



1. Name: **Molly Boyd**
2. Graduation Year: **Class of 2014**
3. Favorite Outdoor Activities at UTC and in Chattanooga:
Road Biking and White-water Paddling
4. Job Title: **Program Manager**
5. What do you really do? **Facilitate a federal grant through the Tennessee Highway Safety Office. Every quarter there are expected goals and tasks that I have created within the grant, to which I aim to meet. Within these goals I teach and demonstrate bicycle and pedestrian safety. This may look like a bicycle rodeo, or may be within a classroom setting. I coordinate safety events and network within Chattanooga, the Mid-Cumberland region, and the state of Tennessee.**
6. Why did you choose HHP SLISA Outdoor Recreation as a degree program? **I loved being outside and working with my hands, which quickly turned into a love for unconventional education as I started working more in the field.**
7. What experiences helped shape you while at UTC (personally and professionally)? **Personally, I think what shaped me was coming into myself in what I believed and what I enjoyed doing. Professionally, making connections with my professors and keeping those connections after I graduated really helped. Taking risks and putting myself out there whether it was a new sport, job interview, or taking up a project. Through all of it, I learned a lot about myself, had**

fun, and met some awesome people in the process. Take the time to make connections and take risks, you never know where it might lead you.

8. What do you wish you had known/done while you were at UTC to prepare for the profession? I



wish I had volunteered more and gotten to know more of the Chattanoogaans that also have a heart for outdoor activities and advocacy. I think if I had done this

sooner, I would have had an easier time making connections within my job.

9. What kinds of things should someone do if they wanted to get your job? (Be honest about where they should invest their time – getting certifications, making connections, volunteering, academic achievement, etc.) **Learning how to write grants helps. For my job specifically, teaching bicycle and pedestrian safety, it helps to start volunteering or working somewhere that advocates safe cycling or teaching cycling skills to youth. Interning for my program and/or volunteering at the bike co-op would be a good place to start. I got my League of American Cycling Instructor Certification (LCI) teaching the Leagues curriculum. One could also start by joining road group rides around town.**

10. What are the challenges and blessings of being in this profession? What frustrates you and



what keeps you there?

I am super blessed to have the Chief of Police in Collegedale as my boss, and my grant manager in THSO is wonderful. It makes such a difference when you have people that support and believe in your cause and want to expand it.

Challenges would be the red tape of the government in what we can spend and do with our program. Collaborating with the Hamilton County school system can be a bit frustrating. Another frustration is when you bring bikes to an organization or school and the children abuse the bikes, but the worth come out of it when a child has no idea how to ride a bike and at the end of the class he or she is riding with full balance. I enjoy the feeling that even though I might not see it firsthand, I am developing the safety and health of a child's future.