

MTSU Strategic Plan 2035
Annual Progress Report

Priority 3 Cultivate sustainable partnerships.

Strategy 3.1 Strengthen community and industry collaborations

Initiative 3.1.1 Conduct campus and community assessments to inform and improve development of partnerships.

Action	Begin Date	End Date	Report on Metrics and Summaries of Progress to Date	Notes
Develop a common institutional vocabulary related to partnership and engagement	August 2025	April 2026	Completion of task <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Fall 2025, the Community Engagement Elective Classification Council (CEEC) and Vice Provost for Planning and Effectiveness (VPPE) finalized a proposal for high-level institutional definitions based on Carnegie classification language. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The institutional definitions are being shared broadly with campus leaders for inclusion in unit and divisional contexts and publications, where appropriate.
Make recommendations on revisions to policy that include community engagement efforts in teaching, research, and service as part of promotion and tenure review	August 2025	April 2026	Completion of task <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faculty policy revision continues under the leadership of Vice Provost for Faculty and Strategic Initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggestions from the 23-24 Engaged Scholarship faculty working group shared with VPFSI to inform revisions in 2026-2027.
Define common outcomes and ways to measure the success of partnership and engagement efforts	Spring 2026	April 2027	Completion of task <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Professional Learning Community (PLC), established through the CEEC, was convened in Spring 2026, and methods for assessing partnerships and community engagement are among the topics being addressed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending the PLC's work, this action item may be completed by May 2026.
Develop a comprehensive professional development and incentive plan to increase faculty and staff participation in community engagement	Spring 2026	April 2027	Completion of task <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PLC, established through the CEEC, is making recommendations for developing a comprehensive professional development plan to address this action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2026-2027, the VPPE and Center for Teaching and Mentoring will work to incorporate recommendations from the PLC.

Initiative 3.1.2 Increase industry connections by leveraging and expanding existing internship programs.

Action	Begin Date	End Date	Report on Metrics and Summaries of Progress to Date	Notes
Establish communication channels to share information about partnerships and engagement efforts across the institution	August 2025	April 2026	Completion of task <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates to the Community Partnerships webpage are underway. Among the changes will be the addition of MTSU Reach, a resource for sharing research information with the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This action will be marked as ongoing in subsequent activity plans to reflect the need for continuous work in this area.
Develop a comprehensive internship reporting system that enables an accurate assessment of current practices, programs, and needs	August 2025	April 2027	Completion of task <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Provost's Cabinet was briefed on this initiative. Following a Spring 2026 Internship Coordinator Luncheon, the Vice Provost for Planning and Effectiveness and the Career Development Center will jointly distribute a follow-up survey to gather comprehensive data and inform ongoing development. Departments are encouraged to direct students and internship sites to utilize Handshake. 	

Initiative 3.1.3 Develop integrated communication systems that foster collaboration with the community.

Action	Begin Date	End Date	Report on Metrics and Summaries of Progress to Date	Notes
Articulate an institutional commitment to increasing partnerships and to sharing information about partnership efforts	Summer 2025	December 2025	Completion of task Statement approved by MTSU Vice Presidents on October 21, 2025. https://www.mtsu.edu/about/partnership-commitment/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The statement is being promoted and will be publicly accessible via multiple institutional web pages.