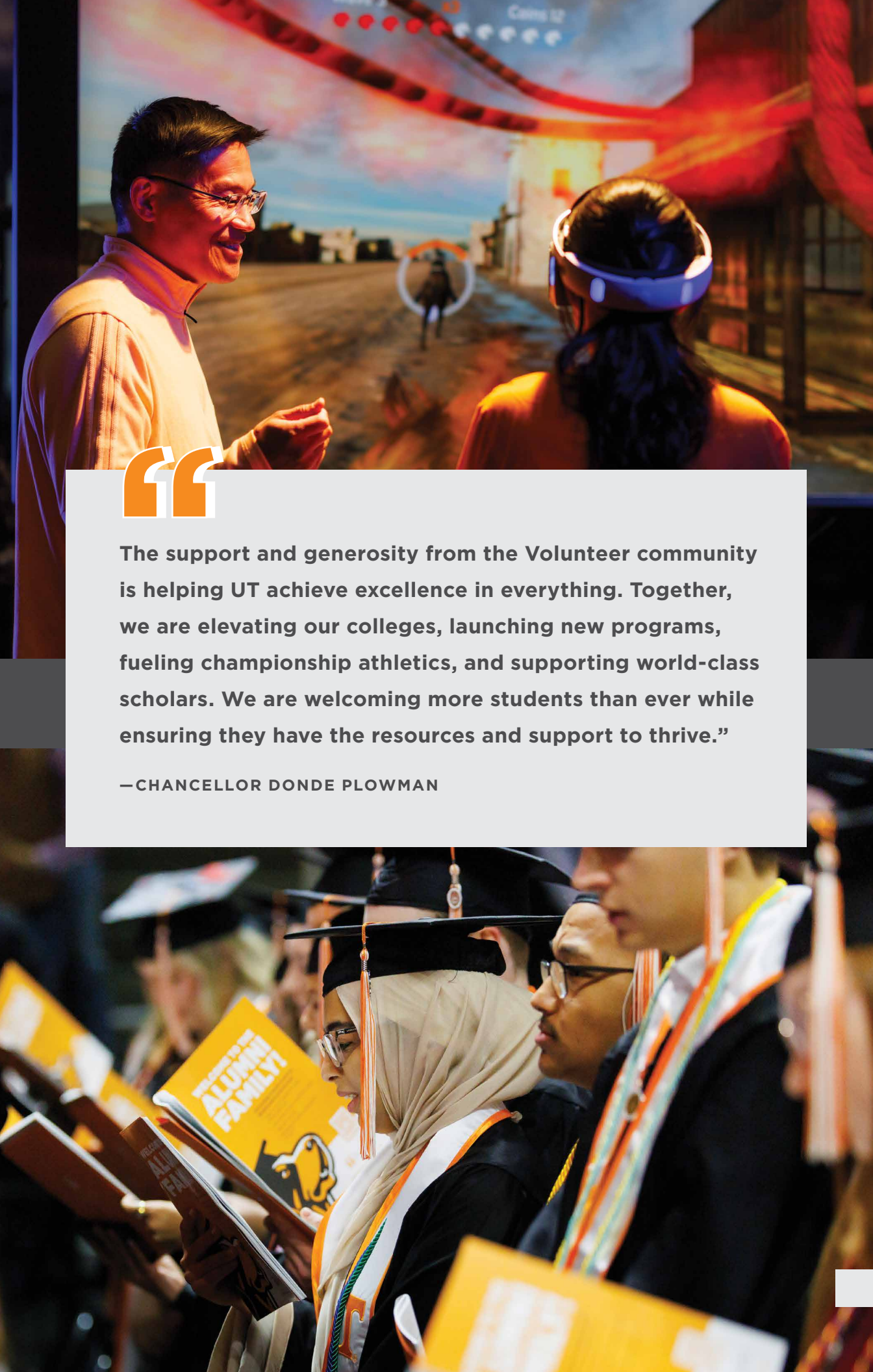




A UNIVERSITY THAT LEADS

**Together,
We Light the Way**





The support and generosity from the Volunteer community is helping UT achieve excellence in everything. Together, we are elevating our colleges, launching new programs, fueling championship athletics, and supporting world-class scholars. We are welcoming more students than ever while ensuring they have the resources and support to thrive.”

—CHANCELLOR DONDE PLOWMAN



\$428M

received from donors—the largest
total in university history

70,000+

donors helped fuel UT’s
land-grant mission

12,000+

donor-supported scholarships
awarded to UT students

\$92M

invested toward UT’s
endowment—enhancing the
Volunteer experience

\$384M

in research expenditures—helping
to solve problems important to
Tennessee and the world

VOLS LEAD THE WAY

Meet the Volunteers who are
turning your support into action.

Thanks to extraordinary supporters like you, Volunteers led the way this year—in the classroom, on the field, and across campus.

Through your generosity, you demonstrate your belief in every Vol and in UT's mission. From meeting essential student needs to fueling world-class academics and championship-level athletics, your belief is changing lives and shaping leaders.



Donors are from
**ALL 50 STATES
AND 24
COUNTRIES**



2,500+

UT seniors gave more than
\$29,000 as part of
Senior Impact in honor of
their time on Rocky Top

UT's First Churchill Scholar Sets Sights on Global Medical Impact

A UT Torchbearer and beneficiary of several scholarships, Tyler Myers ('25) has a deep understanding of donors' importance to the student experience. Myers will continue what he started at UT with his dual degree in neuroscience and microbiology as he pursues a master's degree this fall at the University of Cambridge through a Churchill Scholarship. This will further his goal of leading a medical research lab focused on the gut microbiome and new interventions for neurological diseases like Parkinson's.



It's not just opportunities that donors enable, it's knowing there are people invested in my success. That's the intangible value garnered from alumni and donor support. It gives me a sense of responsibility. I've been charged to be my best self and take advantage of every opportunity. It's an invitation to put myself outside my comfort zone, to try new things. Having that moral support through scholarships and activities that donors give has been priceless."

—TYLER MYERS ('25)

Because you lead, they lead.

Shaping the Future of Public Service

The Baker School of Public Policy and Public Affairs launched the Baker Scholars Program in October 2024, preparing the next generation of leaders for impactful careers in government, public service, and civic engagement. **Founding donors, who gave \$3 million to support the program's four-year scholarships, include notable Tennesseans** with impact in public policy, public service, philanthropy, and education: Al Gore, Lamar Alexander, Natalie L. Haslam, James A. Haslam II, Heath and Nikol Shuler, and Bill and Fran Powers.

Wilson Family Fuels Communications Leadership

The new Alan and Wendy Wilson Communication and Leadership Academy—housed in the College of Communication and Information in partnership with the Haslam College of Business—**equips students with essential skills in communication and leadership to thrive in today's competitive professional landscape.** The Wilson Academy was made possible through a gift from Alan ('80) and Wendy Wilson.

Celebrating UT's Newest Named Colleges

The **Natalie L. Haslam College of Music** was named in June 2024, and in May 2025, UT recognized the **Winston College of Law**, named through a transformative gift from the Bill Gatton Foundation honoring law alumnus Frank Winston. This gift positions the college—the university's fifth named college—to competitively recruit top students who will lead in the classroom, the community, and the legal profession.



UT celebrated the
**NAMING OF
TWO COLLEGES**
in less than one year.



Leading Excellence in Tennessee Athletics

Danny White became the first Vice Chancellor and Director of Athletics at UT to be **named Athletic Director of the Year** by *Sports Business Journal*. Since White arrived in 2021, **Tennessee Athletics has seen historic momentum**, including consecutive top-10 LEARFIELD Directors' Cup standings, consecutive SEC All-Sports titles, and multiple post-season victories, most notably the baseball team's first national championship in 2024.

Faculty and Staff Step Up for Students in Need

This year, 3,677 faculty and staff donors contributed more than \$2.1 million to areas across campus, but the **Center for Basic Needs houses two areas that received some of this year's largest faculty-staff support**: the Big Orange Pantry, which addresses food insecurity on campus, and the Basic Needs Emergency Fund, which provides financial assistance for students in need.



6TH
in the nation in the
LEARFIELD Director's Cup,
achieving Tennessee's
third consecutive
top-10 finish

ENRICHING STUDENTS' LIVES

Your generosity helps Vols succeed, both in and outside the classroom.

More Volunteers than ever are able to attend UT—and thrive once they arrive—because of you. Your generosity expands access to scholarships, launches innovative academic programs that prepare students for Tennessee's future workforce, and fuels hands-on learning and student success initiatives.

Your investment in student success is driving national recognition across higher education. From being named the top public university in Tennessee and one of the nation's best employers for new graduates by *Forbes* magazine, to earning top rankings in nursing, engineering, and supply chain management, UT is recognized for academic excellence, career readiness, and student support.

You are helping students realize lifelong dreams, changing the trajectory of entire families and communities, and launching careers that will improve lives across Tennessee and around the world.

6.7%
increase in enrollment
growth since last academic
year—an institutional record

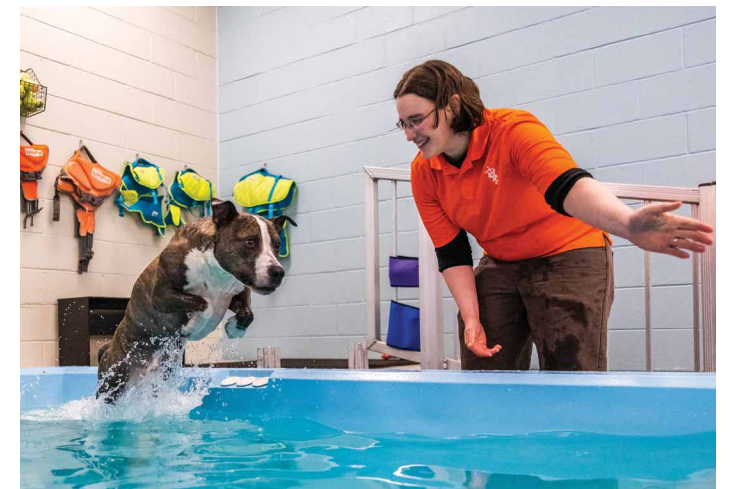
UT was awarded a
**SILVER
RANKING**
as a Military
Friendly® School

91.9%
record retention rate of
first-year students for the
second straight year



Donor support makes it possible for me to chase my passions at UT. I hope to one day become a veterinarian, work in my hometown, and aid those who struggle with caring for their pets.”

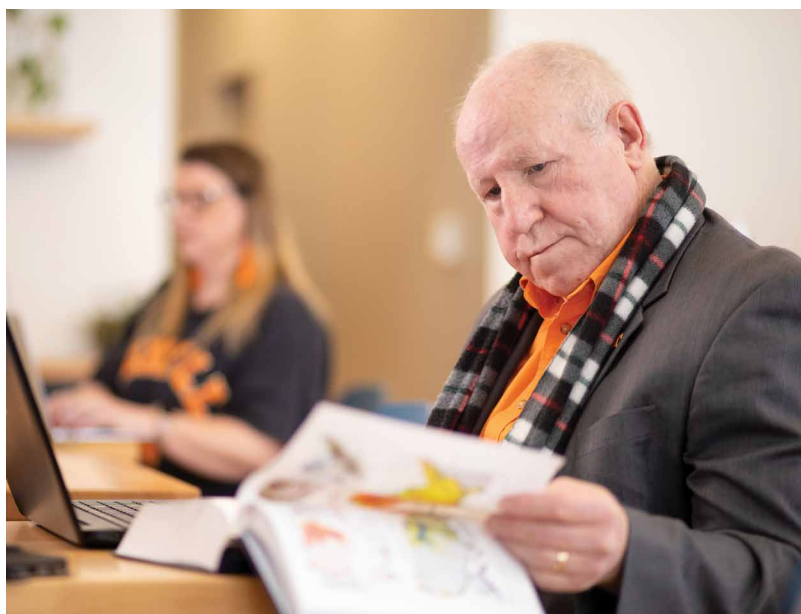
—SIERRA STANCIL ('25)





Donors make a huge difference. Last year we had 27,000 student contacts in the Writing Center, up from 16,000 since Judi Herbert ('63) and her late husband, Jim ('62), named the center in 2017. Their support expanded our ability to reach more students where they are with targeted support through new services and satellite locations across campus. The impact of this expansion shows in the feedback. We survey students after every interaction, and 95 percent say they're more confident as writers and want to return for more tutoring."

—KIRSTEN BENSON, DIRECTOR OF THE JUDITH ANDERSON HERBERT WRITING CENTER



ALL

16 Tennessee sports
earned a team GPA
above 3.00, for the fifth
consecutive semester

ENRICHING STUDENTS' LIVES

A New Degree for a Changing World

The College of Emerging and Collaborative Studies (CECS) is **a first-of-its-kind hub for collaboration, innovation, and hands-on learning**. By bringing together expertise from across campus and partnering with industry leaders, CECS equips students with in-demand skills and access to emerging technologies. Its new Master of Science degree in sustainability reflects that mission—preparing graduates to meet the growing demand for sustainability professionals. The program's flexible design allows students to tailor their degree to their professional goals, making it as adaptable as the future it's designed to serve.

Responding to the Need for Online Learning

In spring 2025, UT and Arizona State University celebrated a new partnership to expand access to high-quality academic programs through online learning—advancing workforce readiness, educational opportunity, and economic vitality in both states.

ADAPTING TO THE NEEDS OF OUR STUDENTS

New facilities are being designed to help students find their place in the Volunteer family and meet the needs of their future careers. Students are finding community, gaining relevant experience in classrooms and labs, and working in spaces equipped to carry them into their professional lives.

Agricultural and Natural
Resources Building

Poplar Hall

Beacon Hall

Chemistry
Building

Haslam College of
Business Building

Student Services
Building

Jenny Boyd
Theatre

Torchbearer Hall

Lindsey Nelson
Stadium

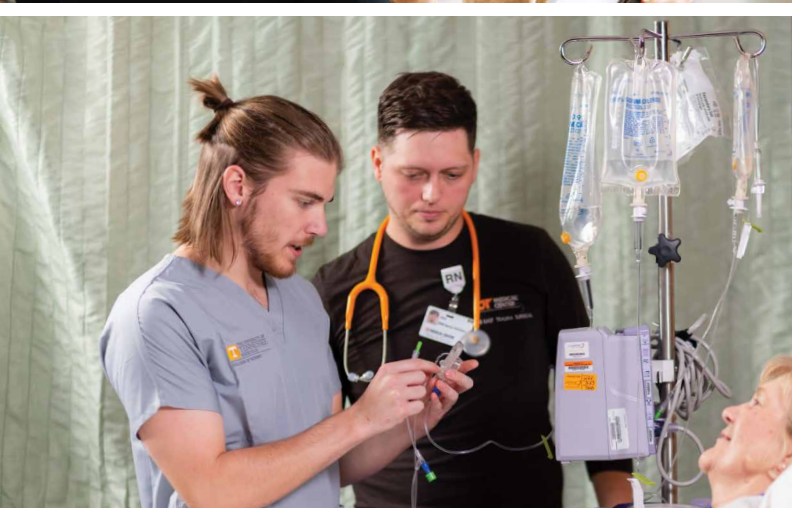
UT Medical
Nursing Building

Neyland Stadium


“

Student Life is not just about hosting events—it’s about fostering an environment where every student has the opportunity to learn, lead, and serve. Continuous innovation and a commitment to the success of every student enriches the campus experience, turning Rocky Top into a destination campus where all Vols can thrive.”

—FRANK CUEVAS, VICE CHANCELLOR
FOR THE DIVISION OF STUDENT LIFE



74%
of UT students graduate
in six years, marking the
fourth consecutive year of
improvement in six-year
graduation rates



UT was named a
**FULBRIGHT TOP
PRODUCING
INSTITUTION**
for the seventh
consecutive year

More than
90%
of 2024 student scholars
reported positive career
outcomes after graduation

ENRICHING STUDENTS' LIVES

Vols succeed because of your generosity.

UT is nationally regarded for its impact on student well-being and academic health, contributing to an impressive increase in growth and retention.

Supporting Student Veterans

A generous donation from John ('70) and Debbie Grubb is strengthening support for student veterans by **expanding scholarships, enhancing research and instructional resources, and increasing public service opportunities**—reinforcing the university's commitment to veteran success and community.

Equipping Vols for What Comes Next

Vol Edge is an innovative career readiness program that equips students with essential skills and transformative experiences to confidently pursue their professional goals and succeed beyond graduation.

A New Generation of Nurses

The first 40 graduates of the Nursing Scholars Program are starting careers at UT Medical Center, helping to address nursing shortages through hands-on training and a strong academic-practice partnership.

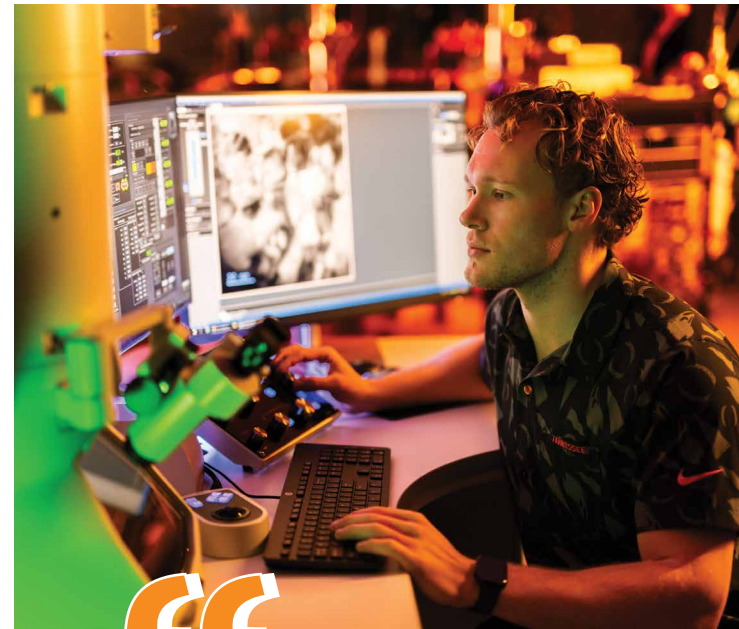
TENNESSEE THRIVES BECAUSE UT LEADS

You advance our mission as a
land-grant university to make life
and lives better in Tennessee.

Year after year, UT's research enterprise continues to grow—fueled by faculty and students who are producing life-changing discoveries with real impact. Your support amplifies that impact in powerful ways.

With a bold, multidisciplinary vision, UT is tackling today's most complex challenges—from advancing cancer treatment to developing next-generation energy solutions. Thanks to external partnerships and the generosity of donors like you, faculty and students have access to professorships, research funds, and awards that make discovery possible.

Together, we're building solutions for Tennessee—and for communities around the world.



UT researchers and their partners are doing cutting-edge research that strengthens the Tennessee economy and addresses the needs of Tennessee communities. Because of our land-grant mission, we are committed to making life and lives better here in Tennessee and around the world through our research and innovation.”

—DEBORAH CRAWFORD, VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH,
INNOVATION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



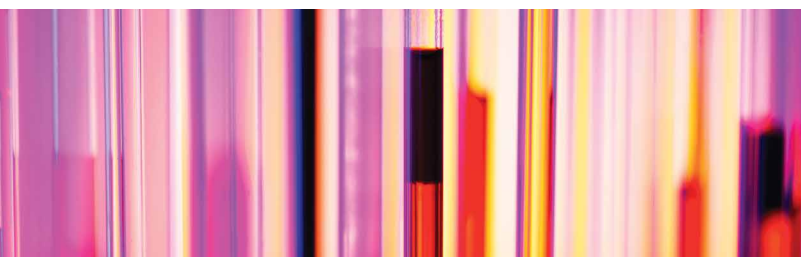
UT research
expenditures grew by
\$50M
since 2023





Two engineering professors were named
FELLOWS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INVENTORS

The highest professional distinction awarded solely to inventors



Four faculty members elected as
2024 FELLOWS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

A lifetime appointment awarded annually by their peers on the AAAS Council in recognition of their extraordinary achievements



Fueling Breakthroughs in Nuclear Innovation and National Defense

UT and Consolidated Nuclear Security, the supervising entity for the Y-12 National Security Complex, will collaborate on efforts that benefit nuclear energy and nuclear deterrence. A new agreement between the two provides for development of the National Security Prototype Center, which will leverage UT's expertise in fields from manufacturing to advanced materials to nuclear energy to produce solutions in complex manufacturing for nuclear-related industries vital to national security.

TENNESSEE THRIVES BECAUSE UT LEADS

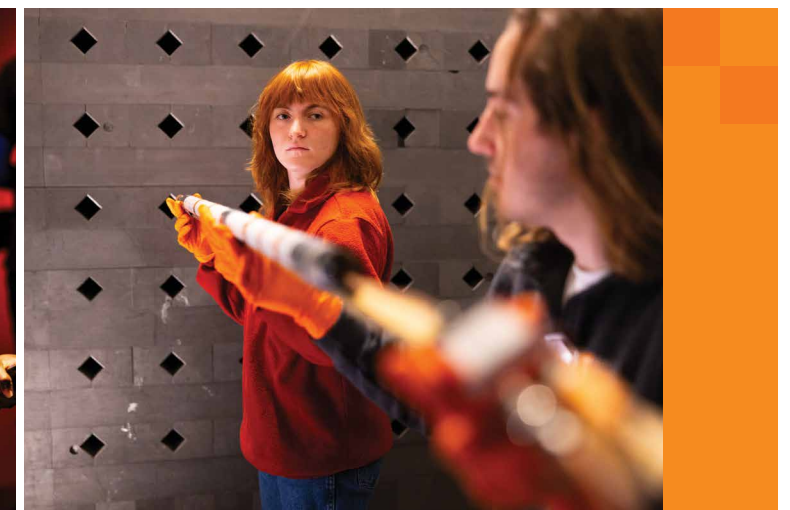
Tackling Tennessee's Toughest Challenges

Bridget Freisthler, Cooper-Herron Endowed Professor in Mental Health at the College of Social Work, presented her research at the UT Grand Challenges Summit, which brings together community leaders, state officials, and scholars from across the UT System to discuss the biggest concerns of the state. That includes fatal overdose, which Freisthler has researched extensively, most recently as one of the principal investigators for the largest federally funded intervention study on opioid overdose deaths.



This is not a problem that any one profession can handle alone. And that's part of what attracted me to UT. It was a big deal to see that the college already had connections and to know that all these groups were open to collaboration. And the offer of a professorship assured me that there would be funding to support the work I do with study participants. This truly allows us to accelerate our work together with the goal to reduce the problems faced by their community."

—BRIDGET FREISTHLER, COOPER-HERRON ENDOWED PROFESSOR IN MENTAL HEALTH AT THE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK



TENNESSEE THRIVES BECAUSE UT LEADS

Your support fuels discoveries that transform lives.

UT Leads FIFA Turf Innovation

UT faculty are leading turfgrass solutions on the world stage. In collaboration with Michigan State University, UT is producing pitches for FIFA, including the first-ever FIFA Club World Cup, that provide seamless player performance across climates and stadiums. Earlier this year, FIFA President Gianni Infantino visited UT's research facilities at the UT Institute of Agriculture to thank the university and faculty leading turf development for FIFA tournaments. UT's pitch-perfect innovations also appeared this past summer on the *Today Show*.

Speeding Up Life-Saving Diagnoses

The university and UT Medical Center are collaborating to revolutionize breast cancer diagnosis using AI. Faculty from electrical engineering, computer science, and nursing, together with UT Medical clinical oncology, have developed an AI system that stages breast cancer by rapidly analyzing pathology reports—reducing diagnosis time from hours to seconds. This interdisciplinary partnership aims to improve patient care and could expand to diagnosing other cancers, even predicting likelihood of recurrence.

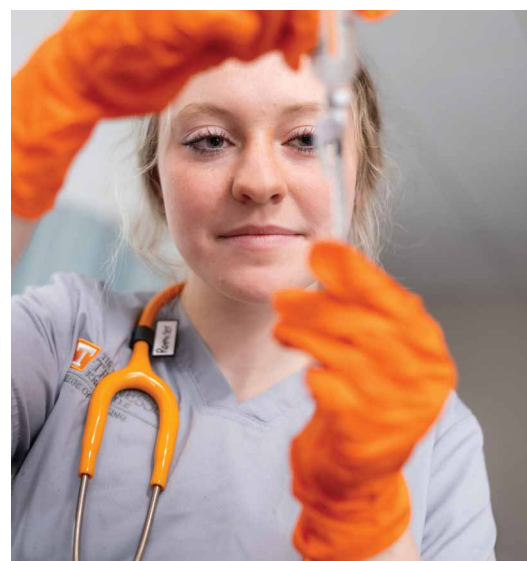
UT and Volkswagen Power the Future of Mobility

Since 2020, UT and Volkswagen Group of America have partnered through Volkswagen's presence at the UT Research Park to advance sustainable mobility and manufacturing technologies, strengthening Tennessee's role as a leader in mobility research and workforce development. With support from Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the collaboration has produced 30-plus research projects, 12 patents, and real-world innovations like wireless EV charging and recyclable vehicle materials.



7 FACULTY NAMED TO CLARIVATE'S LIST of Highly Cited Researchers

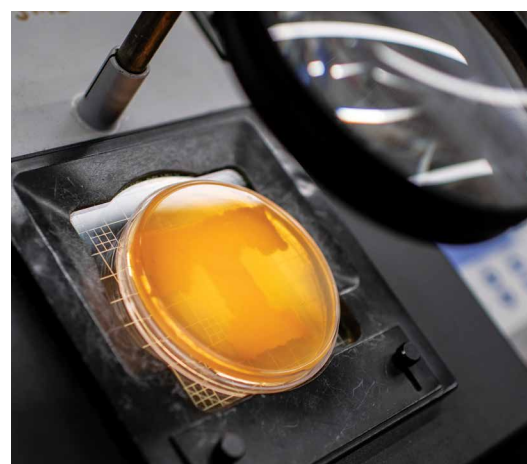
*Only 1 in 1,000 of the world's
scientists receive the honor*



AI Tennessee Initiative Turns Research Into Real-World Impact

AI Tennessee is UT's statewide endeavor, working with industry and community partners to advance AI research, education, and real-world applications across sectors like health care, agriculture, and manufacturing. One featured project, bringing together mathematicians and plastic surgeons, received a grant from AI Tennessee to develop an algorithm using AI and differential geometry to improve cleft lip surgeries by helping identify the best incision points.

AI TechX, launched in March 2025 as part of AI Tennessee, promotes university-industry collaborations by funding one-year seed projects to solve practical problems via AI, such as developing hyperspectral-imaging tools to detect respiratory disease in cattle.



TOGETHER, WE'RE RESHAPING THE FUTURE

Thank you for sharing UT's bold vision for the future—one that touches every Tennessean and reaches lives around the world. Your love for Rocky Top and for our students brings that vision to life and allows us to shape tomorrow together.

This year, donors committed \$428 million to UT. That number represents far more than a fundraising milestone. It reflects lives changed through scholarships, discoveries that advance research, championship-level athletics, and so much more. Every achievement highlighted here is possible because of you.

Your belief in the transformative power of UT—and in every Vol—pushes us to aim higher and reach new levels of excellence. Because of your support, UT is able to fulfill its land-grant mission: to strengthen Tennessee communities, fuel economic growth, prepare graduates to meet workforce needs, and spark innovations that make life better than before.

With your commitment to light the way, UT will continue to lead—for our students, for our state, and for all whose lives are touched by the Volunteer spirit.



BRIAN BROYLES,
SENIOR VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ADVANCEMENT





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Knoxville, TN 37996
giving.utk.edu

gratitude.

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