



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE

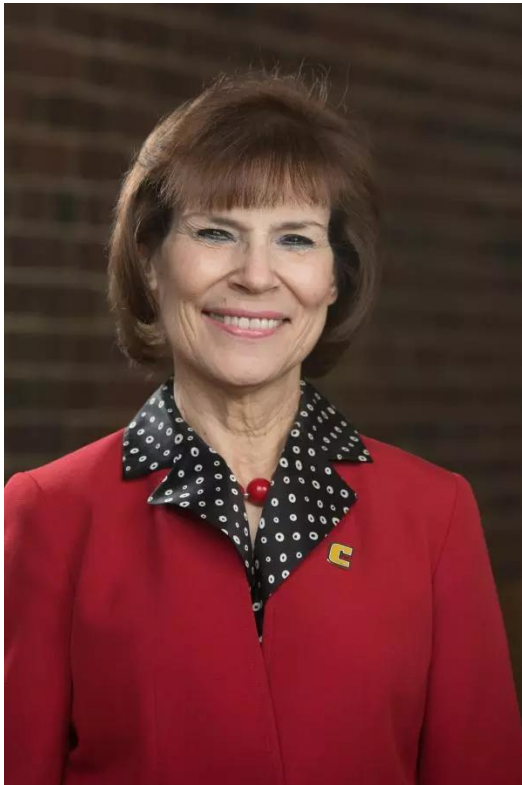
CHATTANOOGA

COLLEGE OF HEALTH, EDUCATION
& PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

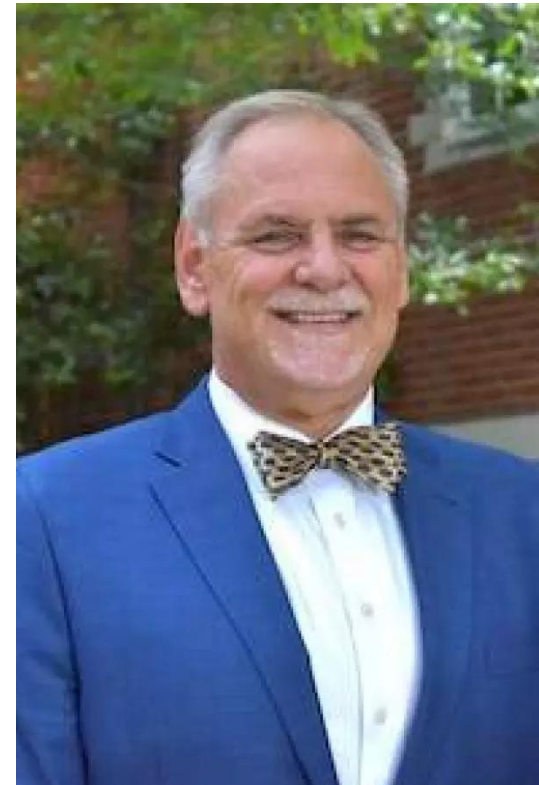
AWARDS
2025

Bridges Beyond the Classroom

Dean Valerie C. Rutledge



Associate Dean David Rausch



CHEPS DEPARTMENT HEADS

Director of Strategic Partnerships, CEIE
Dr. Allen Pratt



Director of School of Education
Dr. Kim O'Kelley Wingate



UC Foundation Professor and Director, School of Nursing;
Chief Health Affairs Officer, EMSA
Dr. Chris Smith



UC Foundation Professor, Physical Therapy Department Head, Interim
Department Head, Occupational Therapy, Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the
American Physical Therapy Association, Board Certified Specialist in Neurologic
Physical Therapy Emeritus
Dr. Nancy Fell



UC Foundation Professor, SPS Director, Interim School
Psychology Program Director
Dr. Elizabeth O'Brien



HHP Department Head
Dr. Eric Hungenberg



UC Foundation Professor & Department Head
Applied Leadership and Learning/Programs Advisor
Dr. Beth Crawford



Patriot Award

- **Dr. Chris Smith has been awarded the Patriot Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)**



Outstanding Teaching Award

June Hanks



Dr. Hanks is the primary instructor for Human Gross Anatomy, where she excels in planning, revising, and delivering high-quality instruction. Her adaptability and commitment to student learning were particularly evident recently when cadavers were unavailable for dissection. Rather than allowing this challenge to hinder student learning, she revised the course structure, optimizing lab rotations and integrating resources like the Visible Body app to ensure students still gained this valuable anatomical knowledge. Dr. Hanks' ability to navigate challenges while maintaining high instructional standards highlights her ingenuity and dedication to student success.

As an instructor, Dr. Hanks brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm to the classroom. Her ability to engage students in both theoretical and practical learning is unparalleled. She consistently creates an inclusive and dynamic learning environment where students feel empowered to ask questions and excel. Dr. Hanks uses innovative teaching methods that blend traditional lectures with hands-on experiences, ensuring that students are not only well-versed in the academic content but also confident in applying their knowledge in clinical settings. What stands out most about Dr. Hanks is her genuine care for her students. She takes the time to understand their learning styles and adapts her teaching to meet their needs. Whether through one-on-one guidance during lab sessions or by offering additional resources outside of class, she goes above and beyond to ensure every student succeeds.

Outstanding Advising Award

Jessica Hackathorne



Dr. Hackathorne is deeply committed to student success, particularly in challenging courses such as Human Anatomy and Neuroscience. She is highly accessible to students, offering course-specific guidance, material reviews, and study strategies. Her advising approach is individualized, ensuring that each student receives the support they need to succeed. Beyond her course-related mentorship, she carries a caseload of student advisees across all three OTD cohorts, meeting with each student at least once per semester and often more frequently. Her guidance extends beyond Academics to include professional development and interpersonal skills, demonstrating her commitment to student growth.

In addition to academic advising, Dr. Hackathorne has served as the faculty advisor for the UTC OTD Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) for many years. In this role, she provides valuable advisement on fundraising, community service, budgeting, and professionalism. She fosters student leadership by allowing SOTA members to shape the organization while ensuring adherence to institutional policies and procedures. Her involvement has strengthened the student organization, providing members with meaningful opportunities for professional development and community engagement.

Additionally, she often supports students by conducting cadaver-based exam preparation sessions—often held on weekends and evenings, to ensure students are provided with every opportunity to advance their understanding. Beyond the classroom, Dr. Hackathorne provides individualized tutoring and advisement for struggling students, ensuring they receive the support needed to succeed.

Outstanding Research/Scholarship Award

Betsy Myers



In 2024, Dr. Myers' research productivity was exceptional with the publication of 3 manuscripts, 2 peer-reviewed research poster presentations, and a peer-reviewed professional presentation. Additionally, she wrote and gained UTC Institutional Review Board approval to conduct 2 studies with students and other faculty and received a grant for the Mocs Wellness Initiative in which she is studying the impact of exercise, nutrition and mental health on participants.

Not only has she published! her research, Dr. Myers has also presented 2 poster presentations (with published abstracts) at the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) National Conference. She also conducted a peer-reviewed professional presentation at the APTA-Tennessee Spring 2024 meeting on strengthening the therapeutic alliance (between patients and therapists).

In addition, in 2024 Dr. Myers negotiated and signed the contract for an update of her textbook Myers B, Hanks J, eds. Management of Common Musculoskeletal Disorders: Physical Therapy Principles and Methods. 5th ed. Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer. 2023. She has created the outline for necessary revisions to include recently published clinical practice guidelines and developed the plan to make the textbook and resources entirely digital.

Outstanding Service/Outreach Award

Kristi Wick

Dr. Wick's exceptional dedication to community service and outreach has made a profound impact on public health in Tennessee, particularly among older adults and their caregivers. Dr. Wick received \$1.5 million from the Tennessee Department of Health to empower, educate, and support faith and religious leaders and volunteers as they serve older adults and caregivers in their congregations and communities. Dr. Wick served as a co-primary investigator of the INDEED program with faculty and administrative support from the University of Tennessee Chattanooga. With assistance from key core partners, the INDEED team has conducted open house, workshops, community events, and online learning opportunities statewide. To date, over 3,000 individuals from more than 400 unique churches (representing 11 denominations) and synagogues have participated in INDEED programs. This extensive outreach has significantly impacted public health by educating and supporting community leaders who are instrumental in creating a dementia-friendly infrastructure in Tennessee. This outreach would not have been possible without leadership from Dr. Kristi Wick.

Launched in January 2025! and sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Health through a \$2.6 million grant, the ROAD MAP initiative will provide care to vulnerable older adults and caregivers in rural southeast Tennessee through an interprofessional mobile health unit. By partnering with senior centers, local health departments, and community stakeholders, faculty and students will deliver primary care, social services, occupational therapy, nutrition, and public health programs to support older adults and caregivers in aging in place. The mobile health unit has gone through an extensive design process and is scheduled to arrive on campus in March 2025.



Outstanding Grantsmanship Award

Deborah McAllister



During the timeframe of April 2024 to March 2025, Dr. McAllister has been the principal investigator on six grants, with four grants being new awards during this time frame. Grants provide fellowships or scholarships, and teacher professional development and classroom materials. The amount funded for the new awards is \$3,137,854. Two additional grant proposals are pending.

New grants: National Science Foundation, Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, Track 2: Graduate Yearlong Experience and! Residency for Acquiring STEM Teaching Competencies. National Science Foundation, Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Collaborative Research: Measuring Faculty Use of Evidence-based Classroom Practices and Identifying Perceived Obstacles to Adoption. Tennessee Space Grant Consortium: Elementary and Middle Grades STEM (\$36,666, extension for 2024-2025). Chancellor's Innovation fund: Assessing the Fidelity of AI-generated Lessons for Elementary-grades STEM Topics (\$3,420, 2Q24-2025).

Continuing grants: National Science Foundation, Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, Track I: Chattanooga STEM Education Noyce Scholarship Program Georgia Space Grant Consortium/Georgia Tech.: Inspiring NASAs Next Generation through Building, Coding, and Machine Learning Missions (NASA ML-Bots). NASA SG KIDS

Outstanding Grantsmanship Award

Amanda Hardin



Dr. Hardin has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to developing her grantsmanship skills through a consistent record of securing funding for innovative projects that address critical needs in education and mental health. Her ability to obtain external and internal funding highlights her diligence, strategic vision, and deep understanding of the grant-writing process. Notably, she has secured significant funding, including a \$500,000 grant for "The RAIL (Rural Assessment and Intervention Library) System," aimed at improving mental health resources in rural schools. Additionally, she has co-led the "Neurodivergent Education Transition (NET)" project with a grant of \$99,724 and contributed to 11 Reading The Room I Navigating Social Interactions" with a secured \$98,916 grant-both of which address vital gaps in educational and psychological services. Beyond her success in securing funding, Dr. Hardin has actively invested time and effort in grant acquisition, proposal development, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Her ability to integrate her research expertise with the practical application of funding opportunities has resulted in projects that have a lasting impact on students, educators, and communities. Furthermore, her role as Co-Principal Investigator on the proposed \$2.4 million "Behavioral Healthcare through Interprofessional Training (B-HIP)" grant underscores her ability to lead large-scale, high-impact initiatives that align with institutional and national priorities. In summary, Dr. Hardin exemplifies the spirit of the Outstanding Grantsmanship Award through her unwavering dedication to securing funding, her innovative research initiatives, and her impactful contributions to the field. Her efforts have significantly enriched the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and the broader academic and professional community.

Outstanding Clinical Partner Award

Project Gallantly Forward



The partnership between IARC and PGF began last summer through the IARC 4050 Responsive Design class. This class encourages students to develop creative solutions addressing global issues that impact public health, safety, and welfare, as well as environmental concerns. PGF's current project involves designing and building a retreat, which includes converting two 14 x 36 sheds into single cabin units with appropriate finishes, furniture, and equipment. Additionally, there is a need to design an ADA-compliant unit, remodel a bathhouse, design a bunkhouse, and develop various exterior activities such as a natural playground, agricultural area, and animal petting area.

Through this collaboration, PGF has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to fostering the intellectual growth of each student. The students engaged in this real-world project were able to develop four distinct design packages for PGF. Their research incorporated Trauma-Informed Design, Biophilia, Color Psychology, Human-Centered Design, and Inclusive Design principles. PGF has provided valuable time and constructive feedback. PGF actively participated in evaluating student performance by meeting with them on-site for initial consultations, attending mid-term reviews on campus, and returning for final presentations. PGF's partnership with IARC has been instrumental in promoting the students' professional development. The students' work was proudly displayed at PGF's annual fundraiser in December 2024.



Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award

Todd Morgan



As director of Preserve Chattanooga, Todd brings unparalleled expertise and passion to his role, enriching the Historic Preservation Minor through real-world insights and hands-on learning. His ability to bridge academic theory with professional practice inspires students and fosters a deep appreciation for the field.

Students consistently praise Professor Morgan's dedication, enthusiasm and ability to make historic preservation both accessible and engaging.

Professor Morgan's impact extends beyond the classroom, actively connecting students with Chattanooga's rich history. He not only leaves a lasting impression on his students but also helps shape future professionals who understand the importance of preserving the fabric of their communities.

Elizabeth Dalton Award

Kay Cowan

Dr. Kay Cowan concludes her 20+ year career at UTC, in addition to many years of service in K-12 education. She is regarded as a model of an education who excels in teaching, scholarship, and service. All the work she undertakes is for the betterment of the University, her alma mater. Most notably, her contributions to literacy education have supported pre-service teachers in achieving passing scores on State-required literacy assessments for teacher licensing. With the experience of publishing many articles, she has mentored new faculty in scholarly endeavors. Dr. Cowan has served on numerous department, college and University committees. I believe this award is well-deserved in recognition of an exceptional educator.



Dean Stinnett Award

Jessica Etheredge

Professor Etheredge has played a pivotal role in strengthening the Interior Architecture program by increasing its academic rigor in alignment with CIDA standards. She has provided instrumental leadership and oversight in coordinating faculty efforts for the program's CIDA reaccreditation, ensuring that an unwavering commitment to faculty development by recruiting and retaining adjunct instructors whose design expertise aligns with program needs as well as providing valuable mentorship for new faculty members.

Beyond her administrative and leadership contributions, she has gone above and beyond in her teaching responsibilities. Her commitment extends beyond the classroom, as she actively engages with the Chattanooga design community through professional boards and community projects, further strengthening the program's connections to the field.



2025 UT Alumni Outstanding Teacher Award

- **Dr. Elizabeth Hathaway**



2025 UT Alumni Public Service Award

Jessica Pierce





A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Tuesday, March 25, to mark the official launch of MobileMOC—the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga School of Nursing’s new mobile outreach health clinic designed to expand health care access for older adults and caregivers in rural Southeast Tennessee.

The launch event, which took place at the Rhea County Welcome Center in Dayton, included representatives from the Tennessee Department of Health, the Tennessee Department of Disability and Aging, regional mayors, health care leaders and UTC faculty and staff.

MobileMOC, a large custom-built vehicle equipped for mobile health delivery, was funded through a \$2.6 million grant from the Tennessee Department of Health as part of its Healthcare Resiliency Program. The clinic is the cornerstone of a grant-funded initiative titled [ROAD MAP](#) (Rural Health and Older ADult Interprofessional Mobile HeAlth Program).

Tennessee chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Awards

- Honoring Faculty Excellence: Congratulations to Dr. Nancy Fell and Dr. Stephanie Eton of UTC's Department of Physical Therapy for earning top honors from the [Tennessee chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association \(APTA\)](#). Dr. Fell, a longtime leader and advocate in the profession, received the 2025 Carol Likens Award—APTA Tennessee's highest honor. Dr. Eton, our director of residency education, was named the 2025 Outstanding Physical Therapist Educator. Both were recognized for their exceptional contributions to physical therapy practice, education and mentorship. We are proud to celebrate their well-deserved recognition and grateful for the impact they make every day on our students and our community.



Elizabeth “Beth” K. Crawford

Master of Legal Studies

Kingsport, Tennessee and Chattanooga, Tennessee

University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, BA Communications, MS Psychology

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, EdD Educational Leadership



What are your plans after graduation?

I will continue to work as a professor at UT Chattanooga in the Doctoral Programs for Leadership. I am excited to incorporate my learning from the law program into the coursework I teach, where appropriate.

Share a special memory from your time as a student at Tennessee Law.

I have truly enjoyed all of my time working on the MLS degree. The faculty have all been very good to work with and I have learned so much about the law and how it functions in our everyday lives.

What does being a graduate of Tennessee Law mean to you?

Earning my masters degree in law fulfills a lifelong dream of going to law school. At this point in my career, the JD would have been very difficult, and I was so excited when I heard that the College of Law would be offering the masters degree online.

Involvement and Accomplishments

UT Chattanooga Faculty Senate (president), UT Chattanooga 2025 Macebearer, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

Tyner Academy/UTC Future Reading Institute of Teaching, Leading and Learning

School of Education Faculty



Dr. Lynberg, Dr. Philipp and Dr. Murillo collaborated with the Department of Engineering and Biological Sciences, receiving grants to support in-service and pre-service professionals in math and science.



WELL AP Certification

IARC Big Accomplishment



Eun Young Kim
WELL AP Certification

TDOE Project Raise 2025 University Partner of the Year Amanda Hardin



UTHSC Excellence in Clinical Instruction

Professor Rachel Thomas



Outstanding SON Faculty 2024-2025



Dr. Chris Doneski



HHP Retirees

Jamey Harvey



Health and Physical Education

Charlene Schmidt



Nutrition and Dietetics

Michelle Blackwell

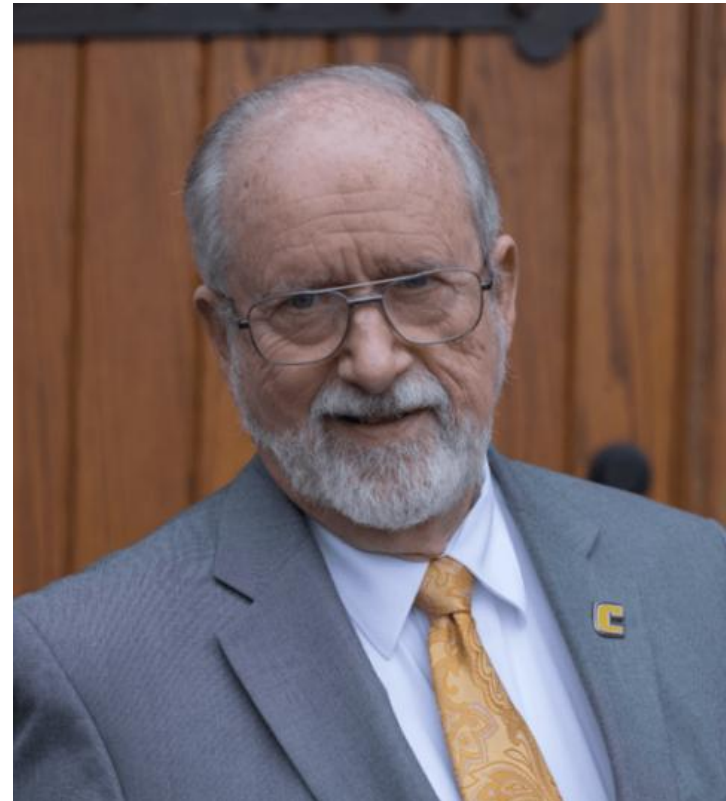


Financial Assistant - HHP

CHEPS Retiree

Dr. Jim Tucker

**McKee Chair of
Excellence &
Professor**



School of Nursing Retiree



Cherry Guinn



SOE Retirees

Kay Cowan



Billy Millican



Doris Roensch



Welcome New Faculty and Staff

School of Nursing
Dr. Kate McKinney
Professor Jeffrey Tieder
Professor Claire Allman
Dr. Garrett Salmon
Dr. Meagan Oslund
Dr. Lashon Warren
Professor Susan Rodgers
Professor Lindsey Zwart
David Thompson-Skills Lab Asst



School of Professional Studies
Beth Miller – B-HIP Grant Manager



Applied Leadership and Learning
Dr. Izetta Slade, Professor of Practice

School of Education and CEIE
Dr. Lauren Santarelli
Ashtyn Cornett
Dr. Yvette Stewart
Millibeth Currie
Katie Brown



Health and Human Performance
Dr. Youngeun Lee
Professor Victoria Norwood
Professor Hemangi Mavadiya
Dr. Joel Harden

College of Health, Education and Professional Studies

WELCOMES

Wesley Odum, Director of Advancement, CHEPS





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Thank you for all you do!

Bridges Beyond the Classroom