**The College of Media and Entertainment Highlights Spring 2018**

**Animation program ranks No. 24 in the nation**
MTSU’s College of Media and Entertainment Animation Program now ranks No. 24 in the “Top 40 Animation Programs in Public Colleges in the U.S.” list by *Animation Career Review*, an online resource for aspiring animators and game developers. The college’s Bachelor of Science degree in Animation provides students the opportunity to prepare for careers in 3-D animation, 2-D animation, motion graphics, and special visual effects.

**Students get a behind-the-scenes look at the Academy of Country Music Awards Las Vegas**
Five students from the Department of Media Arts received a behind the scenes experience at the Academy of Country Music Awards held this year in Las Vegas. Alumnus Pete Fisher, CEO of the ACMs, allowed the students backstage access, giving them a first-hand look at how production for a major award show comes together for broadcast. Beverly Keel, chair of the Department of Recording Industry, also hosted an ACM “Change the Conversation discussion of gender discrimination in the music industry.

**MTSU in LA – Recording Industry students work to establish presence in Los Angeles**
Six students received the opportunity to meet media professionals and tour studios during a weeklong visit to Los Angeles in March. Stops included iHeartmedia, Interscope and Warner Bros. Records, a tour of the iconic Capitol building, and a sound check and performance at the Troubadour. The trip is a first step in establishing a larger presence in Los Angeles, with the goal of creating summer campus where students could study and secure internships with major media companies.

**MTSU heads to NYC for Grammy Weekend**
For the fifth consecutive year, students from the College of Media and Entertainment participated in Grammy weekend, held this year in New York City. Students worked behind the scenes at Radio City Music Hall for the MusiCares Person of the Year tribute honoring Fleetwood Mac. The college also hosted a reception in Manhattan for Recording Industry alumna Laura Rogers and her sister, Lydia, The Secret Sisters, for their Grammy-nominated folk album “You Don’t Own Me Anymore”. The college rounded out the weekend by partnering with the Americana Music Association to honor music great Emmylou Harris at the City Winery NYC.

**School of Journalism director Gregory Pitts receives Distinguished Education Service Award**
School of Journalism director Dr. Gregory Pitts was named the 2018 Distinguished Education Service Award (DESA) winner at the Broadcast Education Association Conference held in Las Vegas this past April. The DESA Award recognizes an individual who has made a significant and lasting contribution to the American system of electronic media education by virtue of a singular achievement or continuing service for or in behalf of electronic media education. Pitts is the Director of Faculty and Student Programs for the National Association of Television Program Executives (NATPE) Educational Foundation.