



College of Education

TENNESSEE TECH

Dean's Quarterly Update Congratulations to Our *Grow Your Own* Graduates!

Tennessee Tech's College of Education is thrilled to congratulate a group of **exceptional individuals who have successfully completed their teacher education program**. These newly minted education professionals have demonstrated dedication, resilience, and passion for shaping the future through education.

On Friday, May 5, we **awarded 18 graduates of our *Grow Your Own* program their degrees**. With \$500K in grant funding along with additional scholarships and aid, these graduates completed six (6) consecutive semesters of coursework—at no cost to them—while working as full-time teacher assistants in schools across Tennessee. The grant was awarded to the College of Education by the Tennessee Department of Education in 2020, and after a year of recruitment for the program, candidates' tuition, fees, textbooks, and licensure exams were covered over the duration of the program in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 academic years.

We celebrate **12 new elementary educators from throughout the Upper Cumberland**: Dusti Brooks (Putnam), Cali DeRoush (Jackson), Shelby Goodson (Warren), Gabriella Hernandez (Putnam), Amy Kelley (White), Shelby Melton (Overton), Dixie Nunley (Grundy), Alicia Rodriguez (Warren), Adriana Salinas (Putnam), Makynlee Sims (Overton), Reagan White (Putnam), and Reagan Whitlock (Warren); as well as, **six (6) new math educators**: Grace Crips (Jackson), Madison Ferrell (Warren), Macy Harrell (Warren), Lexie Ketchum (Overton), Billy Sivley (Putnam), and Macie Sullivan (White) for their commitment to academic excellence and student-centered approach. In addition to the teaching license in either elementary education or math, **all candidates also earned an endorsement in English as a Second Language**.

These new teachers will have a lasting impact on the lives of their students and the communities they serve. We extend our congratulations and best wishes for a successful and fulfilling journey as educators. Tech's College of Education is honored to have played a part in their professional development and remains committed to supporting their growth and continued success.

~ Lisa Zagmuny, Dean / College of Education / June 2023

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Graduation Spring 2023



Gabriella Hernandez and Adriana Salinas



Dusti Brooks, Cali DeRoush, Dixie Nunally,
and Shelby Melton