



Learning and Leadership are indispensable to each another.

- John F. Kennedy

The challenge of leadership is to be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but not bully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble but not timid; be proud, but not arrogant; have humor, but without folly.

- Jim Rohn

The multidisciplinary [UTC LEAD programs](#) are designed to equip participants with an understanding of the relationship that learning and leadership play in the instructional process; develop reflective practitioners in a variety of organizations/institutions; and focus on the interwoven nature of leadership, decision-making, and learning; emphasizing the proficiency that individuals will need as they pursue the challenges of organizational change and/or ever-changing instructional processes and practices.

Alumni Spotlight: History in the Making



During the UTC Graduate School commencement ceremony in December 2023, Dr. Darwin “Tony” Galloway received a Doctorate in Education: Learning and Leadership degree and was hooded by one of his former high school history students, Dr. Elizabeth Crawford. Dr. Crawford taught a number of Dr. Galloway’s doctoral courses

and served as chair of his dissertation research committee. Dr. Galloway expressed gratitude for Dr. Crawford’s coaching and encouragement and humbly reflected on the LEAD experience by sharing, “It’s like the crown on top of years of working in education. I’m not going to say, ‘I’m a doctor.’ I’m just a learner. I see myself as an enabler to help students learn their history; that’s what I want to continue doing.” Congratulations to Drs. Galloway and Crawford for your shared commitment to [lifelong learning](#)!

Summer 2024 EdD/PhD Application Deadline

We are currently accepting applications to our Summer 2024 PhD and EdD cohorts. If your friends or colleagues with a Master’s degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution are interested in pursuing their terminal degree in leadership at UTC, we encourage them to [apply](#) or to reach out for more information. New cohorts are admitted in Summer only. All application materials must be submitted by **February 29**. For additional information regarding current LEAD program offerings, please visit www.utc.edu/lead. If you have any questions, please contact our LEAD team at utclead@utc.edu.



LEAD Participant/Candidate News

- In September 2023, **Layne Bryant** was promoted to Assistant Vice Provost for Institutional Accreditation at MTSU.
- **Becky Willis**, Dyer County 4-H Agent, received an award for 25 plus years of service at the National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals in Madison Wisconsin in 2022. Her twin daughters, Allison and Ashlyn, both graduated from college in May 2023.
- UTC Assistant Vice Chancellor of Alumni Affairs, **Jeff Cogburn**, is excited to be a member of the 2024 class of Leadership Chattanooga.
- After just one semester in the LEAD program, **Bethany Taylor** is pleased to share that she has been promoted to Director of Clinical Services with CHI Memorial Health at Home.
- **Tambra Sweet-Hayes**, School Counselor at York Institute, and her family welcomed their first baby, Chevelle, in June.
- **Chris Atkins**, Employee Experience Strategist with the U.S. Department of State, was recently permanently appointed into the role of Chief, Behavioral Health at the TN Army National Guard and was selected for promotion to the rank of Colonel/O-6 by the Department of the Army.
- **Courtney Boren** was promoted to assistant professor at Walters State Community College last summer and has begun an adjunct professor position teaching psychosocial and mental health occupational therapy in the ETSU OTD program. Courtney is also serving as a capstone mentor for the LMU OTD program in spring 2024.
- **Walter Battle**, UT Area Specialist, has been appointed to USDA Forestry Service - Land Between the Lakes Advisory Board
- In August 2023, **Jennifer Herrett-Skjellum** joined [LaunchTN](#) as a University Advisor for a pilot program funded by the state called the TN Technology Advancement Consortium. In this role, Jennifer works with the technology professionals from each participating institution to help catalyze research commercialization outcomes and streamline technology transfer processes.
- Congratulations to **Lexi King**, Associate Director of College Counseling at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School, on her wedding in Chattanooga, TN, in December 2023.
- As of the 2023-2024 academic year, **Cecily Honeycutt** will be serving as the director of the Harris-Stanford Honors Program at The Baylor School. In January 2024, Cecily was recognized as one of the 2024 Impact Educators by Morehead-Cain. “The [Impact Educator](#) initiative celebrates K–12 educators from around the world who are shaping tomorrow’s leaders.”



LEAD Alumni News

- **Dr. Amy Greear** is pleased to share that the Mountain Empire Community College Foundation just completed a 50th anniversary campaign which resulted in raising \$8.1M in funding and the launch of the MECC Promise Program which will provide full tuition assistance to every high school graduate beginning with the class of 2023 in the far southwest VA region.
- **Dr. Reginald Cooper**, Underwriting Consultant at BCBST, has been selected as a member of the 2024 class of Leadership Chattanooga. Dr. Cooper and his family also welcomed a second child in November.
- **Dr. Cindy Williamson** currently serves as Director of the new Office of Accreditation and Assessment at UTC. Using data-informed decision-making, OAA guides assessment processes that create accountability for the achievement of goals for all units including learning/institutional outcomes, academic program reviews, and data collection (THEC funding & SACSCOC accreditation).
- **Dr. John Harbison** has been promoted to Full Professor of Practice in the UTC LEAD programs.
- In December 2023, **Dr. Jody Love** retired from Chattanooga State after 30 years as Director of Sonography Programs and now serves as Chief Learning Officer with the Ascending Group, a financial education firm. Dr. Loves continues to appreciate the advanced research skills developed in LEAD when comparing the very best solutions towards enhanced client recommendations.
- **Dr. Gerald “Gerry” Stark** received the Hamontree Business Education Award at American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association national meeting in Indianapolis for the lecture “Clinical Quality Improvement as a Foundational Business Strategy.”
- **Dr. Jackie Johnson**, Asst. Vice Chancellor of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving at UT Foundation - UTM Alumni, was chosen as one of the 24 executives from campuses and institutes across the University of Tennessee System to make up the 2024 class of the Executive Leadership Institute.
- In November 2023, **Dr. Joyce McPherson** gave a lecture on George MacDonald at Corpus Christi College in Oxford, UK, presenting on MacDonald's impact on C.S. Lewis at Ulster University, during the annual C.S. Lewis Symposium. Her newest biography of MacDonald was released last year.

Keep in Touch!

If you have any professional updates or news to share, we'd love to hear from you! Please visit the following survey link:

[Learning and Leadership Update Survey](#)

