessee Tech opened its doors to students in 1916. Its academic programs began with basic humanities and sciences as foundation courses for three major areas of study: agriculture, home economics and mechanical arts. The next year, students could enroll in business as a major course of study as well. By 1918, military training had been added to the curriculum.

In 1938, all the major fields of study, as well as the foundation classes, were reorganized into two main divisions – arts and sciences and professional and technical subjects—housing 11 departments. Divisions were quickly renamed "schools" and, in 1949, the expansion of the curriculum had blossomed into five schools consisting of 24 departments.

Most of today's academic programs have their roots in one of those five schools, which were redesignated "colleges" when Tennessee Tech achieved university status in 1965.

Relative newcomers to Tennessee Tech academics include the Department of Military Science (1950), the Graduate School (1958), the School of Nursing (1980), the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Extended Education (2001), the College of Interdisciplinary Studies (2012) which merged the freshly minted School of Professional Studies and School of Environmental Studies, and the new College of Fine Arts (2017).

Most degree programs at Tennessee Tech today are housed in eight colleges and one school; special programs include three centers of excellence, Honors, the Millard Oakley STEM Center and the Department of Military Science/Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC).

## **COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN ECOLOGY**

In 1916, agriculture and home economics were among the three disciplines considered the heart of Tennessee Tech's academic mission. Along with mechanical arts, agriculture and home economics prepared "mountain boys and girls ... for the study and solution of the problems arising out of rural community life." Today's College of Agriculture and Human Ecology reaches far beyond rural life, with coursework honing entrepreneurial, management and leadership skills in agritourism, food production and safety, dietetics, families, farming, pre-veterinary science, and design and merchandising.

## **COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

Then as now, the College of Arts and Sciences houses the foundation courses for all Tennessee Tech majors. Many of the same courses offered in 1916 – English, history, mathematics and sciences – quickly grew into entire departments, and by 1949, all of today's programs but earth sciences had reached department status. Today's College of Arts and Sciences is a thriving academic unit of more than 20 areas of study, with students and faculty in each discipline pursuing advanced study and research – and supporting the academic experience for all majors, regardless of discipline.

## **COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**

Students in 1916 could enroll in only one business course, which taught students bookkeeping, business methods, typewriting and shorthand; in 1917, business had become the fourth "school"—or major vocational subject—at Tennessee Tech. By 1949, it had expanded to include departments of accounting, business and industrial management, and business education. Today's students study to become leaders through programs in business management, marketing, international business and cultures, finance, economics, accounting, business information technology, the masters in business administration and the master of accountancy. They not only study business but gain experience in practice through internships, student managed investment funds and competitions.

## **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

All students enrolled in undergraduate studies from 1916 on were being groomed to be teachers, but it wasn't until 1938 that teacher training was recognized as its own department. By 1949, education was named a school, encompassing general education and health and physical education. All students took "practice teaching" in their last term. Today's College of Education, the second of Tennessee Tech's units to develop doctoral studies, is a diverse unit, home to programs ranging from elementary and secondary teacher licensure to exercise science.

## **COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**

Called "mechanical arts" in 1916, engineering was one of three original majors at Tennessee Tech; students took courses in blacksmithing, machine assembly and drafting. The first degrees were awarded in 1937, when two civil engineering students and three general engineering students graduated. In 1968, engineering was the first academic unit on campus to develop a doctoral program. Today's College of Engineering awards more than 400 degrees annually in seven disciplines that defined Tennessee Tech as the state's only technological university.

## **COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS**

Created in 2017, the College of Fine Arts contains nationally accredited undergraduate degree programs in art, design, fine craft, music performance and music education, which are all offered in state-of-the-art facilities, including craft studios, art education labs, concert and recital halls. The college's renowned faculty members are dedicated to hands-on, experiential learning and providing students exposure to a wide variety of fine arts professionals in the field. The college consists of the School of Art, Craft and Design and the School of Music.

## **COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

A major hurdle Tennessee Tech had to cross before reaching university status was developing a graduate studies program, which required more research facilities and more faculty with doctoral degrees. In the 1950s, the administration made a major push in that direction, establishing graduate studies in 1958. Most graduate degrees were in education; by the early 1970s, the first Ph.D.'s in engineering were awarded. Today's College of Graduate Studies administers doctoral programs in engineering, education, nursing practice, counseling and supervision and environmental sciences, as well as master's and specialist's degrees.

## **COLLEGE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES**

One of the newest academic units, interdisciplinary studies moved Tennessee Tech into the state's online degree program in 2001, opened the door to custom-degree offerings for students interested in specialized studies not already offered by another academic unit on campus, and pioneered remote learning site coursework for distant Tennessee counties. Today's College of Interdisciplinary Studies houses the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, the School of Professional Studies and the School of Environmental Studies which blends technology with the sciences, engineering and humanities.

## **WHITSON-HESTER SCHOOL OF NURSING**

In 1916, Tennessee Tech home economics majors learned the basics of caring for the sick and elderly in the home, where the vast majority of nursing took place. In 1980, the School of Nursing opened at Tennessee Tech, offering baccalaureate-level degrees to women and men with an associate's degree who were already licensed as registered nurses, as well as to students interested in a four-year university degree. Today's School of Nursing is piloting an accelerated program for professionals in other fields who have decided to switch careers and is collaborating with another institution on a joint doctoral program in nursing.

## **DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY SCIENCE/ARMY RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS (ROTC)**

During World War I, a predecessor of today's Army ROTC formed at Tennessee Tech in 1917. The Department of Military Science originated at Tennessee Tech in 1950 when a senior division of Army ROTC began operation. From 1956 to 1972, all male students conducted mandatory military training in their freshman and sophomore years. In 1973, military studies opened to both men and women. Today's Army ROTC is a dynamic elective curriculum that transforms students into leaders, culminating in an Army officer commission at graduation.

# A BRIEF HISTORY

In its first century, Tennessee Tech grew from a small rural school for a few hundred high school and junior college students to a doctoral-granting university with more than 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students, and research and teaching connections throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Chartered in 1915 as Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, "Tech" opened its doors to students in September 1916. The small campus was an outgrowth of a privately owned church school, the University of Dixie, which was chartered in 1909 by a group of local business and religious leaders. Dixie College, as it was commonly known, suffered the fate of many small schools hampered by lack of funding and closed after only a few years.

Its founders, intent on offering education beyond the eighth grade to local boys and girls, negotiated an arrangement with state and local educators to create a new public school in Cookeville that would bridge the gap between the lower grades and undergraduate studies. The land and single building of Dixie College were deeded to the state and, with the pledge of funding from Putnam County, Cookeville and the state of Tennessee, re-emerged as Tennessee Polytechnic Institute (TPI). Between March of 1915 and September of 1916, two residence halls were built and a president, faculty and staff were hired. Enrollment during the first academic year, 1916-1917, was 362; students were taught by 15 faculty members, including the president.

Growth was not quick, but it was steady. High school curricula were phased out beginning in the 1920s; by 1929, the state approved a complete college program, and the first class of four-year students graduated with baccalaureate degrees that June. Instructional programs were reorganized into the divisions of arts and sciences and professional and technical subjects in 1938. Nine years later, those divisions were renamed "Schools" and by 1949, the schools had grown to five: agriculture and home economics, arts and sciences, business administration, education and engineering. Military Science was added in 1950, and the Graduate School program began in 1958.

In 1965, on its 50th anniversary, TPI gained university status and was renamed Tennessee Technological University; its existing schools were designated "colleges." More programs began: the School of Nursing in 1980 and the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Extended Education in 2001. By 2012, interdisciplinary studies had merged with new schools of professional studies and environmental sciences to become the College of Interdisciplinary Studies. The College of Fine Arts was established in 2017.

Today's students are taught by more than 400 faculty housed in eight colleges, one school and three centers of excellence. Programs of study are accredited by national agencies. A maturing advancement division ensures that university operations are not limited by annual state funding allocations. Today's administration has charted a course with as much, if not more, resolve and determination as its forbears displayed more than 100 years ago.

# THE PRESIDENTS

Thomas Alva Early.....	1916-1920
Quentin Miller Smith.....	1920-1938
Austin Wheeler Smith, Jr. (interim).....	1926-1927, Fall 1940
James Millard Smith.....	1938-1940
William Everett Derryberry.....	1940-1974
Arliss Lloyd Roaden.....	1974-1985
Wallace Samuel Prescott.....	1985-1987
Angelo Anthony Volpe.....	1987-2000
Robert R. Bell.....	2000-2012
Philip B. Oldham.....	2012-present

## FORMAL ELEMENTS OF THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

The commencement of a program of academic study in higher education is a formal recognition of this exceptional achievement. Many of the traditions date back to medieval times, evidence that higher learning has been revered in most civilizations during two millennia.

### REGALIA

Academic ceremonial garments and ornaments, or regalia, have evolved from the attire of students and monks in medieval churches, the greatest centers of learning in the Western world. Caps, hoods and gowns are symbolic of scholarly devotion and the decisive role of education in the development of civilization.

In time, academicians began to adopt symbols unique to their individual universities—much like the medieval system of classic heraldry, in which chivalric orders were identified by coats of arms, ornamental trappings and colorful patterns. The design of gowns, caps and hoods symbolize the institution, field of learning and type of degree earned.

While black is the customary color of robes, caps and gowns, some universities have chosen distinctive colors for the attire. Tennessee Tech adopted its school colors for the regalia beginning with the centennial academic year, 2015-2016. Gowns and mortarboards are purple with gold insignia and tassels.





## THE CEREMONIAL MACE

Modeled after royal staffs carried by messengers and soldiers, the mace was adopted as an academic symbol by universities in the Middle Ages. Usually carried by a faculty marshal at the head of the processional, the mace represents academic dignity and the authority of the university to confer degrees.

The Tennessee Tech mace was designed and made by a former director of the university's Appalachian Center for Craft, Alf Ward, an accomplished silversmith. Constructed of sterling silver and gold and purple heart, the mace is 45 inches in length. Its wooden blade-like stem is overlaid with engraved silver and embossed with gold floral decoration. The stem contains pierced and embossed golden eagles and supports an engraved silver cup. The cup has two gold discs symbolizing the heraldic devices of the university and is covered by a gold grill capped with a golden eagle.

# THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

A medallion or seal of office, once used to mark documents as official, is now considered a mark of authority. Tennessee Tech's presidential medallion was designed by then-President Everett Derryberry and sculptor Hans Prehn.

The medallion or silver disc is inscribed with the name of the university, its charter date, 1915, a "T" representing Tennessee Tech, the book of knowledge, the lamp of learning and an outline of the state of Tennessee with a star indicating the geographical position of Cookeville and the university. On the reverse side is a golden eagle and the date 1965, the year Tennessee Tech reached university status. Small silver plates bear the names of past presidents, while the name of the current president is engraved on a larger plate over the medallion.

## THE TECH HYMN

Joan Derryberry, a concert pianist and member of the music faculty, composed the Tennessee Tech Hymn in 1943, just three years into her time here as first lady.

The song illustrates the beauty of the campus and its setting and is a pledge of loyalty, love and service from students, faculty and staff. It is sung at large gatherings of the university, including commencements, convocations and ball games. The music appears on the back of this program.

## THE TECH FLAG

Another first lady, Gloria Bell, designed the Tennessee Tech flag in 2003 in honor of the university's most familiar and long-standing traditions. The three main elements of the flag represent the university's historic and idyllic characteristics, as well as reputation for quality.

The magnificent golden eagle, with wings outstretched, depicts the pride, honor, strength and spirit of students, faculty and staff. The column of gold represents the pillar of knowledge, intellect and experience—all qualities of the university's prestigious academics. A base of majestic purple represents the strong foundation of character, commitment and endurance indicative of the university culture.

## STUDENT VETERANS

Tennessee Tech University recognizes veterans and current military members for their service to our country and their excellence in higher education. The red, white and blue cords, worn voluntarily by a select few, represent their veteran status while pursuing their educational goals.

Tennessee Tech proudly honors these student-veterans by presenting them with these cords to signify their achievement on this day.

**THE COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM**  
**MAY 3, 2024**  
**9:00 A.M. CEREMONY**

Presiding..... Dr. Philip B. Oldham  
President

Invocation..... Dr. Robert Owens  
Chief Diversity Officer

National Anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner" ..... Francis Scott Key, John Stafford Smith  
Performed by Tennessee Tech Music Student Faith Manganaro,  
accompanied by faculty member Joshua Davis

Address to Graduates..... President Oldham

Special Greeting ..... Addison Dorris  
Marketing & Human Resource Management Graduate & Outgoing Student Trustee

Special Message ..... Amelia Greer  
Alumna, Communications 2023

Special Address ..... Reverend Dr. W. Antoni Sinkfield  
Alumnus, Marketing 1988

Recognition of Faculty ..... President Oldham

Recognition of Graduates' Families..... President Oldham

Presentation of Academic Deans ..... Dr. Lori Bruce  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Conferring of Degrees..... President Oldham

"The Tennessee Tech Hymn" ..... Joan Derryberry  
Performed by Tennessee Tech Music Student Riley Keegan,  
accompanied by faculty member Joshua Davis

Closing Remarks..... President Oldham

Presentation of Candidates for Degrees

College of Graduate Studies ..... Interim Dean Julie Baker  
College of Agriculture & Human Ecology ..... Dean Darron Smith  
College of Business..... Dean Tom Payne  
College of Engineering ..... Dean Joseph Slater  
College of Fine Arts..... Dean Jennifer Shank

# DEGREE CANDIDATES SPRING 2024

Because of circumstances which require that the list of names be furnished to the printer in final form approximately seven days prior to Commencement, it is possible that one or more of the candidates listed may have been unable to complete all requirements for the degree or may have elected voluntarily to register for additional work and to graduate at a subsequent ceremony. The change does not necessarily imply that a student has failed nor does it commit the university to grant a diploma to a person thus listed in error. Also, students listed with one or more honors distinctions are candidates for the honor(s) at the time the program is provided to the printer, and may not complete the requirements to be awarded the distinction.

Graduates are grouped by college. Individual names will be called by order seated, not in alphabetical order.

## COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES

Oluwaseyi Oluwasegun Ayeni, Engineering

**Dissertation Title:** "Two Phase Modeling of Fluid Transport in Massively Arrayed Fibrous Channels Using Computational Fluid Mechanics (CFD)"

**Advisor:** Dr. Holly Stretz

Saanyol Ityokumbul Igbax, Engineering #

**Dissertation Title:** "Optimization of Biodiesel Production Using Ultrasound and Electrostatic Separation"

**Advisors:** Dr. Stephen Idem & Dr. Dan Swartling

Sushil Poudel, Engineering #

**Dissertation Title:** "Securing Front-End Vehicle-to-Grid Communications: Malware Attacks and Defense Strategies in Public EV Charging Stations"

**Advisor:** Dr. Muhammad Ismail

Vinit Vinayak Prabhu, Engineering #

**Dissertation Title:** "Enhanced Thermal Energy Storage and Transfer for Industry"

**Advisor:** Dr. Ethan Languri

### MASTER'S DEGREES

Sharanya Deshpande Aavunoori,  
Computer Science #

Matthew Blake Alley, Business Administration

Kshitiz Aryal, Computer Science

Farhat Lamia Barsha, Computer Science

Sydney D. Bass, Business Administration

Hunter D. Beckham, Business Administration

Skylar Shae Boom, Business Administration

Wesley Robert Bowling, Business Administration

Coble Baxter Brooks, Accountancy #

Julian Christopher Burkhardt,  
Business Administration #

Lucas C. Campbell, Business Administration

Quincy Abram Card, Computer Science

Daisy Arlene Carrillo, Business Administration

Meghan Elizabeth Carroll, Business Administration

Danielle Alissa Ceccarelli, Business Administration

Shushanta Chakraborty, Civil Engineering #

Amy Elizabeth Collins,

Community Health and Nutrition

Britton L. Cooper, Business Administration

Caleb Lane Crowell, Accountancy #

Angela Denise Dailey, Business Administration

Pryce Jordan Daniels, Business Administration #

Barbara Jean Davis, Business Administration

David Jarrett Dickens, Business Administration

Tyler Randall Dill,

Community Health and Nutrition

Kim Dunaway, Community Health and Nutrition

Anurag Dwivedi, Computer Science

Reece Andrew Edwards, Business Administration

Darius L. Eury, Business Administration

Samuel Garrett Fisher, Civil Engineering

Antwun Jarod Fleming, Business Administration

George Kwabena Fordjour, Civil Engineering

Nicholas Allen Forsythe, Business Administration

Jordan E. Gamedah, Engineering Management

Mateo Christopher Gannod, Computer Science #  
Kalei M. Hair, Civil Engineering  
Donald Bowman Harris, Business Administration  
Luis Fernando Hevia Esteva, Chemical Engineering  
Bailey Nicole Hooper, Business Administration #  
Sara Shrum Hoover,  
Community Health and Nutrition  
Jacob W. Hott, Mechanical Engineering  
Nathaniel Jordan Hunley, Business Administration  
Jacob Dylan Jeffers, Business Administration  
Linda Periut Johnson, Business Administration  
Alejandro Juan Juan, Business Administration  
Varsha Kommireddi, Business Administration  
Lorna L. Lee, Business Administration  
Spencer H. Legins, Chemical Engineering  
Amelia B. Lowe, Business Administration  
Mollie AvanaH Mahan,  
Community Health and Nutrition  
Brandon Tyler McMahan, Business Administration  
Kaleb Z. Miller, Community Health and Nutrition  
Abby Michelle Mink, Mechanical Engineering  
Krissee Miranda, Community Health and Nutrition  
Lauren Paige Montgomery,  
Business Administration #  
Anna E. Nakamoto,  
Community Health and Nutrition  
Mariah Jada Nettles, Accountancy #  
Maaliya Mykel Owens, Business Administration #  
Taiye Godwin Owu,  
Electrical and Computer Engineering #  
Parth A. Patel, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Jeel H. Patel, Business Administration #  
Russell Thomas Perry, Chemical Engineering #  
Jeremy Reed Potts, Computer Science  
Lauren McKenzie Randall, Accountancy #  
Daniel Keith Rhoton, Business Administration #  
John Daniel Richeson, Computer Science  
Katherine Marie Rinkenberger,  
Business Administration  
Devin Alan Roland, Mechanical Engineering  
Nicholas Alan Rummel, Business Administration  
Justin T. Shilaikis, Accountancy #  
Nabil Bin Shahadat Shuva,  
Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Aaron M. Silvious, Business Administration  
Noah Alexander Simpson, Mechanical Engineering  
Warren C. Sims, Mechanical Engineering  
David Smallwood, Business Administration  
Emma Marie Spencer,  
Community Health and Nutrition  
Elizabeth M. Swartz, Business Administration  
Samuel V. Sylvester,  
Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Sydney Brooke Thomas, Business Administration  
Sankalpa Timilsina, Computer Science #  
Jennifer M. Toney, Chemical Engineering #  
Brianna Shay Turner, Chemical Engineering #  
Jordan Cole White, Business Administration  
Elizabeth Gathoni Kungu Williams,  
Business Administration  
Peyton J. Woodward, Business Administration

# COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN ECOLOGY

## SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

Ali Brooke Bledsoe\*\*  
Allison S. Bohannon  
Madison Bowman  
Hailey Elizabeth Campbell  
Brookelyn Leann Conner  
Abby L. Coons\*  
Holden S. Cornett\*\*  
Journey B. Cowan  
Lydia Grace Davenport\*  
Anthony M. Favoroso  
Tyler J. Flagg  
Rachel Ann Flowers\*\*  
Chandler B. Fryar\*\*#  
Grace Elizabeth Griffin  
Ethan J. Johnson  
Madison Alena Jones  
William F. Massey  
Jacob S. Phelps  
Sheridan B. Roberts  
Lindsey Y. Simons  
Aspyn J. Terry  
Emily Faith Thompson  
Addy Jade Wilson

## SCHOOL OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

Allie E. Boles\*\*  
Anita Ruth Boyer\*  
Katelyn H. Brent  
Lilly Elizabeth Davis  
Kartyr M. Deatrick  
Sarah B. Dickenson\*\*\*‡  
Brooke Nichole Galan  
Madison M. Gibbs  
Peyton A. Harris#  
Caleb E. Johnson\*\*#  
Ellie R. Jones\*\*  
Sarah A. Jones  
Grant H. King  
Drake Knight#  
Faythe Leaniita Martin#  
Jaimee Elizabeth McPike  
Kevin Edward Mears  
James Stanley Medley  
Janis C. Osbrink  
Aly E. Parks\*\*#  
Erika Nicole Phillips\*\*#  
Nathalie A. Recinos\*#  
Abbigail A. Renner\*\*\*  
Amaris Rice#  
Chloe R. Richardson#  
Grace N. Schrider\*#  
Chrystopher A. Shaward\*#  
Caroline Rebekah Skaggs  
Cael D. Sumerlin\*\*\*#  
Morgan Alexis Tate  
Raegan Tjon Sien Kie\*#  
Madeline G. Topping  
Paige P. Tucker  
Anna K. Vincent\*

# COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Hailey Marie Adam  
Thomas L. Alnutt\*#  
Emily Grace Armstrong\*\*  
Jesse M. Ayers  
Julie Kate Baker  
Josh D. Bale  
Kelton I. Ballou  
PJ Lee Barnes\*  
Emily Grace Barnett\*  
Ryan Christopher Simpas Barredo  
LeeEllen E. Beaty  
Riley Palmer Bishop#  
Grant Hugh Bone  
Isaiah Raymond Mason Booher  
Breanna Faith Brady  
Callie Elizabeth Brooks  
Evan Alexander Brown  
Karley B. Brown  
Noah Brown  
Luke A. Bryant\*\*\*  
Energy L. Bunting  
Jacy Grey Butler\*\*  
Mackenzie Irene Byrd  
Drake Cardin\*\*  
Peyton Jade Carter\*  
Carter W. Cherry  
Andrew F. Clark  
Emily J. Clark  
Kade H. Clark  
Taylor Marie Clark\*  
Richard C. Colbert\*  
Emme K. Colwell\*\*\*  
Eleanor G. Combs  
Faustina Coombe\*\*  
Judd I. Copeland\*\*  
Estelle Loraine Cornelius  
Austin B. Cowan\*#  
Dylan James Crabb\*  
Kaley Brooke Crabtree\*\*  
Blake A. Crass  
Trey W. Crockett  
Daniel Curtis Crosby  
Baylee Grace Dalton\*  
Marlee Elizabeth Daniel#  
Alex Darnell\*  
Porter Sells Davidson  
Kaleigh Dianne Doris

Addison Carleen Dorris\*\*\*  
Julia A. Duncan\*\*  
Sidney A. Dunham  
Jaclyn E. England  
Matthew W. Erickson  
Lydia Johnston Fanning\*\*\*  
Macy C. Farley#  
Georgia Ann Ferrer  
Keegan Flemming#  
Preston Wilson Ford  
Khristopher Chase Frame  
Kendal Allen Franks  
Emma Freeman  
Ej E. Freeman\*\*  
Jodi F. Frye  
Julian Fuss\*\*  
Alexis Galvez  
Tanner K. Gann  
Abbey I. Garland  
Bethany Anna Garrison  
Jp Geche  
Matthew Jacob Gelorme\*  
Clay Gentry\*  
Cam G. Gill  
Corey Maryland Goavec  
Noah A. Griffin  
Kayleigh N. Griggs  
Zack Hall  
Julia Marla Hall\*  
Ali F. Harness  
Courtney L. Harvey  
Kyler Hayes  
Dylan L. Headrick#  
Drew M. Heck  
Harrison Heins  
Leeah M. Henry  
Hailee Rachel Hester  
Lauren E. Hickerson\*\*\*‡  
Grayson E. Hillis  
Jase Holder  
Brantley Anne Hollingsworth\*\*#  
Daniel Thomas Hudson  
Chase Hutchison  
Colton J. Hutzel\*\*\*  
Austin Cordell Isler  
Jacob L. Isom\*  
Maddie Eileen Isringhausen

William T. Jackson  
Sophia Irene Jenkins#  
Cole Wallace Jennings\*\*  
Emma Brooke Jennings\*  
Braedon C. Jett  
Claude T. Johnson  
Jalisa Aleah Johnson\*\*  
Will R. Johnson  
Alex K. Joines\*  
Faith Tylyn Jolley  
Felicia Jo Jurist  
Justin E. Key  
Sawyer T. Key  
Hannah Klemme#  
Nicholas A. Koman\*  
Anh X. Le  
Sam Ferguson Lewis  
Nick Andrew Maldonado  
Katherine A. Malone#  
Michael Carter Mangrum\*  
Tristan Michael Mangrum\*  
Nick Stephen Martin  
Raiden A. Martin  
Halle Katherine Maynard  
Mark A. McDearman  
Chloe Alexander McGinnis  
Torie Victoria McGowan  
Kendall Brenae Medders#  
Sarah S. Merritt  
Blake J. Metzgar  
Cole B. Meyers  
James T. Miller\*#  
David Morris  
Erik T. Motykowski  
Dj Moyers  
Amanda M. Mukai\*\*#  
Nick David Mundell  
Davis L. Neal  
Nathan G. Netherton  
Brandon J. Nguyen  
Caedmon Oakes\*  
Sophie C. Oakes\*\*  
David Eugono Oghenekaro  
Eli Gibson Orr  
Dev Patel\*\*\*‡  
Jackson Carter Payne  
Ross Pendergrass  
Elijah Perdue  
David R. Phillips

Jake Shane Phillips  
Nathan Michael Phillips\*\*\*  
Abigail E. Pipkin\*\*‡  
Tom Albert Prummer  
Aidan Raines  
Grant G. Ramares  
Sydney LeAnn Ratledge\*  
Larry Glenn Reed  
Jordan Daniel Richards  
Grace Corrine Riebel\*\*  
Dylan S. Roberts\*  
Rosalyn R. Roberts  
Ethan Thompson Roberts  
Cathy Roberts\*#  
Noah B. Roberts  
Sarah Emily Roden  
Sophie Rooney\*  
Caleb Wesley Rouse\*  
Logan C. Russell  
Grant W. Sartini\*  
Ayato Sato  
Nikolas Schloesser\*\*\*  
Riley A. Schrick  
Savanah Jewel Scott\*  
Julia Anne Sedgwick\*\*‡  
Olivia N. Sepulveda\*  
Austin Lee Seroka  
Mason D. Sharp  
Lindsey N. Shepard  
Shannon R. Sherman\*\*  
Tanner Anderson Shiver\*\*  
Logan A. Shock  
Matthew Ryan Shook  
Taylor Keone Short  
Connor R. Simmons  
Jackson Pfeiffer Skeen  
Anika R. Skibsted  
Sophia Noelle Snow#  
Alec M. Spears  
Sydnie Rene Spivey\*  
Amber Faith Stanley  
James A. Swafford  
Kyle K. Tieg  
Sarah L. Timmerman\*  
Mattea Trusty  
Peyton F. Tullock  
Austin Kyle Turner  
Gabriel S. Vasconcelos  
Alex Vaughn



Luke Henry Vespie\*\*  
Micah C. Vick\*  
David Villalobos  
Mathew K. Wager  
Colby Richard Waldrop\*\*\*  
Anna Hart Walker  
John Bailey Walker  
Isaiah Walker  
Daniel Chase Walter\*\*  
Jayla D. Webb

Kennedy Anne West#  
Eli Glen Whaley\*  
Riley M. Wickberg  
Carter Bryan Wiley  
Skylar R. Williams  
Nathanael Gabriel Wolffe\*  
Marcus Edward Wuertz\*  
Tyler K. York  
Yao Zhou\*\*\*‡

# COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Omar Abdelsalam  
Lorenzo M. Abellanosa  
Michael M. Abraham\*\*  
Colby M. Adams  
Jake Akin\*\*  
Abdulaziz Saleh S. Albeshri\*\*  
Chinar Haji Ali  
Majed Rashid Mohamed Mubarak Alqasimi  
Abdulrahman Abdullah D. Alrudayan#  
Husam Alsaleh  
Nayyaf Furayhan S. Alshammari  
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Peter Zaref#  
Robert Zheng\*  
Jesus G. Zuniga-Gonzalez

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Charity M. Armao\*\*  
Jade Reann Berry\*\*  
Rebecca J. Boggs  
Ryan I. Bruce\*  
Emily Castillo  
Joshua Q. Conover  
Elayna L. Defries\*\*  
Aliyah Renee Edmondson  
Lucy Rae Graviss  
Millie G. Hall\*\*\*  
Ryan L. Hansen  
Mackenzie M. Hargis  
CJ Hunter  
Chloe E. Johnson\*\*  
Jon Z. Jones  
Abby G. Lane\*\*\* ‡  
Jenna G. Lieseke  
Kent Michael Mathis#

Thomas C. Mayes\*  
Darin A. Mcneal  
Jacob Z. Miller  
Shay Renae Morgan  
Alayna M. Motz  
Vix Gray Newman\*\*  
Matteline J. Phillips\*\*\*  
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Zachary S. Prichard  
Daniel Patrick Reagan  
Autumn Melody Seals\*\*  
Kat Sexton  
Lillian G. Simpson\*\*  
Gracie G. Smith  
Gracie H. St. Hilaire  
Grant Michael Stewart  
Lily B. Summey  
Jillian Lona Warner

**THE COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM**  
**MAY 3, 2024**  
**2:00 P.M. CEREMONY**

Presiding ..... Dr. Philip B. Oldham  
President

Invocation ..... Dr. Robert Owens  
Chief Diversity Officer

National Anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner" ..... Francis Scott Key, John Stafford Smith  
Performed by Tennessee Tech Music Student Faith Manganaro,  
accompanied by faculty member Joshua Davis

Address to Graduates ..... President Oldham

Special Greeting ..... Addison Dorris  
Marketing & Human Resource Management Graduate & Outgoing Student Trustee

Special Message ..... Amelia Greer  
Alumna, Communications 2023

Special Address ..... Reverend Dr. W. Antoni Sinkfield  
Alumnus, Marketing 1988

Recognition of Faculty ..... President Oldham

Recognition of Graduates' Families ..... President Oldham

Presentation of Academic Deans ..... Dr. Lori Bruce  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Conferring of Degrees ..... President Oldham

"The Tennessee Tech Hymn" ..... Joan Derryberry  
Performed by Tennessee Tech Music Student Riley Keegan,  
accompanied by faculty member Joshua Davis

Closing Remarks ..... President Oldham

Presentation of Candidates for Degrees

College of Graduate Studies ..... Interim Dean Julie Baker  
College of Arts & Sciences ..... Interim Dean Jeff Roberts  
College of Education ..... Dean Lisa Zagumny  
College of Interdisciplinary Studies ..... Dean Mike Gotcher  
Whitson-Hester School of Nursing ..... Dr. Barbara Jared

# DEGREE CANDIDATES SPRING 2024

Because of circumstances which require that the list of names be furnished to the printer in final form approximately seven days prior to Commencement, it is possible that one or more of the candidates listed may have been unable to complete all requirements for the degree or may have elected voluntarily to register for additional work and to graduate at a subsequent ceremony. The change does not necessarily imply that a student has failed nor does it commit the university to grant a diploma to a person thus listed in error. Also, students listed with one or more honors distinctions are candidates for the honor(s) at the time the program is provided to the printer, and may not complete the requirements to be awarded the distinction.

Graduates are grouped by college. Individual names will be called by order seated, not in alphabetical order.

## COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES

Steven Lucas Anderson, Exceptional Learning

**Dissertation Title:** "Soft Acceptance": Troubling the Binary of Familial Acceptance/Rejection of LGBTQ+ Members through Autoethnography"

**Advisor:** Dr. Janet Isbell

Shannon Winningham Railling,  
Exceptional Learning

**Dissertation Title:** "Chronic Demand Fatigue: Tennessee Teachers' Perspectives on Social and Structural Influences on Health: A Social Epidemiology Approach to Educator Wellness"

**Advisor:** Dr. Christy Killman

Kathryn Wisinger, Exceptional Learning

**Dissertation Title:** "More Than Just Books: Voices of Rural Librarians and Their Influence in Tennessee Communities Through Portraiture"

**Advisors:** Dr. James Akenson & Dr. Dorota Silber-Furman

### DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE DEGREES

Erica Monique Johnson Lockett, Nursing Practice

**Project Title:** "Improving Patient Care in Rural ED's: Streamlining Diagnostic Tests"

**Advisor:** Dr. Nancy Cameron

### SPECIALIST IN EDUCATION DEGREES

Kacy Michelle Bennett, Instructional Leadership

Kelene Nicole Boyd, Counseling and Psychology

Helen Watson Campbell, Instructional Leadership

Natalie Anne Cannon, Curriculum and Instruction

Hailey B. Cobble, Curriculum and Instruction

Tricia L. Hix, Curriculum and Instruction

Mary Jo Elizabeth LaBarge,  
Curriculum and Instruction

Mallory Beth Matthews,  
Curriculum and Instruction

Alessandro Chanta McDonald,  
Curriculum and Instruction

Kristin Leigh Miller, Instructional Leadership

Marlee Brooke Sells, Curriculum and Instruction

Courtney Briann Sidoli, Counseling and Psychology

Casey Lea Winningham, Instructional Leadership

Faith Lynn Wright, Counseling and Psychology

### MASTER'S DEGREES

Eric Amakye Agyei, Chemistry #

Anya Linda Akili, Exercise Science,  
Physical Education, and Wellness

Noor Ruba Alsharif, Counseling and Psychology #

Brittany Michelle Arnold, Nursing

Montana Reed Ashley, Curriculum and Instruction

Annie Cleo Ashley-Larue,  
Curriculum and Instruction

Laura Ann Beard, Curriculum and Instruction

Kara D. Beasley, Counseling and Psychology



Erica Birmingham, Curriculum and Instruction  
Brandon Michael Bishop, Exercise Science,  
Physical Education, and Wellness  
Lucy Elizabeth Bridges, Curriculum and Instruction  
Preston Scott Brinkley, Curriculum and Instruction  
Jenna Cate Carroll Buckner,  
Counseling and Psychology  
Tenika Nichole Dye Burgess,  
Counseling and Psychology  
Taylor Ashley Burnette, Curriculum and Instruction  
Stefanie Kinnaird Byrd,  
Counseling and Psychology #  
Olivia C. Campbell, Professional Studies  
Kelli Brooke Carroll, Curriculum and Instruction  
Tina Cesnik, Exercise Science,  
Physical Education, and Wellness  
Trinity Michelle Clark, Curriculum and Instruction  
Nick Brendan Coleman, Exercise Science,  
Physical Education, and Wellness  
Tyree H. Cripps, Curriculum and Instruction  
Kayla Lynn Crowson, Professional Studies #  
Rachel E. Day, Counseling and Psychology  
Amanda Nicole DeBord,  
Counseling and Psychology #  
Calista Chantilly Dodson, Exercise Science,  
Physical Education, and Wellness  
Kimberly Ashlan Doss, Curriculum and Instruction  
Elana Jane Douglas, Curriculum and Instruction  
Emeline Elise Dubois, Curriculum and Instruction  
Trevor D. Eason, Nursing  
Orume Junior Edirin, Chemistry #  
Jaimie Marina Erwin, Counseling and Psychology  
Jonathan Doyle Foster, Exercise Science,  
Physical Education, and Wellness  
Zarte Devol Fowler, Professional Studies  
Robert Morris Frazier, Professional Studies  
Danielle Gibb, Curriculum and Instruction  
Tammy Gail Givens, Curriculum and Instruction  
Joseph Wayne Green, Curriculum and Instruction  
William Harold Green, Professional Science  
Malgorzata Klaudia Guigar,  
Counseling and Psychology #  
Bryanah Lynn Hack, Chemistry #  
Shawna A. Hall, Counseling and Psychology  
Markie Elizabeth Hawkins, Instructional Leadership  
Jessica Leann Hayes, Curriculum and Instruction  
Maria Elizabeth Holt, Curriculum and Instruction

Danielle F. Horton, Curriculum and Instruction  
Jessica L. Hoschar, Instructional Leadership  
Leah Noel Husson, Counseling and Psychology  
Oluwasola Tayo Ifedayo, Chemistry #  
Terparse Alex Igbox, Professional Science #  
Jeremiah Clinton Johnson, Professional Studies  
Daniel Thomas Ross Kearns,  
Curriculum and Instruction  
Hailey Francis-Pauline Kincer, English  
Jacob Christian Landfield, Professional Science  
Benjamin Keith Lane, Professional Science  
Lacey Nichole Lee, Curriculum and Instruction  
Michael Brandon Lewis, English  
Kathleen Marie Lordo, Professional Studies  
Xavier Gerard Marshall, Exercise Science,  
Physical Education, and Wellness #  
Rachel Lavone May, Curriculum and Instruction  
Rachel Leeann Brooke Maynard,  
Curriculum and Instruction  
Nengenen Shadrach Mbativga, Mathematics  
Alexandra Gibson McDonald,  
Counseling and Psychology  
Mary Allison McRaven, Curriculum and Instruction  
Eric Wayne Milashus, Instructional Leadership  
Caden Reed Mills, Curriculum and Instruction  
KaroZ Joshuiel Mittagadapa, Professional Science #  
Aniza Elena Moore,  
Learning Design and Technology  
Molly Morris, Nursing  
Haley Elise Oakley, Biology  
Courtney D. O'Neal, Curriculum and Instruction  
Michelle Nadine O'Neil,  
Learning Design and Technology  
Kaitlyn N. Owens, Curriculum and Instruction  
Dishaben Alpesh Patel, Professional Studies  
Andrea Michelle Pearson, Professional Studies  
Courtney Renee Pearson, Nursing  
Jaimie D. Pelot, Nursing  
Anthony Wayne Phillips, Exercise Science,  
Physical Education, and Wellness  
Callie Marie Piper, Professional Studies  
Anastasiia Ponomarenko,  
Curriculum & Instruction #  
Jeffery Todd Prater, Professional Studies  
Emily Brooke Qualls, Professional Studies  
Kayla Nicole Radford, English

Crystal Robbin Renner, Professional Studies  
Brandi Jo Revis, Counseling and Psychology  
Lauren Nicole Rogers, Counseling and Psychology  
Stephen Matthew Sarr, Nursing  
Courtney H. Savage, Curriculum and Instruction  
Garima Saxena, Curriculum and Instruction  
Emma Katelyn Schrider, Chemistry #  
Charlie Andrew-Parker Scott, Exercise Science,  
Physical Education, and Wellness  
Kendra Scribner, Professional Studies  
Emma Kathryn Alley Seagrave,  
Curriculum and Instruction  
Landon G. Sewell, Curriculum and Instruction  
Megan Chyonne Shaw,  
Counseling and Psychology #  
Annie Nicole Smith, Curriculum and Instruction  
Rosemarie Hutchins Smith,  
Curriculum and Instruction  
Spencer Stachyra, Professional Studies  
Keeley Jo Stephens, Curriculum and Instruction

McKenna Stevens, Professional Studies  
Sydney Story, Curriculum and Instruction  
Jennifer Joyce Stouffer, Professional Studies  
Holly Rachel Stripling, Professional Science  
Kelli Jo Swindell, Instructional Leadership  
Olivia Nicole Taylor, Professional Studies  
Kathleen Suzanne Thompson,  
Curriculum and Instruction  
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Physical Education, and Wellness  
Christi M. Unterstein, Professional Studies #  
Vennela Vakapalli, Professional Science #  
MacKenzie Paige Walker,  
Curriculum and Instruction  
Katelyn Hope West, Professional Studies  
Amanda Lea Wheeler, Nursing  
Jackson Lane Williams, Curriculum and Instruction  
Catherine Severance Winchell, Nursing  
Ashley Love Wormsley, Professional Studies

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James C. Bailey  
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Peyton Scott Brewer  
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Isaac R. Campbell#  
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Rawan Usama Hassan Ahmed Elsayed \*\*#

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Anna Margaret Stout\*\*  
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Carson Andrew Tingler  
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Chelsey Jane Woodard  
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Jacorrian Wrenn  
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Jacob T. Young\*

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Gracie R. Calahan\*  
Sydney Ann Campbell\*\*\*‡  
Jordan E. Cannon\*  
Carrington Elizabeth Capps\*\*  
Susanna Kathleen Caudill\*\*\*‡  
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Jazlinn Lucia Cojom\*\*  
Kaylan K. Cole  
Bethany Michael Conatser\*\*  
Lillyan F. Conatser  
Maggie Conley\*\*  
Cassidy H. Connor\*\*\*‡  
Kayla Conquest  
Kady Lenora Cooper  
Mary Grace Cottrell\*\*\*  
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Samantha Lea Crews\*  
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Skyla Curington\*\*\*‡  
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Alex Day\*\*  
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Maggie Campbell Farmer\*\*  
egYpt Daniel Ferdinand  
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Diante L. Foote  
Rebekah Ann Fortenberry\*  
Joanna Foster\*  
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Dani M. Greenwell\*\*\*  
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Gari J. Harshman\*\*  
Dakota C. Hasting  
Isaac Jonathan Hempel\*\*  
Shelby D. Herrell  
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*cum laude	3.5 to 3.69 grade point average
**magna cum laude	3.7 to 3.89 grade point average
***summa cum laude	3.9 to 4.00 grade point average
‡ W. A. Howard Award	4.00 grade point average
† in cursu honorum	22 hours of honors courses and a 3.5 or > grade point average

Candidates are recognized in this program if their grades qualified them for honors at the time this listing was prepared for the printers. All who anticipate graduating with honors will be recognized during the ceremony and the final honor achieved will be recorded on their diploma and on their academic transcript.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## **MACEBEARER**

Dr. Ramachandran Natarajan

W. E. Mayberry Professor of Management and Associate Dean of the College of Business, Emeritus

## **NATIONAL ANTHEM, "THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER"**

Performed by Tennessee Tech Music Student Faith Manganaro,

accompanied by faculty member Joshua Davis

## **"THE TENNESSEE TECH HYMN"**

Performed by Tennessee Tech Music Student Riley Keegan,

accompanied by faculty member Joshua Davis

## **MUSIC**

Performed by the Brass Arts Quintet

Dr. Scott Hagarty, Trumpet

Mr. Chris McCormick, Trumpet

Greg Danner, Horn

Dr. Joshua Hauser, Trombone

Preston Light, Tuba

## **CANDIDATE READERS**

Dr. Ahmed Abounassif,

College of Engineering, Clay N. Hixson Student Success Center

Bob Luna,

Tennessee Tech Alum, '82 Speech

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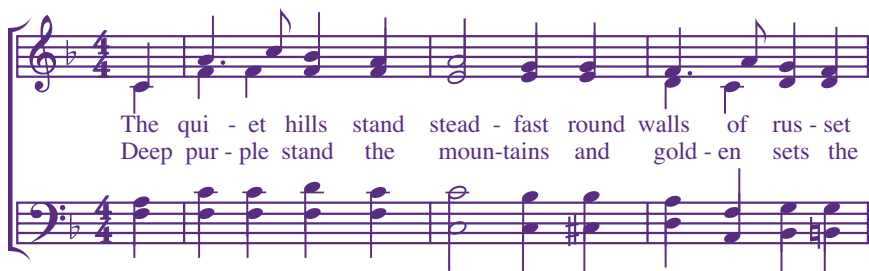
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# The Tennessee Tech Hymn

words and music by  
Mrs. EVERETT DERRYBERRY



The qui - et hills stand stead - fast round walls of rus - set  
Deep pur - ple stand the moun - tains and gold - en sets the



brown. On halls se - rene and camp - us green the smok - y hills look  
sun. We proud - ly wear these col - ors fair un - til our goal is



down; And stead - fast may I cher - ish what thou hast giv'n to  
won;— We pledge thee faith - ful ser - vice, our love and loy - al -



me. Oh Al - ma Ma - ter Ten - nes - see Tech, God pros - per thee.  
ty. Oh Al - ma Ma - ter Ten - nes - see Tech, God pros - per thee.



**Tennessee**  
TECH