Partnerships That Make a Difference

50 ways the University of Tennessee collaborates to transform both campus and community
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture have earned a joint Carnegie Community Engagement Classification for collaborating with community partners to address society’s most pressing needs.

UT is an economic engine and social change agent, both locally and across the globe. The Carnegie designation will sharpen our focus on the mutually beneficial partnerships and exchange of knowledge that improve people’s lives.

We are part of an elite group of just fifty-two universities in the “very high intensity” research classification to have earned the designation.

The community engagement classification also recognizes our strong commitment to the land-grant mission. We work with our communities to provide real-life solutions through teaching and research, including the impact of extension programs offered in all ninety-five counties in Tennessee.

We are proud to be recognized by the Carnegie Foundation and expect that our partnerships will grow and new relationships will develop as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Jimmy G. Cheek and Larry Arrington

Chancellor
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Chancellor
The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture
Partnerships That Make a Difference

Our successful 2015 Community Engagement Classification application documented an alignment of our campus mission, resources, and practices that support community engagement.

As part of our data collection process while preparing our application, we compiled a series of exemplary community partnerships that best represent authentic, two-way relationships based on mutuality and reciprocity. To do this, we called upon colleges and divisions across the UT and UT Institute of Agriculture campuses to send us their nominations.

The result is fifty partnerships that are making a difference. We used data about these exemplars throughout our application. We will continue to celebrate these individual exemplars throughout 2015 and beyond with articles that highlight each partnership’s unique contribution to our community.
Academic Health Department

This partnership establishes a formal relationship between public health practice and academia for mutual benefits in teaching, research, and application. The program provides students with field placement, internship, and service-learning opportunities, while providing faculty with practice-based research experience. The community benefits from student work that thus far has had an average estimated value of more than $130,000 per academic year. Health Department staff benefit further from opportunities to attend and present at national public health conferences, co-author journal articles, contribute to courses in the academic setting, and participate in practice-based research. Partners include the Knox County Health Department and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville’s Department of Public Health.

The Appalachia Community Health and Disaster Readiness Project

Clay County, Kentucky, was recently described by the New York Times as the “hardest place in the US to live.” Since 2013, UT and Clay County have worked together to winterize local homes, distribute and demonstrate the use of carbon monoxide monitors based on the type of heating sources many families use, conduct health surveys, assess flood damage, train hospital staff on basic and advanced disaster life support, and develop prototypes for homes. Community partners include Red Bird Mission, Manchester Memorial Hospital, and Emergency Management Services of Clay County. UT partners include the College of Nursing, the College of Architecture and Design, the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and the Law Enforcement Innovation Center.

Business Education for Talented Students

BETS is a one-week residential program designed to introduce high school students from under-represented and underserved backgrounds to various business fields. Participants develop an executive presentation, visit a local company where they shadow the professionals, interact with business students from UT, and hear presentations from various professionals on campus. BETS provides a pipeline of high-potential students from diverse backgrounds to UT and the Haslam College of Business. Community partners include the City of Knoxville, SunTrust Bank, PepsiCo Foundation, Dixon Hughes, LBMC, Ruby Tuesday, and Northshore Capital Advisors. UT partners include the Haslam College of Business, the Office of Admissions, Student Services, Financial Aid, Minority Student Affairs, and Career Services.

Archeological Research Laboratory

The nonprofit ARL is a consulting and research unit dedicated to the conduct of high quality and timely work for government agencies and private entities while providing hands-on learning opportunities for students, educators, and the public. The lab provides technical assistance, educational media, and professional development opportunities for practicing archaeologists. Faculty, staff, and students help state agencies and businesses identify potential historical remains at building sites and assist with developing museum exhibits. External partners include government agencies such as the Tennessee Department of Transportation and the Tennessee Valley Authority, as well as companies doing excavation and museums preparing exhibits. UT partners include the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of Anthropology, UT Institute of Agriculture, UT Chattanooga, UT Martin, and the McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture.
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Biology in a Box
Biology in a Box was developed to meet school curriculum goals in partnership with K–12 science, technology, engineering, and math teachers. The program was created in response to a perceived need for supplementary classroom resources in East Tennessee schools. The teacher acts as a facilitator in exploring box contents with students, who then complete exercises to reinforce math and science skills. Multiple academic publications/presentations have been published as a result of this program, while Biology in a Box has distributed a wide variety of grade-appropriate exercises and reusable materials to hundreds of schools, reinforcing math in biological contexts. In addition to its physical presence in hundreds of schools in Tennessee and neighboring states, Biology in a Box now further provides web access worldwide. Community partners include 101 Tennessee school districts, four school systems in adjacent states (Kentucky, North Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia), and Georgia Tech University. UT partners include the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS), and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature
Tennessee’s only Center for Children’s and Young Adult Literature works to promote the use of literature in the education and lives of children and young adults by providing workshops for teachers and librarians and sponsoring public talks by authors and illustrators. Publishers of children’s and young adult books place review copies of their most recently published books in the center, where they are available for study by librarians, students, teachers, and the public. UT students and faculty have access to a large noncirculating collection of quality children and young adult literature, along with extensive programming, presentations, and a graduate teaching assistantship associated with the center. Community partners include Knox County Public Library, Webb School of Knoxville, Oak Ridge Public Schools, Athens City Schools, Maryville City Schools, East Tennessee History Society Project, and the Clinch-Powell Educational Cooperative. UT partners include the School of Information Sciences; University Libraries; the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences; and the University Bookstore.

Center for Transportation Research
CTR serves the transportation research, planning, economic forecasting, and continuing education needs of state and local agencies, businesses, and industry throughout the country. The interdisciplinary center also provides research opportunities for hundreds of graduate and undergraduate students. CTR has a social business enterprise program that works with community agencies to meet the needs of transportation-disadvantaged citizens, partners with schools to develop teacher training and transportation-themed STEM curricula, and operates a summer Transportation Academy for seventh- and eighth-grade girls. National partners include the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Motor Carrier Administration, National Highway Institute, US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies. State partners include Tennessee state governments and industry, Law Enforcement Liaisons, Oak Ridge National Laboratories, the National Transportation Research Center, the Tennessee Department of Transportation, and the Governor’s Highway Safety Office. Local partners include Tennessee local governments and industry and Knox County Schools. Higher education partners include the Council of University Transportation Centers; the Southeastern Transportation Center; the NURail Research Consortium; Beijing Jiaotong Transportation University, China; and Tongji University, China. UT Partners include the Haslam College of Business; the College of Engineering; the College of Arts and Sciences; the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences; as well as the UT Departments of Geography, Food Science, and Technology, and Marketing and Supply Chain Management.
Partnerships That Make a Difference

Child Support Employment and Parenting Program (CSEPP) and Tennessee Child Support Employment and Parenting Program (TCSEPP)

Navigating the child support system while looking for a job and establishing a healthy and strong relationship with their children is difficult for some parents. CSEPP (est. 2004) supports noncustodial parents in Knox County who are seriously interested in finding and maintaining employment and developing strong relationships with their children. TCSEPP (est. 2008) extends the reach of the original program for parents in Sevier, Grainger, Cocke, and Jefferson counties. Both programs empower and encourage people to reach their full potential while implementing services to meet the needs of the community. In addition, the program helps develop partnerships with other community agencies. Community partners include Young Williams Child Support Services, Tennessee Department of Human Services, Tennessee Career Center, and the Tennessee Department of Human Resources Judicial District 6 Regional Office. UT partners include the College of Social Work and the Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS). These programs are funded through a grant administered by the Tennessee Department of Human Services and the University of Tennessee.

Centro Hispano and UT

A broad-reaching partnership connects Centro Hispano to many UT colleges and departments. Centro Hispano de East Tennessee is a community center developed by the Latino Task Force and its umbrella organization, the Community Economic Development Network of East Tennessee, and serves as a gathering place for the growing Hispanic population in our community. UT’s partnership with Centro Hispano offers undergraduates with advanced-level Spanish the opportunity to apply their language skills outside of the classroom in community programs designed to serve the needs of many Hispanics. Centro Hispano has enabled undergraduates and other UT students to make a stronger connection between their formal education and their role as a socially responsible citizen. It is a mutually beneficial arrangement—students receive training and experience that enhance their professional skills in an increasingly bilingual country, while the local Hispanic community benefits from essential services that are not easily accessible to non-English speakers and new arrivals in our community. Community partners include Centro Hispano and other local community organizations that serve the Hispanic community. UT partners include the College of Art and Sciences’ Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures, International Service and Culture Programs, the College of Law, and UT Service-Learning (Office of Provost).

Commodities for Communities

This unique program was initiated by Tennessee farmers and allows them to make a direct transfer of an agricultural commodity, such as grain, corn, or soybeans, to the UT Foundation. The foundation sells the commodities and invests the proceeds back to the program to producers who utilize more importantly, helping to promote strong supporters of the program by contributing financially and, perhaps more importantly, helping to promote the program to producers who utilize their service. UT partners include UT Extension, the UT Foundation, and the UT Institute of Agriculture.

Clifton M. Jones Student Learning Leadership Conference and MLK Jr. Day of Service

This day of service provides students with a leadership development opportunity by engaging them in presentation sessions focused on creating a leadership brand, leading in a diverse world, servant leadership, and social justice. The conference is followed by a half day of service, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr., to the Knoxville community, during which students experience firsthand some of the topics and issues discussed earlier in the day. The conference involves nearly 500 students each year. Hundreds of Knoxville community members and organizations are impacted by the work UT students accomplish, including schools, local gardens and parks, hospice facilities, and many more. Community partners include the University of Tennessee Center for Leadership and Service; Haven House, CAC AmeriCorps Water Quality Team, Sherrill Hills Retirement Community, Volunteer Fire Department of Seymour, Ijams Nature Center, SEEED, Sequoyah Hills Association, The Salvation Army, Kindred Health and Rehabilitation Center, Water Angels, The Love Kitchen, The Knoxville Botanical Gardens, Manor House Assisted Living, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Random Acts of Flowers, Knoxville Zoo, and Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee. UT facilitation is provided by the Center for Leadership and Service.

KIM DAVIES
Human Resources Judicial District 6 Regional Office.

Community partners include the College of Social Work and Human Services and the University of Tennessee.
Community Partnerships with the Arts Programs

UT’s Community Partnerships with the Arts Programs aim to put UT students and faculty into the public arts arena and to invite public interest in UT arts venues. Professional and community arts programs in the Knoxville area could not function without the involvement of UT faculty, staff, and students. In turn, community arts programs help the School of Art, the Department of Theatre, and the School of Music recruit top-notch students and faculty by offering them professional placement opportunities in the local community. Community partners include the Knoxville Symphony, Knoxville Opera, community-based professional and nonprofessional actors, community-based professional and nonprofessional choral groups, Downtown Gallery, and Gallery 1010. UT partners include the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Music, the School of Art, and the Department of Theatre.

Companion Animal Initiative in Tennessee

The Companion Animal Initiative in Tennessee, or CAIT, improves the lives of companion animals and reduces the surplus of cats and dogs in Tennessee. CAIT brings communities together to find solutions to pet issues that impact them directly, such as animal hoarding, dog fighting, puppy mills, and other forms of animal abuse. CAIT programs include provision of veterinary care for the pets of people experiencing homelessness as well as community access to spay and neuter clinics while offering opportunities for veterinary students to develop hands-on expertise in shelter medicine. Veterinary student programs offered through CAIT include elective courses in shelter medicine, cultural influence on animal health care, and responsible pet ownership. The program is also responsible for the Tennessee Animal Law Book, a legislative network and series of public forums. Community partners include Animal Control Association of Tennessee, Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association, Young Williams Animal Center, community veterinarians, and many other members of the local community. UT partners include UT’s Veterinary Medical Center, College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Law, and Veterinary Social Work Services.

Center for Ultra-Wide-Area Resilient Electric Energy Transmission Networks

CURENT was established to meet the needs of a highly capable power systems workforce. CURENT performs research that will confront the electrical problems of energy generation, with a focus on transmission, storage, monitoring, power consumption, and management of a modernized electric grid. UT benefits from CURENT’s student exchanges and research collaborations with partner universities and research centers. CURENT’s impact on the external community is broad in scope and includes funded research experiences for high school students and visiting undergraduates, K–12 teacher training and materials, Girls STEM Camp, and more. CURENT’s research results in new applied technologies directly deployed in the power and energy industry. Community partners include the Electric Power Research Institute, Tennessee Valley Authority, Knox County Schools, Tennessee GearUp, STEMspark, Boys & Girls Club of East Tennessee, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Rensselaer Polytechnic University, Northeastern University, Tuskegee University, and industry partners throughout the world. UT partners include the College of Engineering, the Office of Equity and Diversity, UT Extension’s 4-H programs, and the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS).

For the Kids at UT

For the Kids’ goal is to raise funds to support East Tennessee Children’s Hospital and has been operating since 1995, formerly under the name Dance Marathon. Approximately 400 students participate in the program each year. The event has raised more than $1 million over the last eighteen years to support East Tennessee Children’s Hospital. The event itself provides UT students with a space to engage in positive, uplifting, and safe practices as they join together to “dance for the kids.” It creates a deeply impactful connection between UT students and East Tennessee Children’s Hospital. For the Kids partners: East Tennessee Children’s Hospital and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville’s Center for Leadership and Service.
Empowering Women and Girls Through Sports
This program empowers girls and women from developing nations using a sport, leadership, and action-planning curriculum that is developed, implemented, and evaluated by the University of Tennessee’s Center for Sport, Peace, and Society. Through this partnership, girls and women from all over the world are becoming social entrepreneurs, developing projects that raise awareness and call for change. UT students and faculty are heavily involved in the coordination and hosting of the international visitors, increasing student exposure to global issues and stimulating new avenues for research.


Eyes on LaFollette
Since 1993, UT photojournalism students have been taking pictures of what life looks like in the small town of LaFollette, Tennessee. Students spend thirty-six hours each spring capturing photo stories for publication in the city’s newspaper, LaFollette Press. In October 2014, the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville debuted the inaugural “Eyes on LaFollette” public exhibit. “Eyes on LaFollette” introduces students to life in a small Tennessee town and allows them to produce high-quality, local journalism. LaFollette’s citizens have eagerly welcomed the project as well, as it draws attention to the importance and beauty of their community. Community partners include the LaFollette Press, The East Tennessee Foundation, and members of the LaFollette community. UT partners include the College of Communication and Information and the School of Journalism and Electronic Media.

Forensic Anthropology Center
FAC offers training to law enforcement, as well as assistance with identification of remains, at the world’s first natural outdoor lab developed for forensic studies. Center members also work on international recovery efforts and teach in the National Forensic Academy, an intensive ten-week training program designed to meet the needs of law enforcement agencies in evidence identification, collection, and preservation. Furthermore, center faculty and students have enriched the current forensic science curriculum in more than ninety high schools by running Forensic Files, a program that engages high school students interested in forensic science by providing lively presentations and hands-on forensic anthropology exercises. Community partners include the Forensic Anthropology Center/National Forensic Academy; Knoxville Police Department; Tennessee Bureau of Investigation; Oak Ridge National Laboratory; Tennessee State Medical Examiner’s Office; Rural Metro Corporation; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; Texas Department of Public Safety; Georgia Bureau of Investigation; and Forensic Files: Knox County Schools. UT partners include the Department of Anthropology, the Forensic Anthropology Center and Outdoor Research Facility, and the Institute for Public Service.

University Assisted Full-Service Community Schools
The UACS program addresses the basic needs of Knoxville-area children and their families that are not met by public schools and human service agencies. The project seeks to improve educational outcomes and reduce the number of high school dropouts. It also provides service-learning and career development opportunities for UT students in a broad array of academic disciplines. Community partners for this project include Knox County Schools, Boys & Girls Club, Pellissippi State Community College, Knoxville Opera Company, and South College. UT partners include the College of Arts and Sciences; the College of Engineering; the College of Nursing; the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences; the College of Arts and Sciences; the College of Engineering; and the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy.
Grand Illumination
Grand Illumination provides a special holiday event that promotes literacy and reading for disadvantaged children. The Greater Knoxville Boys & Girls Clubs and UT Housing partner to welcome young children and families to a day of free activities, such as storytelling, playing outdoors in Presidential Courtyard, and creating personalized books. Children receive gifts to take home from the event that are donated by UT students and staff. The hope is to continue to expand the theme of service for the month of November next year and encourage more service projects.

Community partners include the Greater Knoxville Boys & Girls Clubs and the Knox County School Board. UT partners include UT Housing and UT Office of Veterans Affairs.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park and UT
The University of Tennessee’s partnership with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a unique and mutually beneficial relationship. This collaboration supports and enhances public access, appreciation, financial support, preservation, and stewardship of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, while providing essential educational, research, and service-learning opportunities for UT students and faculty in the country’s largest and most biodiverse national park. In any given year there are approximately 100 faculty members involved, along with six to fifteen graduate students and thirteen undergraduate students researching, teaching, or learning in the park at a time.

Community partners include the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Trout Unlimited, Great Smoky Mountain Institute at Tremont, All Taxa Biodiversity Index group, and Friends of the Smokies. UT partners include the College of Arts and Sciences, UT Conferences and Continuing Education, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS), Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Archaeology Research Lab, and the College of Engineering.

Gulu Service and Study Abroad Program
GSSAP was established through a formal Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Gulu University in Gulu, Uganda. The study abroad program consists of an onsite course for UT students in Conflict and Peace-Building in Northern Uganda, with guest lectures by Ugandan colleagues and community members. Students work in local community-based organizations to reinforce what they have learned. The program cultivates lasting relationships among UT students and faculty and their Ugandan counterparts to facilitate ongoing collaborative projects, including research opportunities for faculty and students in both Tennessee and Uganda. Community partners in Uganda include Gulu University, Institute for Peace and Strategic Studies, Justice and Reconciliation Project, Refugee Law Project, TAKS Art Centre, Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative, Girls Kick It, Centre for Reparations and Rehabilitation, Acholi Education Initiative; St Jude’s Orphanage, PACTA alcoholism treatment program, Battery Operated Systems for Community Outreach, Gulu District Government, Laroo Pece Women’s Association, Youth Empowerment Program, Gulu Regional Hospital, Hope and Peace for Humanity, and Gulu Peace Garden Project. UT partners include the College of Arts and Sciences’ International Service and Culture programs; the Departments of Religious Studies and Anthropology; the Disasters, Displacement and Human Rights program; and the Center for International Education.

Habitat for Humanity and UT
UT Housing’s Habitat Build and Habitat Blitz Build programs allow UT students the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of families in the Knoxville community. During the week, students help build a Habitat House, working with community partners, including the future homeowners. Each year, this program involves approximately thirty faculty members and 145 students. As a direct result of this partnership, twelve families in the Knoxville area now own their own homes. These families have to first complete 500 “sweat equity hours” to earn the right to build a house. Once they earn their house, most families have a twenty-year, interest-free mortgage. Community partners include Habitat for Humanity and new Habitat home-owning families. UT partners include UT Housing staff and many other members of the UT community.
Community Health Fairs
College of Nursing health fairs have changed locations and themes throughout the years to reflect shifting community needs. The fairs provide an opportunity for traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and RN students to gain valuable community experience and utilize public health communication skills. In addition, the fairs provide university and Knoxville community members with personal health information and numerous screenings. Current fairs include “Healthbeat,” an annual on-campus event that is a joint venture with UT Student Health and UT Medical Center, a Knox County Schools health fair at Lonsdale Elementary, and Candleridge Apartments Health Fair for low-income seniors. Community partners have included Knoxville-area African American churches, Knoxville’s Healthy Living Expo, and many Knoxville-area health-service providers and vendors. UT partners include the College of Nursing, Student Health Services, and UT Medical Center’s Heart, Lung, and Vascular Institute.

Human Animal Bond in Tennessee (H.A.B.I.T.)
H.A.B.I.T. is an animal-assisted interaction that benefits community members of all ages and in a variety of settings, such as nursing and retirement homes, assisted-living centers, hospitals, mental health facilities, physical rehabilitation centers, and child and family services centers. Animal-assisted interaction creates relationships between animals and people who assist in creating better mental and physical wellbeing. An emerging academic opportunity was recently created when UT faculty applied research on H.A.B.I.T. benefits to children’s cancer wards in an effort to determine if this interaction improved physiologic parameters of stress and therefore contributed to better health outcomes. On average, H.A.B.I.T. volunteers make more than 200,000 contacts annually. Community partners include ninety-four school programs, eighty-one visitation facilities, private veterinary practitioners, and 250 community volunteers. UT partners include the College of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Medical Center, Dog Bite Prevention, Humans and Animals Learning Together, Companion Animal Initiative in Tennessee, Veterinary Social Work, College of Veterinary Medicine Public Health, College of Social Work, School of Information Sciences, and the College of Law.

Ignite Serves
Ignite Serves is an extended orientation program for new UT students that involves about 600 students every year. Students work in the community and return to campus to engage in discussions about social justice, community building, personal values, and other leadership-development topics as a way of reflecting on their experiences. Ignite provides more than fifty local nonprofits with free, energetic, and passionate student volunteers during a span of three days. Students are able to complete projects that these agencies typically do not have the person power to complete. Community partners include Haven House, Second Harvest Food Bank, Knoxville College, Knox Area Rescue Ministries, Catholic Charities of East Tennessee, City of Knoxville-Urban Forestry, Knoxville Zoo, Random Acts of Flowers, Goodwill, Manor House, Beck Cultural Center, Socially Equal Energy Efficient Development, Bearseley Community Farm, the Children’s Center of Knoxville, Young Williams Animal Center, CAPP Coalition on America’s Poor Health and Poverty, Vine Middle Magnet School, and Ijams Nature Center. UT partners include the Center for Leadership and Service, the Division of Student Life, and Project Grad.

The Tennessee Water Resources Research Center
This center, housed within UT’s Institute for a Secure and Sustainable Environment, seeks to improve regional water quality through community-based projects, outreach, education, training, and community empowerment activities. TN WRRC initiatives have included a half-million dollar watershed improvement plan in Beaver Creek Watershed, a Knox County Adopt-A-Watershed, which has engaged thousands of K–12 students in service-learning for water quality improvement, and state-wide professional development training for several hundred professionals per year. Many student theses and dissertations are written on watershed improvement projects implemented through TN WRRC and its partnering organizations. Community partners include the Nature Conservatory, Knox County Schools, fifteen local watershed organizations, twenty-one local government organizations, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, US Environmental Protection Agency-Region Four, US Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, several county soil conservation districts, Tennessee Valley Authority, the Water Quality Forum, AmeriCorps, homeowner’s and farmers, and professionals in the stormwater and construction fields. UT partners include the Institute for Agriculture, College of Engineering, and the College of Arts and Sciences.
Institute for Smart Structures
ISS is a research center where academia and industry meet. It offers research and development for the building sector and combines the areas of material science, engineering, and architecture to solve immediate problems, as well as provide revolutionary concepts for new applications. Two recent projects, the UT Zero prototype and the Living Light Solar Decathlon House, engaged researchers, engineers, architects, and others to develop, design, and build the home of the future. UT’s Solar Decathlon submission was selected as a finalist in an international competition sponsored by the US Department of Energy and placed eighth in the world. The decathlon project involved faculty members, undergraduate, and graduate students from eight disciplines. Academic, professional, and industry partners have included Metropolia University Helsinki, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Electric Power Research Institute, the Children’s Museum of Oak Ridge, Blaine Construction, Alcoa Corporation, Powell Trucking, Clayton Homes, and The Smithsonian Institution. UT partners have included the College of Architecture and Design; College of Engineering’s Departments of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Biomedical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Computer Science; College of Arts and Sciences; School of Art; UT Extension; UT Gardens; and UT Martin.

International Health Care Mission
The intense clinical experience of the International Health Care Mission provides students with the opportunity to immerse themselves in new cultures while developing and sharpening their clinical nursing skills. Students are introduced to tropical medicine and gain experience in providing primary health care to underserved populations assessing community health needs, providing health care education, and staffing immunization clinics. UT faculty and students engage directly with local physicians, nurses, and tribal medicine men. The International Health Care Mission builds trust for medical personnel among members of communities. Students and faculty supervisors provide onsite primary care, dentistry, and home visits to community members. These learning opportunities will improve community and family health practices via instruction from students and faculty and community-wide immunizations. Community partners include local health care providers in a number of countries, including Peru, Costa Rica, Belize, Nicaragua, Ghana, Panama, and the Dominican Republic. The UT partner is the College of Nursing.

Knoxville Homeless Management Information System Program
KnoxHMSi serves as an empirical window into homelessness in the Knox County community. The only university-based homeless management information system in the country, KnoxHMSI allows for aggregation of client-level data across providers serving the area’s homeless. Reports produced from KnoxHMSI are used to inform local and federal decision-making, including data that suggest that Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing programs have been extremely successful in preventing homelessness for at risk individuals and families. Community partners include the Knoxville Homeless Coalition, US Office of Housing and Urban Development, City of Knoxville, Knox County, Comcast, Knox County Community Action Committee, Catholic Charities of East Tennessee, Community Law Office, Family Promise, Helen Ross McNabb Center, Knox Area Rescue Ministries, Knoxville Education Foundation, Parkridge Harbor/Positively Living, Redeeming Hope, Salvation Army, Steps House, Tennessee Valley Coalition to End Homelessness, The Next Door, Volunteer Ministry Center, Volunteers of America, and the YWCA. UT partners include the College of Social Work and the Social Work Office of Research and Public Service.

Leadership and Service Learning Community
The Leadership and Service Learning Community provides the opportunity for UT students to practice the tenets of servant leadership and theories of social justice that are learned in the classroom by working with local elementary students. UT’s Leadership and Service Learning Community provides Pond Gap Elementary School with much needed assistance to run its after-school program. UT students tutor children in math and English and work with them on music and other developmental programs. The consistent, learning-community-based volunteer corps provides extra continuity to the children who may not have such in their home life. The community partner is Pond Gap Elementary School. UT partners include the Center for Leadership and Service in the Division of Student Life and the University-Assisted Community Schools program.
Full-time, first-year graduate students in the UT Master's of Business Administration program complete a service-learning course in partnership with a local social cause or nonprofit organization. Students apply their problem-solving skills in tandem with these organizations to improve deployment of scarce resources. Teams of four to five MBA students are assigned to each nonprofit client, along with a faculty member, and at the end of the seven-week engagement they present a detailed final report. Community partners have included the Appalachian Arts, Ft. Loudoun Lake Association, Habitat for Humanity, Junior Achievement, Knox Heritage, Blount County Aging, Ijams Nature Center, Redeeming Hope, City of Knoxville, City of Oak Ridge, Restoration House, Knoxville Botanical Garden, Museum of Appalachia, TNAchieves, Salvation Army, and Knox Area Rescue Mission.

UT partners include the Haslam College of Business and the Anderson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

The Nashville Civic Design Center is an independent nonprofit organization formed in 2000 to improve quality of life for Nashvillians through visionary thinking and partnerships that encourage high-quality design. All undergraduate architecture students are required to spend one off-campus semester at the Nashville Civic Design Center. Faculty and students working at the center have published two books and many research reports. The design center works with government officials, regional planning groups, neighborhood organizations, businesses, and residents. The legacy of this partnership is the promotion of public education in the value of civic design, public participation in civic design, and public advocacy for civic design excellence. Community partners include Vanderbilt University, the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency in Nashville, the government of Metropolitan Nashville, the Frist Foundation, the Greater Nashville Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Cumberland Region Tomorrow, the Urban Land Institute, the Nashville District Council, and the Greater Nashville Regional Council. UT partners include the College of Architecture and Design and the School of Architecture.

PlanET began in 2010 as a regional partnership of communities building a shared direction for our future. PlanET comprises five counties, sixteen cities, and four towns—all investing in one region. The partnership addressed challenges regarding jobs, housing, transportation, a clean environment, and community health. UT’s role was to assist in the development of research, critical inquiry, planning, and design strategies that accommodate an anticipated population growth rate of 45 percent through 2040. Community partners include PlanET consortium members from five counties and nineteen cities. UT partners include the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources; the College of Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS); the Center for Business and Economic Research at the Haslam College of Business; the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences; the College of Architecture and Design; the College of Engineering; the College of Arts and Sciences; and UT Service-Learning in the Office of the Provost.

MBA Innovation in Practice Program

Nashville Civic Design Center

Plan East Tennessee (PlanET)

Partnering to Improve History Teaching in East Tennessee

Community partners included the ETHS and regional school districts and schools. UT partners included the College of Arts and Sciences’ Department of History.

UT partners included the Haslam College of Business and the Anderson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.
Pre-College Summer Program in Engineering
The Pre-College Summer Program in Engineering offers a series of five, one-week residential programs designed to introduce middle and high school students to engineering. The program’s mission is to provide early exposure to and preparation for scientific study and research to students who show an interest in engineering studies. Community partners include Eastman Chemical, Alcoa, Boeing, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. UT partners include the College of Engineering, Office of Admissions, Student Services, Financial Aid, Multicultural Student Affairs, University Housing, Carolyn P. Brown Memorial University Center, College of Arts and Sciences’ Departments of Chemistry and Mathematics, and Center for Ultra-Wide-Area Resilient Electric Energy Transmission networks (CURENT).

Project GRAD Summer Institute
Project GRAD’s Summer Institute enhances urban high school students’ academic skills in preparation for demanding college-level courses, as well as expose them to career paths they can pursue through postsecondary education. More than 2,100 children have participated in the Summer Institute program since its establishment in 2011. Community partners include Knox County Schools, Project GRAD Knoxville, SEEED, Cansler YMCA, Phyllis Wheatley YWCA, Knoxville College, Skatetown, Brandon’s Awards, Camp Koinonia Foundation, Threds, and McDonald’s. UT partners include the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences; College of Law; Haslam College of Business; College of Communication and Information; College of Architecture and Design; Academic Enrichment Upward Bound; University Housing; Parking Services; Office of Information Technology; RecSports; Athletics; and the Carolyn P. Brown University Center.

Rural Library Professionals Program
Information Technology Rural Librarian (ITRL) and ITRL2 are two UT grant projects funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services’ Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program. The purpose of both projects is to recruit and train rural library professionals working in the southern and central Appalachian region. Participating students earn their master’s degrees through the School of Information Studies’ synchronous distance education program. Community partners include Clinch-Powell Regional Library in Clinton, Tennessee; Fort Loudoun Regional Library in Athens, Tennessee; Nolichucky Regional Library in Morristown, Tennessee; Sevier County Public Library System in Sevierville, Tennessee; and the Watauga Regional Library in Johnson City, Tennessee. Representatives from other regional or county library systems in the southern and central Appalachian region are also involved in various grant activities. UT partners include the School of Information Sciences and the College of Communication and Information.

Public Library Service-Learning
This library service-learning course provides opportunities to students to partner with public libraries and other agencies. Students learn to make connections between theory and practice by helping the community’s public libraries assess and evaluate particular services, systematically gathering and reporting on feedback collected from various service users. Libraries are then able to make positive changes to the way they deliver services in direct response to the suggestions documented by the students. Community partners include local and regional public libraries. UT partners include students and faculty in the School of Information Sciences and the College of Communication and Information.
Service-Learning Capstone in Communications
This capstone course provides students with hands-on learning experience in the development and planning of an entire communication campaign, to include research, action planning, communication, and evaluation techniques. The Dollywood Corporation serves the Sevier County community and vacation travelers from all over the country and world. Therefore, the students’ campaign proposal suggestions reach far beyond just the local community. The community partner is the Dollywood Corporation. The UT Partner is the College of Communication and Information.

Smart Communities Initiative
SCI supports long-term economic viability, environmental sustainability, and social integrity in communities across the state by leveraging student learning and creative energy, meaningful community dialogue, the wisdom of civic leaders, and the scholarship of faculty experts. Students and faculty in many UT departments connect theory learned in the classroom with the practice afforded by real-world projects that all focus on one city, county, or special district per year. Projects to date have included downtown streetscape improvements, a branding and place-making study, brownfield redevelopment concepts, and a cost/benefit analysis for proposed downtown attractions. Community partners (2014–15) include the City of Cleveland, Tennessee; City of Cleveland Development and Engineering Services; Cleveland Urban Area Transit System; the Lewis Group Architects; Bradley County Health Department; Tennessee Department of Transportation; Lee University; Oak Ridge National Laboratory; and the Cleveland and Bradley County Chamber of Commerce. UT partners include the College of Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Architecture and Design, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, UT Bredesen Center, UT Ideation Laboratory, UT Center for Transportation Research, and the Office of Service-Learning in the Provost’s office.

SWORPS Child Care Report, Star-quality Child Care, and Child Care Resource and Referral Program
These programs provide information to parents and improve the quality of child care in the state. Since the program began in 2001, participation in the annual Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS) Child Care Report Card Program is required for all Department of Human Services-licensed or approved child-care agencies in Tennessee. Community partners include the Tennessee Department of Human Services, Signal Centers Inc., and the Tennessee Department of Education. UT partners include the College of Social Work, SWORPS, and the Tennessee Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

Tennessee 4-H Health Rocks!
Substance abuse among adolescents is linked to depression, unintentional injuries, suicide, and homicide. The goal of 4-H Health Rocks! is to reduce tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use among young people. The evidence-based program was developed by UT Extension in partnership with schools, health departments, and other youth-serving organizations across the state. 4-H Health Rocks! has reached more than 63,000 Tennessee students and youths. Multi-year evaluation demonstrates that the partnership has had a positive result on youth knowledge, skills, assets, and intent. Community partners include local boards of education in sixteen counties, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Smoky Mountains, and the YMCA of Middle Tennessee. UT partners include Extension-Department of 4-H Youth Development, Department of Extension Evaluation and Staff Development, and sixteen local Extension offices.
Tennessee Partnership for Ongoing Parental Support

TPOPS contributes to the welfare of the children of incarcerated parents. Based in the College of Social Work, TPOPS provides child support case assistance and parenting classes to noncustodial fathers who are incarcerated or recently released from the Morgan County Regional Correctional Complex. The program also provides information sessions for the correctional staff so they, too, can assist inmates with child support issues. This program is funded through a grant administered by the Tennessee Department of Human Services and the University of Tennessee. Community partners include Young Williams Child Support Services in Tennessee, Department of Human Services Child Support Division, Tennessee Department of Corrections, and the Morgan County Regional Correctional Complex. UT partners include the College of Social Work and the Social Work Office of Research and Public Service.

UT Legal Clinic

The Legal Clinic works to serve the community and the indigent. It encourages future pro bono service and contributes to the education and development of law students to become thoughtful, skilled, and ethical attorneys. The clinic provides students with the opportunity to practice law and represent clients under faculty supervision. UT Law’s legal clinic, which began in 1946, is the longest-running legal clinic in the nation. It involves twelve faculty members and approximately 100 students every year. Community partners include Knox County Public Defender’s Office, Federal Public Defender’s Office, Knox County District Attorney’s Office, US Attorney’s Office, Knox County Juvenile Court, Legal Aid of East Tennessee, the Family Justice Center, Knox County Schools, Habitat for Humanity, the Anderson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, the Grandparents as Parents Organization, Knoxville Area Rescue Ministries, Operation Stand Down (Volunteers of America), Knoxvile YWCA, and Centro Hispano. The UT partner is the College of Law.

UT Student Field-Work Engagement with International Partners

International Field-Work Engagement provides a platform for undergraduate and graduate students to have international experiences through experiential learning, applied research, and faculty-led study tours. UT’s partnership with international organizations allows students and faculty to develop and implement field-scale research in different agricultural systems across the world. Community partners include Growing Nations in Lesotho, National University of Lesotho, Health Talents International in Guatemala, the Ministry of Agriculture in Jamaica, and many others. UT partners include the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, College of Engineering, UT AgResearch, and UT Extension.

Veterinary Externship Program

The summer semester Veterinary Externship Program provides sophomore veterinary students and fifth-semester professional students an opportunity to work directly with private veterinary practitioners. The program also is aimed to give our community veterinarians an opportunity to enhance their veterinary knowledge through interaction with the college and students. Community partners for the Veterinary Externship include thirteen private veterinary practices in East Tennessee. UT partners include the College of Veterinary Medicine.
The Vine School Health Center
The center is a nurse-founded, nurse-managed health clinic addressing the health care needs of Knox County School students who are unable to access health care or are uninsured. Based at Vine Middle Magnet School, the clinic recently added a telehealth program to extend clinical services to eleven additional schools. **Community partners** include Knox County Schools. **UT partners** include the College of Nursing.

VolsTeach
VolsTeach targets undergraduate math, science, and engineering majors who are interested in expanding their professional skills and exploring a career in secondary teaching. The VolsTeach minor can be completed within the credit-hour requirements of most relevant majors. **Community partners** include the Tennessee Department of Education, Anderson County Schools, Knox County Schools, and Roane County Schools. **UT partners** include the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences; College of Arts and Sciences; Department of Theory and Practice in Teacher Education; Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; and the Center for Enhancing Education in Mathematics and Sciences.