Provost's Report

Presentation to Academic & Student Affairs Committee
Board of Trustees

June 26, 2025

1

2025 Faculty Awards

2024-2025
Outstanding Faculty Award for Professional Service

Dr. Stephen Canfield

Professor of Mechanical Engineering
College of Engineering

2024-2025
Caplenor Faculty Research Award

Dr. Muhammad Ismail

CEROC Director and Associate Professor of Computer Science
College of Engineering

2024-2025
Outstanding Faculty Award in Teaching

Dr. Chelsea Dowell

Lecturer of Economics, Finance, and Marketing
College of Business

2024-2025
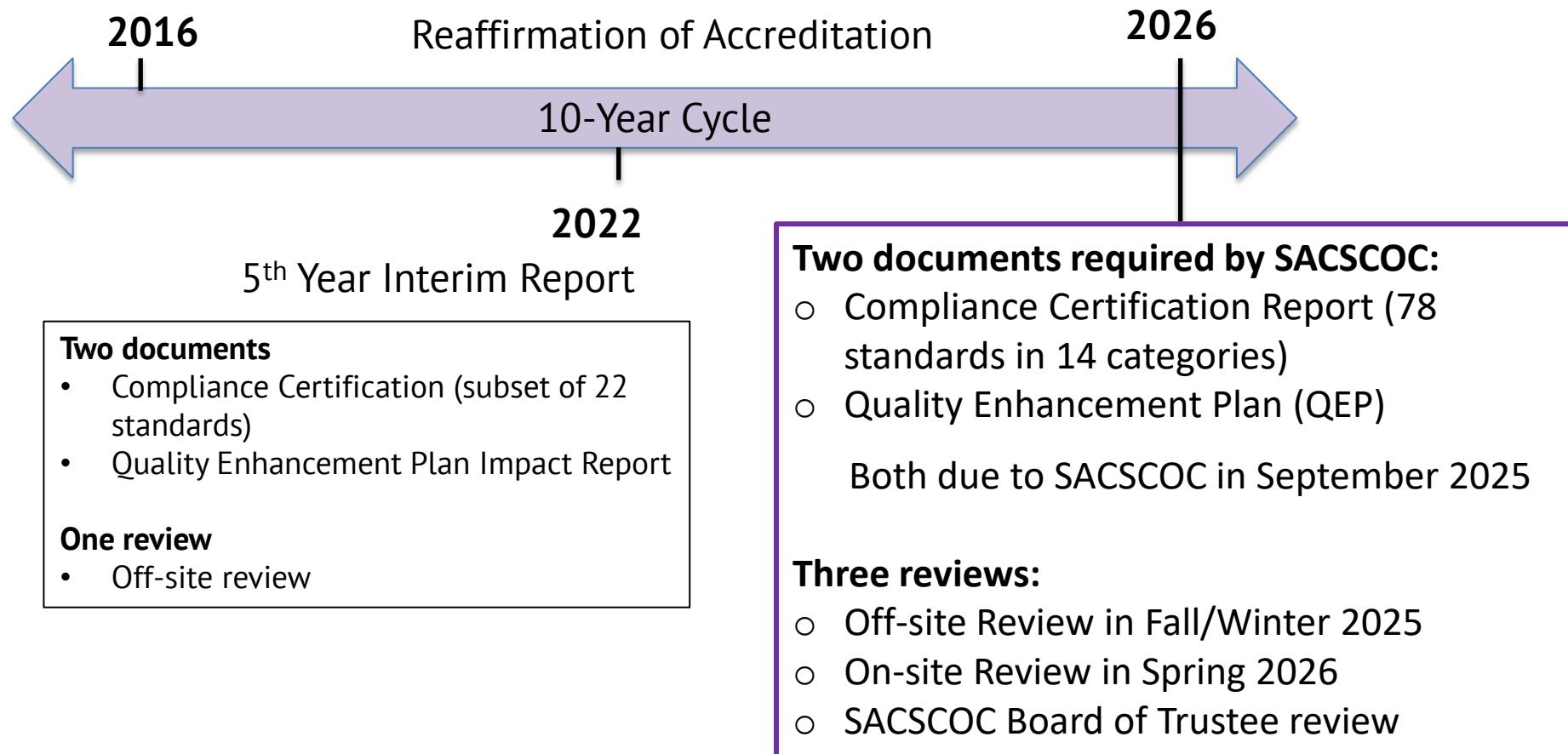Outstanding Faculty Award in Teaching

Dr. Krystal Kennedy

Assistant Professor of Curriculum & Instruction
College of Education

SACSCOC Accreditation

University Accreditation – SACSCOC

2016   Reaffirmation of Accreditation   **2026**

10-Year Cycle

2022

5th Year Interim Report

Two documents
- Compliance Certification (subset of 22 standards)
- Quality Enhancement Plan Impact Report

One review
- Off-site review

Two documents required by SACSCOC:
- o Compliance Certification Report (78 standards in 14 categories)
- o Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

  Both due to SACSCOC in September 2025

Three reviews:
- o Off-site Review in Fall/Winter 2025
- o On-site Review in Spring 2026
- o SACSCOC Board of Trustee review

University Accreditation – SACSCOC

Compliance Certification Report Writing Team

Compliance Committee

- Dr. Sharon Huo, Chair
- Dr. Alice Camuti
- Dr. Mike Gotcher
- Dr. Kevin Harris
- Dr. Amy Hill
- Prof. Sharon Holderman
- Dr. Barbara Jared
- Dr. Allan Mills
- Dr. Kumar Yelamarthi
- Dr. Lisa Zagumny

Faculty Credentials Committee

- Dr. Curtis Armstrong, Chair
- Dr. Chris Wilson
- Dr. Jeannette Luna
- Dr. Michael Allen
- Dr. Colin Hill
- Dr. Scott Christen
- Dr. George Chitiyo
- Dr. Rachel Hall
- Dr. Dennis Duncan

Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment Committee

- Dr. Kevin Harris, Chair
- Ms. Lindsay Young
- Dr. Ashley Akenson
- Dr. Mike Gotcher
- Dr. Barbara Jared
- Dr. Lori Maxwell
- Dr. Linda Null
- Dr. Mohan Rao
- Dr. Martin Sheehan
- Dr. Matthew Trengove
- Prof. Kimberly Winkle
- Ms. Sandra Storie
- Dr. Melinda Anderson
- Dr. Stephen Robinson
- Dr. Kumar Yelamarthi

Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Reports

Additional 47 faculty and staff serve as IE Report Facilitators and are actively engaged in preparing the 2024–25 IE Reports.

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) – called "Elevate"

2026 Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) -- ELEVATE

Topic: Elevating Career Readiness Across the Student Experience

- **ELEVATE** is Tennessee Tech's five-year initiative to help students build the **durable skills** they need to thrive—on campus, in the workplace, and in life.

- Rooted in the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Career Competencies, **ELEVATE** connects academic experiences with real-world preparation, ensuring every Golden Eagle graduates with the confidence and tools to succeed.

Timeline

2023-2024	Topic Selection
2024 -2025	Program Development
2025-2026	Launch Pilot Program
Spring 2026	SACSCOC Site Visit

2026 Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

Career readiness: 4 Core Areas

💬 Communication & Collaboration

💡 Critical Thinking & Problem Solving

📈 Professionalism & Work Ethic

🌐 Leadership & Career Exploration

First Year – Foundation

- o Student Success Outcome (SSO): Complete the Gold Career Ready Certificate
- o Action: Required in All First-Year Foundations Courses

Throughout – Integration & Practice

- o Student Learning Outcome (SLO): Students develop and articulate durable skills
- o Action 1: Courses supported by Durable Skills Infusion Grants
- o Action 2: Summer & Academic Year Research / Creative Activities
- o Action 3: Travel Grants to Present at Conferences

Undergraduate
General Education

General Education

General education courses*

Major/Discipline required courses

Elective courses

41 credit hours

79 credit hours

Purpose of General Education

- Required by the State of Tennessee

- A well-rounded education that goes beyond their specific major

- Challenge students to think independently, write clearly, speak effectively and use logical and critical reasoning to solve problems

As a part of the Tech Tomorrow strategic plan implementation, a group of faculty have been leading an initiative to review and update the university's general education core to ensure it is meeting student needs.

*Must meet criteria defined in TCA 49-7-202, TCA 49-7-110

General Education Committees

VISION COMMITTEE

Gathers input from students, faculty, staff, and industry partners about design of a new General Education core

TRANSITION TEAM

Assurances of integration of the new General Education Core into academic programs via design & approvals of new courses, undergraduate course catalog, student records software, etc.

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Works with students, faculty, and staff to redesign General Education core through shared governance processes

Launch of new Gen Ed!

2023-2024

2025-2026

Fall 2026

➢ 27 Town Hall Open Forums (200+ attendees) from August-November 2023.

➢ A Qualtrics Survey (1200+ respondents; 64% students) was conducted February-March 2024.

➢ 32 faculty members served 7 subcommittees

➢ 230+ additional full-time faculty and SGA senators consulted/involved

➢ Numerous committee and subcommittee meetings

➢ 12 General Education proposals considered/reviewed

➢ Multiple surveys/votes and metrics analysis

➢ 2 Faculty Senate Meetings (Oct 2024, Jan 2025)

➢ SGA Meeting (Feb 2025)

➢ History Dept. Meeting (Jan 2025) & English Dept. Meeting (Feb 2025)

➢ Gen Ed Info Meeting open to campus (Mar 2025)

Key Committee recommendations

1) **Rename the current categories/buckets for General Education such that they are different from the names of a department/unit on campus**

2) **Provide more choices in the various General Education categories/buckets**

3) **Incorporate Career Exploration, Financial Literacy, Global Citizenship, and Digital /Technological Literacy (Artificial Intelligence) into general education**

New General Education Curriculum

Current Category	New Category	Current Hours	New Hours
Mathematics	Quantitative Reasoning and Analysis	3 hours	3 hours
Humanities/Fine Arts	Humanities and Cultural Expression	9 hours (3 hours literature required)	6 to 9 hours
History	Historical Foundations	6 hours	3 to 6 hours
Social Behavioral Sciences	Social and Behavioral Sciences	6 hours	6 hours
Communication	Communication	9 hours	9 hours
Natural Sciences	Scientific Reasoning	8 hours	4 to 8 hours
	Financial and Digital Literacy	0 hours	3 to 4 hours
	Total Hours	**41 hours designated**	**34 hours designated** **7 hours flexible**

Approved by the University Curriculum Committee March 2025,
Academic Council in April 2025, and University Assembly in April 2025.

Thanks to the General Education Committees

GENERAL EDUCATION VISION COMMITTEE

Linda Null (Chair), English
Holly Anthony (co-chair), Curriculum & Instruction
Allan Mills (co-chair), College of Arts & Sciences
Steven Anton, Mechanical Engineering
Heather Bertram, Education & Human Sciences (student)
Jeremy Blair, Art, Craft, & Design
Kent Dollar, History
Helen Hunt, English
Samantha Hutson, Human Ecology
Jeannette Luna, Earth Sciences
Richard Pirkle, Biology
Lenly Weathers, Civil & Environmental Engineering

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Holly Anthony (co-chair), Curr & Instr
Linda Null (co-chair), English
Deborah Barnard, Foreign Languages
Stacey Browning, Nursing
Amanda Carroll, Chemistry
Brittany Copley, Registrar
Chuck Craig, Student Success Center
Dennis Fennewald, Agriculture
Colin Hill, Music
Kelly McCallister, Volpe Library
Collen Mestayer, Communication
Alma Núñez; Econ, Finance, & Mkt
Lindsey Roberts, Honors
Cara Sisk, Human Ecology
Doug Talbert, Computer Science
Chris Wilson, Gen & Industrial Engr

Tony Baker, English
Allan Mills, Mathematics
Arthur Banton, History
Kim Winkle, Art, Craft, & Design
Lori Maxwell, Sociology & Political Sci
Daniel Combs, Biology
Melinda Anderson, Human Ecology
Scott Christen, Communication
Julie Galloway, Student Success Center
Steve Isbell, Econ, Finance & Mkt
Barbara Jared, Nursing
Krystal Kennedy, Curriculum & Instr
Jeannie Smith, Student Success Center
Tammy Keylon, Student Success Center
Jerri Winningham, Enrollment Mngt
Lenly Weathers, Civil & Env Engr