

Office of the University President
Middle Tennessee State University
Cope Administration Building – Room 204
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37132
615-898-5825



March 17, 2026

Members of the Board of Trustees,

I am writing to you today with sincere gratitude to inform you that I plan to retire from my role as President of Middle Tennessee State University, effective December 2026. I will be a faculty member in the College of Education as a tenured professor after a two-semester sabbatical to retool.

After 25 years leading this remarkable institution, I believe MTSU is well-positioned for its next chapter, grounded in a strong mission and a clear sense of purpose. With the dedication of our faculty and staff, and the aspirations of generations of students, we have guided MTSU through an extraordinary transformation. We have strengthened our academic mission, focused on student success, significantly enhanced our campus facilities, elevated research and creative activity, and affirmed our responsibility as Tennessee's largest locally governed university to serve the public good.

Serving as President of Middle Tennessee State University has been the great honor of my professional life. My family and I have been steadfast over the last quarter-century in our love for MTSU and this community and are deeply proud of our students, alumni, faculty, and staff. The work to continue the progress and success of our institution will not cease during the final months of my term.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sidney A. McPhee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sidney" being the most prominent part.

Dr. Sidney A. McPhee
President
Middle Tennessee State University