

# NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT AND INFORMATION



*Sidney A. McPhee*

**MTSU** August 22, 2025 | [mtsu.edu](https://mtsu.edu)

## Welcome to the Fall 2025 semester and my biannual Campus Newsletter!

MTSU employs an exceptional faculty and staff. Your expertise, dedication, and passion are the lifeblood of our institution. Thank you for reading this newsletter and for your investment in our success.

I welcome your feedback and comments. Please contact me at [sidney.mcphee@mtsu.edu](mailto:sidney.mcphee@mtsu.edu). I also invite you to visit my blog at [mtsu.edu/president](https://mtsu.edu/president) for updates and information from my office.

**True Blue!**

## ENROLLMENT AND ADMISSIONS

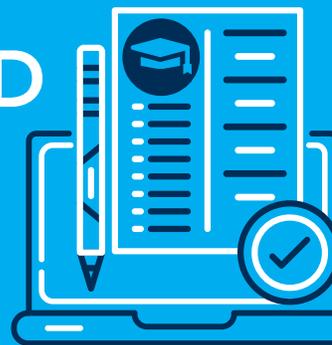
Students enrolled at MTSU today represent the future workforce for the regional economy.

MTSU produces more graduates than any other local university (approximately 5,000 each year). One in every six college-educated individuals in the greater Nashville area holds an MTSU degree.

We continue to work extremely hard to ensure that we are **attracting the best and the brightest** new undergraduate students from across the state of Tennessee and the region. Our recruitment team, MT One Stop, advising staff, academic department chairs, deans, and faculty work very hard all year round to deliver results.

2025, however, is the year we in higher education have been warned would come. We have arrived at the promised "enrollment cliff."

*Continued on page 2*



### Inside this edition

Strategic Plan Update.....	3
Quality Enhancement Plan .....	3
Budget and Salary Update .....	4
University Advancement.....	5
Information Technology Division Update.....	5
Campus Expansion.....	6
Student Life .....	8
Academic Affairs.....	10
Athletics.....	14
Nontraditional Students .....	16
Graduate Studies and Research .....	17
Partnership and Community Engagement....	18
International Affairs .....	19
Student Success .....	20
Parking and Transportation .....	22
Daniels Center.....	22
Tennessee Small Business	
Development Center .....	23
MTSU Arts.....	24
MTSU Online .....	25
True Blue TV Event Productions .....	26
Event Coordination .....	27
Blue Print .....	27

## MTSU EMPLOYEE CHARITABLE GIVING

The campaign is fueled largely by monthly payroll deductions from employees over the next year but also allows one-time, lump-sum gifts at the donor's discretion.

MTSU employees showed strong support for charitable giving in 2024, **setting a record with more than \$161,000 in pledges.**

This incredible amount reveals the caring nature of our faculty and staff and reflects a collective acknowledgment that it's important to give back to this great community.

MTSU's annual Charitable Giving Campaign is a monthlong effort by our faculty and staff to support worthy causes.

During the **upcoming Oct. 1–Nov. 1 campaign**, we hope to break last year's record giving amount and, in fact, to reach \$165,000 in giving.

Participants can designate gifts to organizations from a list of 10 independent charities and three federated groups of charities, including Community Health Charities, Community Shares, and local United Way organizations.

This campuswide effort shows what it really means to be True Blue. **#MTSUcares**

## ENROLLMENT AND ADMISSIONS Cont.

The “enrollment cliff” refers to a projected 15% decline in U.S. college students between 2025 and 2029. This is due to a drop in birth rates following the 2008 recession, which will lead to fewer traditional college-age students.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that projections show our state in a better position than most. While the number of high school graduates in Tennessee is expected to decline in the coming years, it will do so far less than the national average.

There is even better news for MTSU. Our office of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning, and Research took a deeper look at the numbers and concluded that the **Tennessee counties from which MTSU draws most of our students will in fact show a small increase** in high school graduates.

As a result, we have committed to a renewed emphasis on recruiting in our own backyard. Our annual True Blue Tour, which launches again this fall, is a time when Provost Mark Byrnes, admissions recruiters, advisors, other staff, and I travel to cities across the region to recruit future Blue Raiders for 2026 and beyond. It’s a chance for prospective students and their parents to meet and talk with representatives from practically every department at MTSU right in their own hometown.

With the enrollment cliff in mind, we will continue to hold two tour stops in Nashville, as well as in Shelbyville and Wilson County. But this year, for the first time, we will host True Blue Tour stops in Gallatin and in Cookeville as well.

Although our official headcounts won’t be available for a couple of weeks, **early numbers indicate that we will be up in first-time freshmen** for the third consecutive year. As of Aug. 1, we were showing an increase of more than 4% in new freshmen.

This is a feat that took the collaborative efforts of the entire campus. I’d like to extend my thanks again to our undergraduate recruitment team, MT One Stop, advising staff, academic department chairs, deans, and faculty.

Not resting on their laurels, members of the recruitment staff are already out in the high schools working with the incoming class for fall 2026!

Because of all of you, when I get a chance to personally meet these prospective students, I am confident in telling them that if they come to MTSU, they will get the attention of faculty and staff that they will need to be successful in college.

## 2025 True Blue Tour

Sept. 16	Shelbyville
Sept. 18	Cookeville
Sept. 23	Wilson County
Sept. 25	Chattanooga
Sept. 29	Nashville
Oct. 2	Clarksville
Oct. 15	Johnson City
Oct. 16	Knoxville
Oct. 23	Gallatin
Oct. 28	Nashville
Oct. 30	Huntsville, Alabama
Nov. 4	Memphis
Nov. 5	Jackson
Nov. 11	Middle Tennessee (@ MTSU)
Nov. 13	Williamson County

Register at [mtsu.edu/rsvp](https://mtsu.edu/rsvp)



# STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The MTSU Planning Committee, Board of Trustees, and I approved the 2035 MTSU Strategic Plan last spring.

The plan includes initiatives focused on three institutional priorities:

- Increase the institution's creative and research profile and be a top choice for students.

- Strengthen the community so all learners and workers thrive.
- Cultivate sustainable partnerships.

Mark your calendars for the **Strategic Plan Implementation Launch Event**, scheduled for 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9. During this event, plan leaders will discuss key upcoming

implementation actions and will be available to discuss how departments and divisions can assist in achieving institutional priorities.

I also encourage you to keep updated on plan-related news on the Strategic Plan 2035 website at [mtsu.edu/strategicplan](https://mtsu.edu/strategicplan).

# QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is part of our ongoing effort to support student learning and success.

The QEP process is designed and mandated by our University's accrediting body as a data-driven and grassroots undertaking.

It is an opportunity for us to collaborate, innovate, and make a positive impact on our campus community.

Past QEPs have established programs and initiatives that are now part of the academic fabric of MTSU, including Experiential Learning (EXL) and the recently rebranded Engage.

MTSU's new Quality Enhancement Plan, determined by the campus community, is **Career EDGE (Excellence, Development, Growth, Experience)**.

Career EDGE prepares our students for meaningful professions through enhancing career development, self-development, and professionalism.

The Career EDGE program development committee, comprised of faculty, staff, and students across campus, has developed specific goals over the past year.

**Goal 1** is to support students through enhanced career advising and mentorship opportunities.

**Goal 2** is to support students through enhanced integration of coursework and National Association of Colleges and Employers career readiness competencies.

**Potential initiatives** being discussed to support these goals include:

- Assisting students in career progression

- Integrating two key National Association of Colleges and Employers competencies in coursework (career and self-development, and professionalism)
- Providing incentive grants for students, faculty, and staff to innovate around Career EDGE goals

**A pilot program and Faculty Learning Community** will be launched this fall.

If you wish to provide input on further Career EDGE progress, **please attend our next town hall**, at 3 p.m. Oct. 1 in BAS S102.

To provide feedback or learn more about Career EDGE, email [qep@mtsu.edu](mailto:qep@mtsu.edu) or complete the form at [mtsu.edu/careeredge](https://mtsu.edu/careeredge).

We look forward to hearing from you!



# BUDGET AND SALARY UPDATE

The Tennessee legislature approved a state appropriation increase for MTSU in the 2025–26 General Appropriations Act. The final budget included net operating funds of \$319,100, partial funding for a salary pool of \$3.2 million to be distributed at the discretion of the University, and \$1.4 million to cover increases in employee benefits for a partial year.

At the June Board of Trustees meeting, the board approved my recommendation to provide a **1.8% cost of living allowance salary increase, with a \$750 minimum**. Raises were effective July 1 for administrative and classified staff and Aug. 1 for faculty. I may recommend additional salary increases based on the availability of funding from additional resources this fall.

The University received recurring funding of \$1.4 million to provide continued financial aid for the **Medical School Early Acceptance Program** jointly administered by MTSU and Meharry Medical College.

In addition, the state budget included **\$3.5 million in capital maintenance funds** for one of the 13 capital maintenance projects submitted for funding. The approved project is for multiple building envelope components and structural repairs.

At the June quarterly meeting, the MTSU Board of Trustees approved a **6.49% increase in tuition and mandatory fees** for the 2025–26 academic year.

In other news, **Drew Harpool was appointed interim vice president for business and finance** in June, following his tenure as associate vice president since October 2023. Harpool leads a team responsible for the University's financial and physical operations, overseeing an annual operating budget exceeding \$500 million

and a capital footprint valued at more than \$1 billion. He is responsible for the management of the University's budget and financial planning; the Office of Business and Finance; Campus Planning; Facilities Services; Human Resource Services; University Police; Administrative and Business Services (which includes the MTSU Post Office, Phillips Bookstore, Vending, Procurement and Logistic Services, Contract Office, Distribution Services, and Receiving and Moving Services); and Events and Transportation (Event Coordination, Parking and Transportation Services, Murphy Center Complex, Tennessee Livestock Center, and Tennessee Miller Coliseum).



# UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Our alumni base and friends of the University always answer the rallying call for our Blue Raider family to invest in the people and programs that define the character of MTSU.

Here are some highlights from this past year:

**Alumni support for the University reached a 10-year high** with 7,984 total donors, an increase of 350 over the previous year, led by the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, which had an increase of 103 donors.

Our **True Blue Give exceeded \$1 million in support for the first time**, with gifts from more than 1,450 donors. The College of Liberal Arts led our academic colleges, securing more than \$275,000 for its programs.

More than **1,000 graduates this spring participated in our Senior Gift Challenge**—a 43% participation rate. Their gifts were directed to 74 unique accounts on campus, with a number of gifts made in honor of influential faculty and staff.

Faye Brandon (Class of '49), who played women's basketball for the institution before MTSU's official intercollegiate teams after Title IX, left a **generous bequest to the University**, funding two undergraduate scholarship funds.



## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION (ITD) UPDATE

ITD provides students, faculty, and staff the resources needed to deliver and receive instruction and to do our jobs on a day-to-day basis.

Here are some recent highlights:

**True Blue Fusion:** In June, we launched the True Blue Fusion enterprise resource planning (ERP) project, a new initiative to upgrade our digital infrastructure. This project will replace Banner HR and Finance systems with the modern Oracle Cloud Fusion ERP platform, unifying human resources, finance, payroll, planning, budgeting, and reporting into a single system. Focused initially on finance and human capital management, True Blue Fusion reflects MTSU's commitment to innovation, aiming to streamline operations, enhance data access, and support a more efficient, responsive academic environment. Visit [mtsu.edu/fusion](https://mtsu.edu/fusion) for the latest information.

**Science Building Wired Network Refresh:** This summer, ITD completed a wired network refresh project in the

Science Building—the largest building on campus. This initiative modernizes the facility's network infrastructure with Cisco SD Access fabric technology and future-proofs it to meet evolving academic and operational needs. The project involved the successful deployment of 59 network switches with 2,736 data ports and nine enterprise uninterruptible power supply systems across 10 data closets spanning all three floors.

**Security Camera System Upgrade:** This summer, in partnership with University Police, ITD completed a major software upgrade of the campus security camera system. This project upgraded 28 servers supporting 1,288 security cameras and 193 client devices running the security camera software. This update brings enhanced analytics and reporting capabilities to the security camera ecosystem along with improved user experience.

# CAMPUS EXPANSION

Facilities growth represents an investment in areas of study that will solve problems, improve the social good, and supply a skilled regional workforce. Here are the most recent updates on capital projects:

## Applied Engineering Building

- \$74.8 million project
- 89,000-square-foot facility
- Designer: Wold Architects and Engineers
- Contractor: Denark Construction Inc.
- Open for Fall 2025 semester; ribbon-cutting ceremony held Aug. 6
- Home to Mechatronics Engineering and Engineering Technology programs
- Enhanced student opportunities for faculty-led research and labs for student teams, including the Experimental Vehicles Program and robotics competitions
- Finishing touch to MTSU's Science Corridor of Innovation, which also includes the \$40.1 million Concrete and Construction Management Building, two renovated science buildings, and the 250,000-square-foot Science Building, which opened in 2014 as the single largest investment by the state for an academic facility



## Stephen and Denise Smith Student-Athlete Performance Center

- \$66 million total project cost
- Designer: GMC
- Contractor: The Parent Co.
- 85,000 square feet
- Ribbon-cutting ceremony held July 30
- Includes training spaces, strength and conditioning, locker rooms, team meeting spaces, and offices to serve MTSU Athletics and MTSU student-athletes
- Adds small section of outdoor loge seating to north end of Floyd Stadium
- Named after the Smiths as recognition for their extensive contributions following a formal request in April from former Gov. Bill Haslam and former U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon
- Represents the first phase of development envisioned in the MTSU Athletics Master Plan, which includes future renovations and additions to the Murphy Center and development of a multisport indoor training facility



## Renovations of Kirksey Old Main and Rutledge Hall

- \$54.3 million total project cost
- Designer: Anecdote
- Contractor: Messer Construction
- Estimated project completion: summer 2026
- KOM and Rutledge Hall both original buildings dating back to the institution founding in 1911; KOM was first building on campus
- KOM to remain home of MTSU's Mathematics, Computer Science, and Data Science departments
- Rutledge transforming from a dormitory to an academic building housing University College/University Studies
- Small additions on both buildings to allow for new entries and vertical circulation
- Includes major changes to HVAC, plumbing, data/IT, and electrical systems; re-planning of building layouts to accommodate future use; accessibility improvements; window replacement; and exterior building improvement



## Aerospace Shelbyville Project

- \$62.2 million total project cost
- Designer: TMPartners
- Contractor: Hoar Construction
- Estimated completion: fall 2027
- Project site along Highway 231 and just west of the Shelbyville Municipal Airport
- Includes facilities for the Professional Pilot concentration:
  - 50,000-square-foot Flight Operations Building with classroom, dispatch, faculty/staff offices, and flight briefing
  - 28,000-square-foot hangar to maintain Professional Pilot aircraft fleet
  - Site and utility improvements for 20-acre parcel including parking and aircraft apron and taxiway



## New Parking Structure

- \$27 million total project cost
- 182,000 square feet
- Designer: Anecdote
- Contractor: Barton Malow
- Estimated completion: spring 2027
- Construction of a parking garage on a portion of the existing Womack Lane housing site
- Includes demolition of Womack Lane housing complex
- Provides approximately 550 parking spaces



# STUDENT LIFE

I believe a transformative college experience goes beyond the classroom. While academic success remains a priority, true student success is rooted in meaningful engagement—broadening horizons, exploring new ideas, and forming connections that last a lifetime.

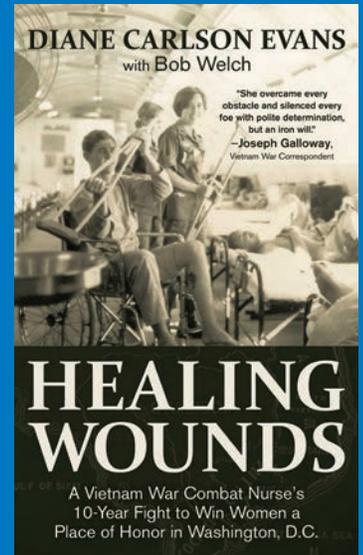
Research consistently shows that the first six weeks of college are critical for establishing a foundation for student achievement. That's why, alongside academic support, MTSU places strong emphasis on out-of-classroom experiences designed to help students feel connected and supported.

This summer, our staff emphasized that message during the **New to Blue Orientation** sessions by introducing incoming students to Connection Point—MTSU's signature engagement program. New students are encouraged to attend at least four Connection Point events in their first semester as part of their transition to campus life.

**Connection Point events** serve as a vibrant introduction to MTSU's community. From themed social activities to academic celebrations, each event provides students with an opportunity to meet peers, explore campus life, and earn collectible buttons commemorating each experience. Students use their MTSU IDs to track their participation, allowing our staff to monitor engagement and reach out

proactively to students who may need additional support in getting involved.

This fall's Connection Point series launches on Friday, Aug. 22, as we kick off the semester with the **annual President's Party**—a festive gathering complete with food, entertainment, and an author meet-and-greet with Bob Welch, co-author of *Healing Wounds, A Vietnam Combat Nurse's 10-Year Fight to Win Women a Place of Honor in Washington, D.C.*



Welch will also deliver the keynote address at the **University's 24th annual Convocation** on Saturday, Aug. 23, at Murphy Center.

To learn more about the Connection Point program and upcoming events, visit [mtsu.edu/connection](https://mtsu.edu/connection).



Looking ahead, Homecoming events will be held Sept. 15–20, and Family Weekend will be Nov. 7–9.

**Homecoming** at MTSU saw a remarkable turnout in 2024, with one of the largest crowds in recent history participating in the Homecoming parade. This festive event brought together students, alumni, faculty, and community members, all celebrating the University's spirit and traditions. The parade featured colorful floats, spirited performances, and a palpable sense of pride that resonated

throughout the campus. Homecoming events fostered a sense of belonging and nostalgia, strengthening the ties between current students and alumni.

Finally, we are pleased to welcome **Danny Kelley** as the interim vice president of student affairs and dean of students. Kelley brings significant experience to the Student Affairs Division at our University. He served as associate dean of students in 2008–10 and assistant vice president for student affairs since 2010.



Overall, these events reflect MTSU's commitment to enhancing student life by addressing immediate needs, providing professional development opportunities, and nurturing community spirit. Through such initiatives, MTSU continues to create a supportive environment that empowers students to thrive academically and socially.

As the University looks to the future, these successful events set a positive precedent for ongoing engagement and support within the MTSU community.



# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Each of the colleges and academic units at MTSU maintains a high level of activity and produces news worth crowing about. Here are just a few recent examples.

## College of Basic and Applied Sciences

A new **Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences** begins this fall. The degree will support regional workforce needs in the areas of health care, biomedical and biotechnology research, and forensic science testing. The degree can also be utilized by students who need more time to prepare for professional school.



The MTSU equestrian team won the 2025 **National Intercollegiate Ranch and Stock Horse Association Division 2 National Champion** title. Students competed in the versatility ranch horse events, showcasing their talents in ranch reining, cow work, ranch trail, and ranch riding. MTSU also earned national runner-up honors in the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association's Western Competition.

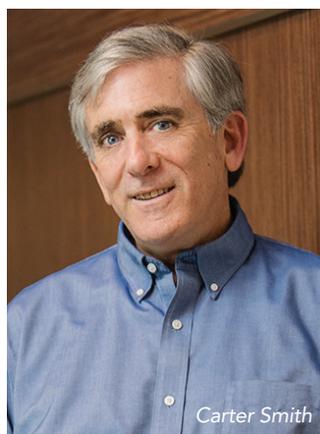
Geosciences Department structural geology students will be utilizing 2024 PE Limited MOVE software this fall, which will improve underground exploration techniques they will learn in the classroom and boost their career opportunities. The **\$2.76 million in-kind donation** from Edinburgh, Scotland-based PE Limited will benefit undergraduate and graduate students. The MOVE suite is the most complete structural modeling and analysis toolkit available. It provides a full digital environment for best practice structural modeling to reduce risk and uncertainty in geological models.

## College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

The School of Nursing celebrated a **100% first-time pass rate** on both the NCLEX licensure exam and the Family Nurse Practitioner certification exam.

*U.S. News & World Report* has ranked our undergraduate Psychology program among the **Best Undergraduate Psychology Programs** for 2025.

In partnership with the Center for Organizational and Human Resource Effectiveness (COHRE), Criminal Justice professors Thomas Jurkanin, Carter Smith, and Ben Stickle secured a **three-year contract** with the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy and the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission. Their efforts will modernize, reform, and raise training standards for law enforcement training and certification across the state.



Carter Smith



Ben Stickle



Thomas Jurkanin

## Jennings A. Jones College of Business

### A Master of Science in Project Management

launches this fall.

The interdisciplinary program will seek recognition from the Project Management Institute. It is the first graduate degree program in project management in the state.

Keith Jacks Gamble has been appointed as the new **Weatherford Chair of Finance** in the Department of Economics and Finance. Kelly Manix, assistant professor of Management, has been appointed as the **Tolbert Faculty Fellow in Business Ethics**. Audrey Scarlata, associate professor of Accounting, has been appointed as the **chair of the Department of Accounting**.

The new **Center for Cybersecurity Management**, housed in the Department of Information Systems and Analytics under the leadership of Michael Erskine, will serve middle Tennessee residents by disseminating knowledge and raising awareness about cybersecurity. By acting as a community resource, the center will further MTSU's standing as a prime contributor to the regional workforce. The center will foster education, outreach, and innovation, directly contributing to the state's resilience against cyberthreats.



Keith Jacks Gamble



Kelly Manix



Audrey Scarlata



Michael Erskine

## College of Education

MTSU College of Education Dean **Neporcha Cone** was named an **Impact Academy fellow** through national nonprofit organization Deans for Impact (DFI), joining a cohort of leaders chosen for their commitment to improving educator preparation. DFI is committed to ensuring that every child is taught by a well-prepared teacher and supports educator preparation programs to bring the science of learning into teaching practice. Cone is one of 18 leaders announced as part of the fellowship's 10th cohort. These fellows lead programs that serve 11 states and a wide range of geographic and institutional contexts from coast to coast.

MTSU's Literacy Studies Ph.D. program—one of the first such programs in the country—recently drew **national support with a \$1 million private grant** in its quest to solve America's literacy crisis. Drawing on faculty from MTSU's College of Education, College of Behavioral and Health Sciences, and College of Liberal Arts, the interdisciplinary doctoral program is rapidly developing literacy leaders who can effectively translate research to practitioners—and it is becoming a national model along the way.

MTSU's College of Education recently hosted nearly 200 educators from across the world at its **12th annual Literacy Research Conference**. Approximately 43 million U.S. adults are functionally illiterate, representing 21% of the population. In addition to a keynote speaker, there were 51 presentations from 58 educators and students.



## College of Liberal Arts

Jennifer Snodgrass has been appointed as the **new director of the School of Music**. Bryan Braue has been selected as the **new MTSU Band of Blue director**, continuing the tradition of excellence in University bands after the decades-long leadership of Craig Cornish, who retired.



MTSU's **15th biennial Holocaust Studies Conference** welcomed scholars, students, and community members to examine the focal shift in Holocaust studies from past to present.



MTSU Archaeology students are getting hands-on with history through ongoing research at the site of one of Nashville's first post-Civil War Black neighborhoods. Led by Professor Andrew Wyatt, the **Bass Street Community Archaeology Project** provides experiential learning in the basics of fieldwork for students while preserving an important part of Black history. Bass Street is at the foot of Fort Negley, a Union Army stronghold built by hundreds of enslaved and freed Black people during the Civil War. Once the war ended, the area developed into a thriving Black community that was later demolished and residents forced to relocate to make way for Interstates 65 and 40.

## College of Media and Entertainment

The College of Media and Entertainment will introduce two new academic programs this fall: a new **concentration in Esports and Gaming Content Creation** under the B.S. in Media and Entertainment, and a **fully online M.S. in Digital Media**. The Esports concentration prepares students for the growing field of gaming content, offering coursework in aesthetics, ethics, marketing, and technology. The one-year, nonthesis online master's program is designed for working professionals, with courses in social media management, SEO, strategic communication, and digital media theory—all accessible remotely, with no need to commute to campus.



The college in May celebrated the **inaugural graduate from its Motion Design concentration**—the first of its kind in the state. Sarah Varni was the program's first student when the concentration was added in fall 2022 to the Video and Film Production degree. In the expanding field, professionals create moving visual imagery for TV, film, video games, social media, websites, and more.

Recording Industry students made history last spring at South by Southwest (SXSW) in Austin, Texas, where Audio Production majors Kendall Burrill, Audrey Lapp, and Brooke Colebank became **the first all-female crew**—and the first out-of-state students—selected for the prestigious SXSW Student Production Crew. Tasked with supporting live event audio throughout the festival, the team's selection marked a milestone in representation and excellence for the College of Media and Entertainment.



## Honors College

With more than 1,000 students enrolled in the Honors College—and only 140 of those designated as Buchanan Fellows—the need for increased financial support has never been greater. Thanks to the **creation of the Honors College Excellence Endowment**, the Honors College is now better positioned to provide transformative opportunities for a wider range of its talented student body. This endowment enables us to offer Buchanan-level experiences to the more than 900 Honors students who are not Buchanan Fellows. From scholarships to research support and international education, the Excellence Endowment ensures that students from all walks of life have access to high-impact educational experiences.

**Inaugural Honors College Dean John Paul Montgomery**, a beloved professor and mentor, died in June. His passing marks the end of an era, but he leaves behind a legacy that will inspire generations. Montgomery retired in 2004 after 35 years of devoted service to MTSU as a full professor in the English Department, director of the Honors Program, and ultimately as the founding dean of the Honors College. A tireless advocate for academic excellence and personal growth, he spent more than a decade transforming what was once a small program into a thriving Honors College that has since become a model for Tennessee and beyond. In 1998, MTSU became the first public university in Tennessee to elevate its program to a full-fledged Honors College—a bold, strategic move he orchestrated with vision, persistence, and heart.

Honors Associate Dean Philip E. Phillips' research on the literary representation of animals in American literature **inspired an international conference in India where he served as keynote** speaker this year. Phillips spoke at the International Conference on Human, Animal, and Natural History: Ecocritical Approaches to World Literature, which was held in Cuttack, Odisha, India. The conference theme was even developed from Phillips' scholarly work, reflecting the global significance of ecocriticism. The three-day event brought together scholars and students from around the world to explore the intersection of literature and environmental concerns.



## James E. Walker Library

The Affordable Course Materials Grant began in fall 2024 with \$10,000 in support from the Provost's Office. This program has made significant strides in advancing open educational resource (OER) initiatives. The Provost's Office has confirmed continued funding for the 2025–26 academic year, ensuring **ongoing support for faculty committed to reducing textbook costs** and enhancing student access to learning materials.

Walker Library hired a **new student engagement librarian**, Shelly Salo Martinez.



In April, Walker Library proudly launched the JEWL Seed Library, an initiative designed to support sustainability and **inspire the MTSU community to garden**. The project was made possible through a \$2,000 grant awarded to Ginelle Baskin and Wendy Jones by the MTSU Sustainability Fund. Students, faculty, staff, and members of the community can choose up to five seed packets per week. The JEWL Seed Library is designed to help aspiring gardeners get started growing vegetables and flowers. The launch event on April 2 drew an enthusiastic response—nearly 200 students, faculty, and staff stopped by to pick up seeds and learn more about the program.

# ATHLETICS

The 2024–25 academic year for MTSU Athletics was marked by championship success, postseason play, continued momentum in facility enhancements, and major strides in the Build Blue Campaign.

On the field of competition, the Blue Raiders captured two Conference USA championships, saw six teams advance to postseason play, and had six individuals advance to NCAA postseason events. The women's basketball team added another title to its storied tradition, while men's tennis won its sixth straight CUSA championship. Men's and women's cross country, men's basketball, women's basketball, men's tennis, and women's tennis all competed in postseason play. These achievements reflect the dedication of MTSU student-athletes and coaches and the continued standard of excellence across all programs.

In the classroom, the Blue Raiders had an impressive 94% Graduation Success Rate, which was tops in Conference USA. Overall, men's basketball, men's tennis, women's golf, softball, soccer, women's tennis and volleyball all registered a 100% score. Football's GSR of 92% led CUSA and tied for 15th nationally.

A major highlight of the year is the grand opening of the Stephen and Denise Smith Student-Athlete Performance Center, a game-changing facility located in the north end zone of Floyd Stadium. The \$66 million, 85,000-square-foot center officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 30. Designed to enhance the student-athlete experience in every facet—nutrition, academics, sports medicine, and strength and conditioning—the facility will be the premier resource for current and future Blue Raiders.

Floyd Stadium also received a new state-of-the-art turf system in June. The Shaw Sports Turf was installed by Warner Athletic out of Smyrna.

The Build Blue Campaign, which supports key facility projects like the Performance Center, continues to surpass expectations. With a revised goal of \$25 million after crushing the original goal of \$15 million, the campaign has already raised an impressive \$22.7 million. This success is a testament to the unwavering support of the Blue Raider community and a strong indicator of the program's upward trajectory.

Together, these successes underscore a transformative year for MTSU Athletics—one defined by championships, momentum, and a bold vision for the future.



# 2025 Home Football Games

Aug. 30	6 p.m.	Austin Peay
Sept. 20	6 p.m.	Marshall (HC)
Oct. 8*	6:30 p.m.	Missouri State
Oct. 29*	6:30 p.m.	Jacksonville State
Nov. 8	2 p.m.	FIU
Nov. 22	2 p.m.	Sam Houston

\*Wednesday night games



# NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS

More than 2,400 of MTSU's undergraduate students are 25 or older. Expanding service to adult students represents one of the most significant opportunities to offset anticipated declines in the number of traditional-age college students.

A group of 19 colleagues representing constituencies from across campus continues its work with a focus on three specific areas relating to adult students: recruitment, retention, and institutional processes. An initial report has been produced with recommendations. Details are being fleshed out to increase the enrollment of adult students throughout the University.

The launch of a new **Adult Degree Completion Program communication plan**, geared specifically to prospective adult students, has shown significant success. The number of inquiries more than doubled during the last semester. An adult student version of the New to Blue new student orientation has been developed targeting MTSU services for adult learners. We are excited about this opportunity to connect with students and provide them with vital resources focused specifically on information and questions that adult learners often have when returning to school.

The Spring 2025 semester marked **considerable progress in both enrollment and graduation among employees from MTSU's corporate partner programs**, with enrollment up 33% from Spring 2024. Graduation numbers also climbed. Thirty-two corporate partner employees earned a degree from MTSU in 2024, and in Spring 2025 alone, 28 more graduates completed bachelor's or master's degrees. Summer 2025 enrollment reached 48 students—more than double the 18 enrolled in Summer 2024. This is a powerful pathway for working adults to earn degrees and advance their careers.

A key highlight is the Nissan North America-MTSU education partnership, which is approaching a major milestone: the completion of its first full year of the **on-site Applied Leadership cohort at the Nissan Smyrna Training Center**. We look forward to celebrating the program's first graduate in December. Since the partnership launched a year ago, 31 Nissan employees have enrolled at MTSU to pursue undergraduate or graduate degrees.

A major aspect of our successful adult learner programming is MTSU's Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) program, which has set a benchmark for other institutions by supporting adult learners in documenting and earning college credits for their nontraditional learning experiences. Over its 17-year history, the MTSU program has seen 1,326 students complete the assessment process, with **28,177 PLA credits awarded**, an average of more than 21 credits earned per student. The program has extended to MTSU graduate programs as well. Fifty-two portfolios have been submitted and 294 graduate credits awarded.

Lastly, the GraduateMT program continues to transform lives through its unwavering commitment to supporting adult learners. Through this program, more than **5,100 students have returned to pursue their education**, and 1,500 have graduated since the program's inception in 2018. By guiding returning students through the readmission process, removing barriers, and offering personalized degree plans, GraduateMT makes graduation a reality for many who once thought attaining a college degree was out of reach.



# GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

MTSU's College of Graduate Studies offers 100-plus diverse graduate choices at the certificate, master's, specialist, and doctoral levels, so that almost anyone can find their right fit. Our programs are designed to help students develop skills and knowledge to be successful in their careers. Here are some recent updates.

New graduate degree programs launching this upcoming academic year include:

- Biomedical Sciences M.S., a 30-credit, nonthesis, accelerated program designed for completion in about 10 months
- Digital Media M.S., a fully online, one-year accelerated degree for media professionals focused on social media, SEO, and strategic communications
- Project Management M.S., designed to prepare professionals to lead projects across sectors like IT, health care, construction, and finance

As of June 18, overall **graduate enrollment was up 6.6%** over the same date last year.

After a first-year pilot, the College of Graduate Studies **will implement Lightning Tracks** (with 17 participating graduate programs) starting this fall. For select students, the program offers guaranteed admission with no application, entrance exam, or fee required, while MTSU benefits from improved enrollment, retention, and program efficiency.

MTSU is launching a **voluntary health insurance plan for domestic graduate students** enrolled in 6 or more credit hours, starting this fall. In partnership with Wellfleet Student, the plan offers comprehensive coverage at a competitive group rate.

During 2024–25, the number of total awards in the Office of Sponsored and Research Programs declined by three, which is a great win given the headwinds in the federal grant world in the first three months of 2025. At the same time, our total awards increased from \$22,062,504 to \$24,163,571, a 9.52% funding uptick. This increase is due to the number of outstanding faculty and staff who continue to submit grants for their research, creative activity, and service projects year over year.



COLLEGE OF  
GRADUATE STUDIES



# PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Monica Smith is assistant to the president for community engagement, responsible for developing and supporting relationships with a broad range of community and civic organizations—including those in arts, culture, and history; religious organizations; and community support—and cultivating a campus environment where everyone feels a sense of belonging. This, to me, is a very critical position as we continue to move forward in bringing the community closer to the University and fostering deeper engagement both inside and outside our campus.

## Here are some updates from this area:

### Launch of Community Engagement Webpage:

Community Engagement unveiled its inaugural webpage, serving as a centralized hub for connecting campus and community engagement opportunities. This platform ([communityengagement.mtsu.edu](http://communityengagement.mtsu.edu)) offers:

- Clear pathways for external organizations to propose and develop partnerships with the University
- Curated resources for students, faculty, staff, and community partners
- Tools and guidance for faculty engaged in community-based teaching and research
- Information on experiential learning initiatives such as EXL and the recently rebranded Engage
- Timely updates on events, grants, and civic initiatives
- Alignment with strategic University goals through a focus on collaboration
- Metrics for tracking engagement and impact



**True Blue Community Training:** In collaboration with the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Media and Entertainment, Community Engagement facilitated tailored training sessions delivered by faculty to meet the specific needs of local congregations and faith-based leaders.

**Community Engagement Advisory Group (CEAG):** Under Smith's leadership, this advisory group advanced key initiatives aimed at strengthening campus culture:

- **"Get to Know Your MTSU" Series:** Launched by the Campus Workforce Committee, this monthly series offers themed events designed to promote employee engagement, foster belonging, and deepen professional and personal connections within the MTSU workforce.
- **Open Education Week 2025:** Led by its Academic and Student Success Committee, CEAG hosted this weeklong event (March 3–7) to spotlight the role of affordable learning in student success. Sessions emphasized the impact of open educational resources (OER) and zero textbook cost (ZTC) courses at MTSU, reinforcing the University's commitment to accessible education.
- **Walk to End Alzheimer's:** In partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, MTSU hosted more than 300 community members on campus for the Walk to End Alzheimer's. This event raised critical awareness and funding to support Alzheimer's care, research, and advocacy.
- **Pilot of "Shorten the Mile" Shuttle Service:** In partnership with Main Street Murfreesboro, the department launched a Saturday shuttle service connecting campus to the Murfreesboro square. The initiative encourages student participation in the Saturday Market and fosters a stronger sense of belonging within the broader community.



# INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The number of international students hosted by the United States recently surpassed pre-COVID enrollment numbers. Nepal, Nigeria, Bangladesh, and Ghana in particular continue to experience growth. As a result, MTSU has focused recruitment efforts in these countries.

The 2024 Economic Value Report from NAFSA, the Association of International Educators, found that international students studying at U.S. colleges and universities **contributed \$43.8 billion to the U.S. economy and supported 378,175 jobs** during the 2023–24 academic year. The financial contribution from international students at MTSU alone that year exceeded \$18 million.

For the Fall 2025 semester, MTSU had **more than 3,600 applications from international students**—an increase of more than 110% from Fall 2024. More than 1,500 have been admitted, an increase of more than 33%.

These applicants represent more than 115 different countries. We are pleased to welcome these students from different backgrounds and cultures whose contributions on campus enrich the entire University.

MTSU students are also traveling the world. During the 2024–25 academic year, 278 students (a 13% increase over 2023–24) participated in overseas studies, representing six MTSU colleges.

Our faculty-led signature programs are a great pathway for students to study abroad; however, direct and exchange options are steadily becoming more popular among our student population. During the 2024–25 academic year, **354 travel abroad scholarships** (totaling more than \$335,900) were awarded to MTSU students. In addition, nine MTSU students were awarded the **esteemed Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship** to study abroad in the Winter and Summer 2025 terms.



# STUDENT SUCCESS

Student success remains my No. 1 priority at MTSU.

Through the years, we have established a number of proven strategies to boost our students' ability to persist to graduation.

Here are some recent updates on our many Student Success initiatives:

The **Scholars Academy** is a program for first-time, first-year students that assists with a smooth transition to college and acclimation to MTSU. The program is designed with special emphasis on the needs of first-generation students and those who would benefit from enhanced support. Our Scholars Academy welcomed about 200 new students to the 2025 cohort this summer. The persistence rate for the fall 2024 cohort of 135 students was 97%. The Scholars Academy serves students year-round with support to promote persistence, retention, and graduation. In spring 2025, altogether there were 374 Scholars Academy students enrolled in colleges across the University.

The Office of Student Success partnered with the First-Year Experience Living-Learning Community and faculty members to deliver a series of targeted, **in-class academic workshops** to help students build essential skills for their first year at MTSU. By collaborating directly with faculty, we were able to embed these workshops into the classroom experience, enhancing relevance and student engagement. Sessions included "Mastering Your Minutes: Time Management for Success," "Turn-It-IN: Your Academic Support Session," "Tailored Tutoring Sessions," and "Goal Setting for College: The Things I Wish I Knew." These workshops provided practical strategies students can apply to manage their time effectively, avoid academic pitfalls, and connect with available support resources. Feedback indicated that students appreciated exploring these topics in a supportive, community-based environment, reinforcing the connection between academic success and classroom learning.



During spring 2025, **tutoring services** supported students across 52 courses and 290 sections, with the Walker Library continuing to serve as the primary hub for tutoring. **Supplemental Instruction (SI)** was provided in nine courses with historically high rates of D's, F's, or withdrawals, covering 30 sections, to promote student success in challenging subjects. The Office of Student Success also expanded its academic support offerings by integrating the **Learning Assistant (LA)** program into its portfolio. The LA program grew to 19 learning assistants working alongside five instructors in CHEM 1110, BIOL 1110, and MATH 1000. These LAs facilitated active learning, encouraged student engagement, and provided instructors valuable feedback on student interactions with course content.

The MTSU **Upward Bound** program is dedicated to increasing college access and success for first-generation, income-eligible high school students through comprehensive academic support, enrichment experiences, and personal development opportunities. Our mission is to empower students to achieve their higher education goals by providing the skills, experiences, and confidence necessary to navigate college and beyond. Upward Bound students engaged in various experiences during the spring semester to foster growth in academic readiness, self-efficacy, and college awareness. Throughout the semester, students reflected on themes of perseverance and decision-making while strengthening their sense of community. Workshops such as "Time Management for Success" equipped students with practical strategies to balance academic, personal, and extracurricular responsibilities essential for high school achievement and future collegiate success.



The **Experiential Learning (EXL) Scholars Program** is preparing to celebrate 20 years in operation since its creation in fall 2005. EXL continues to set records in student participation, faculty participation, and number of course sections offered. In 2024–25, enrollment in

EXL courses totaled 19,441, with 433 distinct faculty members with approved courses. Both qualitative and quantitative evidence show that experiential learning at MTSU has an overwhelmingly positive impact on student success and graduation rates. Students completing 3–5 EXL credit hours have a graduation rate of 73.6%; students taking 15 hours or more of EXL courses have a graduation rate of 98.4%.

Rebecca Oldham (Human Sciences) and Matthew Duncan (University Studies) led a faculty learning community to develop the University's first True Blue Core Blueprint. The **Mind, Body, and Wellness Blueprint**, launching in Fall 2025, offers students a coordinated set of courses from multiple colleges and departments that will explore the mind-body connection and examine how different academic disciplines approach the concept of wellness, preparing students to critically engage with complex issues and navigate the complexities of being human.



Rebecca Oldham



Matthew Duncan

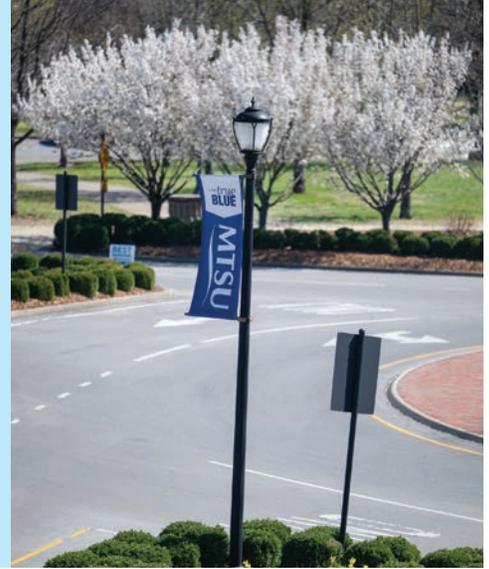
Another strong, record-breaking class of **dual enrollment** students is expected for Fall 2025. New opportunities include an expansion of offerings at Rockvale High School to include a section of SPAN 1010 as well as BIOL 1030/31. Additional dual enrollment online offerings include more sections in English, math, and history as MTSU's program expands to serve students throughout the state. An **international dual enrollment** initiative has been formed, beginning in Fall 2025, expecting to serve college-bound students from other countries. This is a promising program, made possible through collaboration with the College of Liberal Arts and the Office of International Affairs.

In 2024–25 a total of 37 advisors earned **Advisor Mastery Program (AMP)** certification, with participation from each college across campus. Academic advisors engaged 88% of the undergraduate student population in 2024–25.

# PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION

Parking and Transportation Services is enhancing its **Pay-By-Plate** visitor vehicle registration system to provide even more convenience and flexibility.

With the upcoming upgrades, visitors, vendors, and non-University contract workers will have access to an easy-to-use online platform that offers a variety of parking options. Customers can purchase parking for specific days and times—either as a one-time transaction or on a recurring basis—simply by scanning a QR code. From there, they can select their desired dates and times and make a quick, secure payment directly through the web app—no downloads required!



## DANIELS CENTER

The Charlie and Hazel Daniels Veterans and Military Family Center is nearing a decade of service! Its grand opening was Nov. 5, 2015.

This fall, there is a planned renovation for the center that will combine its first-floor and third-floor spaces as well as allow for growth.

The Charlie Daniels Legacy Wall has been installed at the front entrance. The Daniels Center can assist any military-connected person. There is no required MTSU

affiliation. There is no charge. The work the center does goes beyond degree-seeking. It offers employment services, mental health services, and direct connectivity to Veterans Affairs (VA).

In addition to Daniels Center staff, two VA employees—a full-time mental health counselor and a VetSuccess on Campus counselor—and two full-time state employees, both Veterans Service Officers, are available at the center.

# TENNESSEE SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER (TSBDC)

I wish to turn a spotlight on MTSU's statewide role in small business development in this newsletter.

Created by Congress in 1980 and adopted by Tennessee in 1984, the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) program combines the resources of higher education, government, and the private sector to support the development of small businesses.

In 2004, I was successful in relocating the TSBDC lead center from Nashville to MTSU, allowing collaboration with faculty and creating experiential learning for students through paid internships in the community through the center.

With the lead center headquartered in Murfreesboro, the **TSBDC network consists of 14 service centers (including at MTSU) and two affiliate offices** across the state. Each service center is staffed by consultants who provide no-cost virtual and in-person business consulting, training, and resources to help businesses start, grow, and persist. After all, not everyone who starts a business went to business school.

Center staff can assist in business and financial planning, marketing and sales strategies, social media and website analysis, government contracting, international trade, cybersecurity, and numerous other areas. The centers also conduct market research as well as competitive and financial analyses at no cost to the client. And staff help companies with preparing to go before a lender and getting access to capital. TSBDC's assistance and training resources represent a gold mine of opportunities for new and growing businesses.

Here are some recent updates:

**Statewide entrepreneurial impact:** In 2024, the TSBDC program served over 5,700 entrepreneurs across Tennessee through its 14 centers across the state, continuing its over mission to drive economic vitality and support small business success in Tennessee.

## **Pioneering AI-driven support for entrepreneurs:**

Kayla Miller, associate state director of the TSBDC network, developed and deployed an artificial intelligence program to streamline and personalize services for Tennessee entrepreneurs, positioning the center as a trailblazer in Tennessee entrepreneurial support organizations and among the 63 national SBDC programs.

**Empowering faculty research:** The TSBDC lead center continues to support faculty-led research initiatives by supporting skilled graduate assistants.

**Fostering student success:** In 2024, the TSBDC supported 59 multidisciplinary student interns at MTSU, offering financial support and valuable experiential learning opportunities in entrepreneurship and a variety of other fields. The TSBDC also supports students in the classroom, from speaking in classes across campus to having four TSBDC staff members serve as instructors.

**Engaging in regional development initiatives:** The TSBDC proudly participated in the MTSU Business and Economic Research Center (BERC) Urban and Regional Planning Scholars Program, contributing its expertise to community planning efforts and preparing the next generation of leaders in sustainable development.

**Securing funding:** In partnership with the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, the TSBDC secured \$3.3 million in grant funding over five years through the State Small Business Credit Initiative—bolstering small business growth and contributing indirect funding to MTSU. This program adds to the TSBDC's existing business-focused services, which are supported by over \$6 million in program funds annually.

## CLIENTS SERVED IN 2024



MTSU ARTS

# THE *Arts* ARE THRIVING at MTSU

Just as our students enrich their lives by showcasing their skills, we invite you to enrich yours by being an MTSU Arts Patron. You can join the MTSU Arts Patrons Society and view the full season calendar at [mtsu.edu/mtsuarts](https://mtsu.edu/mtsuarts).



Scan the QR code to donate to MTSU Arts and support our students and programs. Questions? Call 615-898-5223

## ART and DESIGN

### *Daylighting*

September 6–October 11, 2025

Todd Art Gallery

Join us for our guest artists exhibition featuring sculptural works by Caroline Hatfield and paintings by Kat Spears.



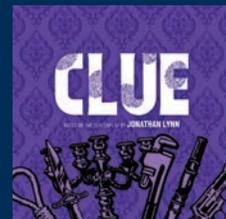
## THEATRE

### *Clue*

February 26–March 1, 2026

Tucker Theatre

Based on the iconic 1985 Paramount movie inspired by the classic Hasbro board game, *Clue* is a hilarious farce meets murder mystery.



## MUSIC

### Percussion Ensemble Concert

November 5, 2025

Hinton Hall

Drum roll, please! Don't miss our School of Music percussion students performing a range of rhythmic compositions and innovative works.



## DANCE

### Spring Dance Concert

April 23–25, 2026

Tucker Theatre

Come see original choreographic work from guest artists and our talented faculty! The concert will feature collaborative work with design, technical, and stage management students from the Department of Theatre and Dance.



## MTSU ARTS CELEBRATION CONCERT

January 31, 2026

Tucker Theatre

Save the date for our annual celebration of the best of MTSU Arts. Stay tuned for updates about this year's special guest host and the newest MTSU Arts Hall of Fame inductees!



MTSU *Arts*  
Proudly Presented By



# MTSU ONLINE

MTSU Online continues to expand access to high-quality education for students across Tennessee and beyond. Guided by our mission to extend and amplify the teaching and learning resources of the University, we have made significant progress this year in online program development, student support, and faculty engagement.

We now offer **more than 70 fully online degrees and concentrations**, including three new additions for this fall: an M.S. in Digital Media; a Media Studies concentration under the B.S. in Journalism; and an M.S. in Project Management. These programs respond directly to **workforce needs** and provide new opportunities for students seeking **flexible pathways** to advance their education and careers.

The MTSU Online commitment to student success remains central. We are enhancing online orientation, expanding virtual tutoring and writing support, and piloting new approaches to foster community and belonging for online learners. Mental health counseling and other essential services are increasingly available to fully online students, ensuring they experience **the same level of care and support** as their on-campus peers.

Our dedicated MTSU Online team provides high-quality student support, faculty support, and instructional design services for course development. Their work ensures that our online students are well-served, faculty have the resources they need to excel, and courses meet the highest standards of quality and accessibility.

Faculty excellence is another cornerstone of the MTSU Online work. This year, we have expanded **professional development opportunities**, including workshops and faculty learning communities. We are aligning more courses with nationally recognized Quality Matters standards and launching new recognition programs to highlight innovation in online teaching. As MTSU prepares to move to a new learning management system (Canvas), MTSU Online will play a leading role in helping faculty and students continue their teaching and learning journey with effectiveness and efficiency.

Looking ahead, MTSU Online will continue to grow strategically—adding new programs, strengthening student services, and supporting faculty innovation—while staying aligned with the University's mission of access, excellence, and student success.

**MTSU** Online



## MTSU Transitions to Canvas in 2026: A Collaborative Leap Forward

MTSU is excited to announce our transition to the Canvas learning management system starting in Summer 2026, marking a significant step in our digital transformation journey. After 15 years with D2L, MTSU is partnering with Instructure's Canvas to deliver a **modern, intuitive, and AI-enhanced learning environment** that empowers students and faculty alike.

This strategic move is led by a dynamic collaboration between our Information Technology Division (ITD) and Academic Affairs, ensuring a seamless integration tailored to our campus community's needs. Yvette Clark, vice president for information technology and chief information officer, and Brian Hinote, vice provost for faculty and strategic initiatives, are co-leading the effort, combining IT expertise with academic insight to enhance the learning experience.

Canvas was selected for its user-friendly interface, real-time data capabilities, and robust integrations, aligning with MTSU's commitment to fostering student success through innovative technology. This partnership reflects our shared vision of **creating a responsive digital infrastructure** that supports personalized learning and streamlines faculty workflows.

Stay tuned for updates, training opportunities, and resources as we make this exciting transition! For more details, visit [mtsu.edu/canvas](https://mtsu.edu/canvas).

# TRUE BLUE TV/EVENT PRODUCTIONS

True Blue TV Event Productions (TBTVEP) continues expanding its capabilities to better serve the University's production needs. True Blue TV Event Productions employs a small **full-time professional staff and over 100 student workers** who are integral to the production of the many events on campus. Our student workers not only earn a competitive wage, but they also gain valuable experience to supplement the formal education they receive at MTSU.

True Blue TV Event Productions is responsible for producing all major University events, as well as events for colleges, departments, centers, and other groups and individuals at the University, and off-campus events sponsored by University groups, upon request. These events include concerts, major announcements, fraternity and sorority events, Board of Trustees meetings, Commencement ceremonies, athletic events, signature events, and more.

Due to the increased importance of video assets, TBTVEP has greatly **expanded its video production lineup**. This includes multi-cam capabilities, livestreaming, creation of custom marketing videos, speakers, interviews, and other video needs. A **new podcast studio** has been a resource that allows TBTVEP to quickly and easily create video projects for numerous campus groups. The team recently worked with Graduate Studies to produce a podcast series for research projects conducted on the MTSU campus. Philosophy and Religious Studies also requested videos created for their website of speakers invited to their Lyceum. TBTVEP has produced videos for the Jones College of Business, Daniels Center, American Democracy Project, Alumni Services, and many other departments and groups on campus.

TBTVEP partnered with MTSU Athletics and Murphy Center to develop a **new state-of-the-art control room** to produce events at Floyd Stadium, Murphy Center, and the new Student-Athletic Performance Center. This, coupled with the new sound system installed in Murphy Center, has raised the standard for event production at MTSU.

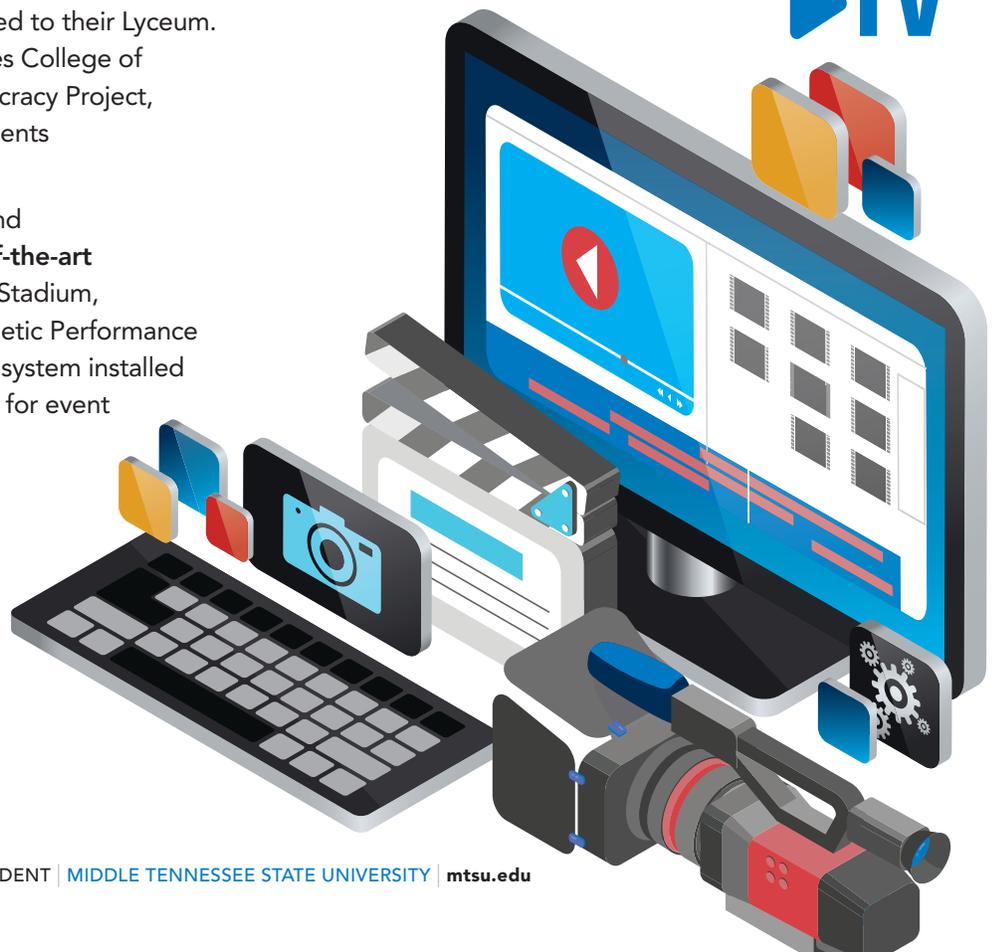
The partnership with MTSU Athletics has been incredibly valuable to the University community. It continues this fall as TBTVEP produces the **Party in the Grove events for home football games**. Expect to see this team doing even more things to benefit students, faculty, staff, and the University community.

True Blue TV, meanwhile, has been focused on improving its programming and offering **more livestreaming of important University events**.

- True Blue TV recently unveiled free iOS and Android phone apps and a free Amazon Fire TV app to provide **MTSU-On-Demand programming** to our viewers. They can be found on Amazon.com and in the respective phone stores. These complement our free Roku and Apple TV apps, as well as our website.
- True Blue TV is broadening our capacity to serve the diverse student population at MTSU by **enhancing access through closed captioning**.
- TBTV **produced and broadcast 234 television episodes** in 2024, totaling 172.3 hours.
- To date for **MTSU's *Out of the Blue***, we have seen 1,200 downloads by 84 stations from 20 states.
- Our other **50+ productions** have been downloaded, to date, 5,314 times by 676 stations in 42 states, the District of Columbia, and Cape Town, South Africa.

*true***BLUE▶TV**  
EVENT PRODUCTIONS

*true*  
**BLUE**  
▶**TV**



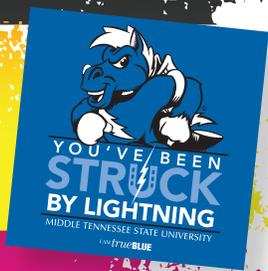
# EVENT COORDINATION

Planning an event on campus?

Start by reserving a campus space to begin the event planning process! Our facility schedulers and event coordinators are ready to assist you every step of the way.

- 1. Find resources and contacts:** A full list of facility schedulers, along with campuswide event guidelines, is available on the Event Coordination website ([eventcoordination.mtsu.edu](http://eventcoordination.mtsu.edu)).
- 2. Reserve your space in 25Live:** All campus reservations—including classrooms, meeting spaces, and outdoor areas—are managed through 25Live. Please note: Courses take priority in classrooms, and events should not conflict with study day, final exams, or Connection Point activities.
- 3. Pre-approve special ceremonies:** All groundbreaking and ribbon-cutting ceremonies must be scheduled through the Event Coordination Department and approved by the Office of the President.
- 4. Stay connected with campus calendars:** The University Master Calendar ([mtsu.edu/calendar](http://mtsu.edu/calendar)) and 25Live ([mtsu.edu/25live](http://mtsu.edu/25live)) are your go-to tools for viewing and promoting events.

Make your event planning seamless by starting with the Event Coordination team and utilizing 25Live today!



## BLUE print

### Discover Blue Print—MTSU's On-Campus Print Powerhouse!

With two locations serving campus, Blue Print is your go-to destination for professional printing services right here on campus.

From large-format mounted posters and yard signs to brochures, booklets, and class projects, Blue Print offers expert printing, laminating, binding, and personalized support to bring your ideas to life.

Need custom T-shirts for a campus event or activity? Blue Print has you covered with low-quantity, personalized apparel options.

Got a personal project? Bring it in! Need something we don't currently offer? Let us know—we're always looking to grow with you.

The Student Union storefront is the retail face of Blue Print, backed by our full-scale production facility on Greenland Drive. That's where the magic happens—high-volume, state-of-the-art equipment producing the majority of MTSU's printed materials.

Students, faculty, and staff can place orders through our online portal using FSA credentials. Just make sure you're on campus or connected through MTSU's firewall.

Having trouble? Reach out—we're here to help.

Learn more about Blue Print at [mtsu.edu/blueprint](http://mtsu.edu/blueprint).

Questions? Call 615-898-2100 or email [blue.print@mtsu.edu](mailto:blue.print@mtsu.edu).

0525-1638 / Middle Tennessee State University does not discriminate against students, employees, or applicants for admission or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs, and activities sponsored by MTSU. The Assistant to the President for Civil Rights Compliance has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies and can be reached at Cope Administration Building 116, 1301 East Main Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37132; Christy.Sigler@mtsu.edu; or 615-898-2185. The MTSU policy on non-discrimination can be found at [crc.mtsu.edu](http://crc.mtsu.edu).

