

CODE OF CONDUCT

Dear Participant:

Chattanooga Connect 2026, taking place September 14-16, 2026, is supported all or in part by the National Science Foundation under Award No. 2120358.

We are required by the [NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide](#) (Chapter II.E.7) to provide all event participants with information on the University's policy on sexual and other forms of harassment or sexual assault as well as directions on how to report any violations of this policy. For the purposes of this requirement, "other forms of harassment" are defined as "non-gender or non-sex-based harassment of individuals protected under federal civil rights laws, as set forth in organizational policies or codes of conduct, statutes, regulations, or executive orders."

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga is committed to creating and maintaining a community dedicated to the advancement, application, and transmission of knowledge and creative endeavors through academic excellence, where all individuals who participate in University programs and activities can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of harassment, exploitation, or intimidation.

The University of Tennessee has general policies prohibiting harassment and discrimination on the basis of protected categories, including the [UT Policy HR0280 – Sexual Harassment & Other Discriminatory Harassment](#) and the Code of Conduct for [employees](#) that apply to all UT campuses and the Code of Conduct for [students](#), which is specific to UTC. The UT Harassment & Other Discriminatory Harassment Policy defines conduct prohibited by the University of Tennessee and explains the administrative procedures the University uses to resolve reports of harassment. By participating in this conference, you agree to abide by these policies.

Responding to Harassment

The University will respond promptly and effectively to reports of harassment and will take appropriate action to prevent, correct, and when necessary and possible, discipline behavior that violates the UT Harassment & Other Discriminatory Harassment Policy.

Anyone requested to stop unacceptable behavior is expected to comply immediately. If the behavior continues, UTC staff (or their designee) or security/local police may take action deemed necessary and appropriate, including immediate removal from the event, program without warning or refund.

Any individuals, including students and employees of other institutions/entities, who violate University and project-specific policies may be prohibited from participating in University-sponsored events, research projects, conferences, workshops, and/or field projects or be subject to other remedial measures. In situations in which a student or employee of another institution/entity is alleged to have engaged in conduct in violation of University policies, the University reserves the right to notify the individual's home institution/employer.

Reporting Harassment

Event organizers, if they are employees of UTC, are mandatory reporters and have an obligation to report any allegations or observed violations of the UT Harassment & Other Discriminatory Harassment Policy to the Title IX Coordinator.

If you or someone you know has experienced harassment or other prohibited behavior, you may contact the on-duty points of contact for this conference identified below:

- On-duty point of contact: Julia Bursch; julia-bursch@utc.edu
- Alternate point of contact: Brooke Satterfield; brooke@thesatterfieldgroup.com

Please note that a report to the on-duty point of contact is **NOT** considered filing an official report/complaint with UTC.

Official reports/complaints may be filed with UTC as follows: Any person may report incidents of sexual harassment and other discriminatory harassment to appropriate officials at UTC.

- To report an incident of sexual harassment, visit UTC's [Reporting Options](#) page or file a formal complaint [here](#).
- To report harassment based on race, ethnicity, disability or other forms of discrimination, visit UTC's Office of Equity and Inclusion [webpage](#) to file a complaint.

A list of confidential resources is available [here](#) for those who have experienced sexual harassment or other discriminatory harassment in connection with a UTC event. A survivor can make use of confidential resources at any time, regardless of whether the event has been reported to the Title IX office or other authorities.

- For on- campus support, UTC students may contact **Survivor Advocacy Services** at **423-425-5648** (M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.) or the **Counseling Center** at **423-425-4438** (M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.), with emergency help available 24/7 at **(423) 425-CARE**.
- Off-campus support is available through the [Partnership for Families, Children and Adults](#) at **423-755-2700** (available 24/7).

Reports to law enforcement can be made to UTC's police department (UTCPD) for on-campus incidents or to the local department where the crime occurred. A confidential advocate can help determine which police department to contact. In an emergency, dial 911, or to reach UTCPD's emergency line call 423-425-4357 (x4357 on any campus phone). Reports to UTCPD can be made in person at 400 Palmetto St. See the UTCPD [webpage](#) for a list of additional contacts.

If you would like to report an incident of harassment involving an NSF-funded program or activity, you may contact the NSF Office of Equity and Civil Rights (OECR) at programcomplaints@nsf.gov.