

STUDENT AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

The Division of Student Affairs Quarterly Newsletter



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EMBRACING LEGACY: BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT TENNESSEE TECH

Tennessee Tech celebrated Black History Month with a vibrant series of events, showcasing the rich culture and contributions of Black Americans. This month serves as a time to recognize the struggles, achievements, and lasting impact of Black individuals throughout history.

The month kicked off with a thrilling basketball doubleheader at the Hooper Eblen Center on February 6, hosted by TTU Athletics. Students enjoyed free entry, and faculty and staff joined in the fun, marking the start of a month-long celebration.

On February 11, Soul Food Night brought students together to enjoy delicious dishes from Jim and Samella's House Memphis, featured on Netflix's *Somebody Feed Phil*. The event offered a chance to connect and celebrate Black culinary traditions.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2025

Join Intercultural Affairs, Student Affairs, the Office of Access, Belonging, and Community Outreach, the Office of the President's SOLO Events Committee, Omicron Phi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the History Department, Commission on the Status of Blacks (CSB), and the Athletics Department in celebrating Black History Month!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH Basketball Game The Hooper, Women at 5:30 PM & Men at 7:30 PM Join us in kicking off Black History Month!	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH Annual Soul Food Night Multi-Purpose Room (Rooden University Center 282) at 6:00 PM Enjoy soul food from Jim and Samella's House Memphis, a restaurant featured on Netflix's "Somebody Feed Phil."
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH Gospel Extravaganza Multi-Purpose Room (Rooden University Center 282) at 2:30 PM Enjoy gospel music performed by the United Voices of Praise Choir and other local groups and individuals! This event is sponsored by Intercultural Affairs, the Omicron Phi chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and local churches.	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH SOLO Events Live on the Plaza and Music Workshop Multi-Purpose Room (Rooden University Center 282) 11:00 AM - "How Hip Hop Got to the Suburbs" 6:00 PM - R&B Night SOLO Events is hosting DJ Lee, who will be sharing his thoughts and talents with the community!
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD IMPACT Annual Banquet Multi-Purpose Room (Rooden University Center 282) at 5:30 PM 7th annual IMPACT Cookeville scholarship banquet. This is a ticketed event. Here is the website: https://www.impactcookeville.com/	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH Black History Month Trivia Night Tech Pride Room (Rooden University Center 101) at 6:00 PM Enjoy trivia and fun with friends at this event hosted by the History Department!
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH Step Afrika! Memorial Gym at 8:00 PM Enjoy a performance that combines dance styles used by historically African American fraternities and sororities, traditional African dances, and contemporary dance styles!	

The Gospel Extravaganza on February 16 filled the Roaden University Center with uplifting music from the United Voices of Praise Choir and other local artists, highlighting the power of gospel music in Black culture.

The IMPACT Annual Banquet on February 23, hosted by IMPACT Leadership, was a highlight of this year's Black History Month events, bringing the community together to celebrate local achievements and support educational opportunities. The banquet emphasized the importance of scholarship and community engagement, raising funds to further educational initiatives and honor those making a difference locally. Black History Month Trivia Night on February 25 tested students' knowledge while fostering a fun and educational environment.

The month wrapped up with the powerful Step Afrika! performance on February 28, combining step dancing, African traditions, and contemporary choreography, leaving a lasting impression on the campus community.

These events served as a powerful reminder of the importance of unity, reflection, and celebration. Each one provided not only an opportunity for education and engagement but also fostered a deeper sense of connection among students, faculty, and staff. The shared experiences, conversations, and performances highlighted the ongoing importance of Black History Month and the continued work that must be accomplished.



A NIGHT OF LIVE MUSIC: A CONCERT CELEBRATION

Tennessee Tech's 2025 SOLO Concert delivered an unforgettable night of music and excitement as students packed the Hooper Eblen Center on March 27.

The evening kicked off with an electrifying performance by Vincent Mason, whose energy set the stage for the night's headliner, country music star Gretchen Wilson. Wilson thrilled the crowd with her chart-topping hits, including Redneck Woman and Here for the Party, creating a high-energy atmosphere that had fans singing along.

The SOLO Concert once again proved to be a highlight of the year, giving students a chance to experience top-tier live music right on campus.



WINGS UP WEDNESDAYS ON THE WESTSIDE

Wings Up Wednesdays is an exciting new initiative designed to connect Tennessee Tech students, faculty, and staff with local businesses on Cookeville's Westside. This collaboration between Student Affairs and area businesses offers exclusive discounts and special promotions every Wednesday, providing an opportunity to explore the vibrant Westside and enjoy great deals.

From Broad to Cedar to 1st Streets, you'll discover hidden gems and enjoy incredible offers at participating businesses like Seven Senses, which is offering 15-40% off select food items and 40% off select beverages, or Westside Scoreboard, where you can grab wings for just \$0.75 each and enjoy 10% off food orders. All you need to do is present your Tech ID to unlock these amazing offers!

Plus, with a convenient shuttle service from campus every Wednesday from 5 pm-10 pm (during school sessions), getting to the Westside has never been easier. For more information, visit www.tntech.edu/wednesdays.



ADVANCING MENTAL HEALTH: CENTER TEAM SHARES RESEARCH ON NATIONAL STAGE

This past fall, the Center for Counseling and Mental Health Wellness was well-represented at various conferences, where team members shared their research and insights.

In November, Clinical Coordinator Ravi Patel and Graduate Assistant Lara Strate presented at the Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision conference in Dallas, Texas. Their co-presentations focused on doctoral researcher development and the role of doctoral co-facilitators in Master's Level Group Counseling.



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Later in the spring, Center Director Christina Mick presented her original research on moral stress and suicide prevention at the Tennessee Counseling Association Conference on November 22, 2024.

Building on the center's commitment to national dialogue, Christina Mick and Tessa Benefield attended the American College Counseling Association Conference in New Orleans during the winter. The event offered invaluable opportunities to engage with emerging research and trends in student mental health.

Through their active participation in these conferences, the Center for Counseling and Mental Health Wellness reinforces its dedication to advancing research, fostering professional development, and contributing to important conversations in the field of mental health. By sharing their expertise and engaging with emerging trends, the center's team continues to enhance their impact on student well-being and the broader counseling community.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MADISON KIBBE

Madison Kibbe, a senior at Tennessee Tech University majoring in Environmental & Sustainability Studies, is passionate about service and community engagement. She has traveled extensively and is passionate about meeting new people and giving back to her community. Her work has ranged from building homes in Tennessee to distributing medication in El Salvador.

On campus, she is active in the Society of Women Engineers and Servants of Christ, supporting women in STEM and faith-based service. Beyond campus, she assists with disaster relief, prepares meals for veterans and widows, and teaches children in underserved areas. Madison has completed her degree in just three years and will continue at Tennessee Tech for graduate school, aiming for a career in environmental policy or nonprofit disaster relief. Madison hopes to pursue a career in environmental policy or nonprofit disaster relief. Inspired by her parents' example, she is committed to spreading kindness, standing up for those in need, and making a meaningful impact through service and advocacy.



UNIVERSITY POLICE UPGRADES NEARING COMPLETION

Back in summer 2024, the University Police Department was awarded \$1.2 million from the State of Tennessee High Ed Safety Grant. Part of the funds were allocated to update the fire alarm monitoring system, which is now set to be completed by June 2025.

Starting in August 2024, the police command staff audited department equipment and identified two areas needing upgrades to improve communication with surrounding law enforcement.

The audit also recommended relocating the communications center to enhance security and maintain compliance. Construction of the new center and radio system upgrade is scheduled for completion by late June. The remaining funds will install over 40 new security cameras across campus to aid crime prevention.



JOYFUL MOVEMENT FESTIVAL

On Monday, February 24, the Center for Counseling and Mental Health Wellness partnered with Nicole Pugh from the Exercise Science Department to host the Joyful Movement Festival. The event featured a full day of activities, including yoga sessions, meditative music for deep breathing, mindfulness meditation, and a Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention Training focused on disordered eating.

The festival aligned with National Eating Disorders Awareness (NEDA) Week, which took place from February 24 to March 2, 2025. Tennessee Tech's Positive Body Image Day, held annually on the last Monday of February, provides an opportunity for the Center for Counseling and Mental Health Wellness to engage the campus community in promoting a healthy body image and raising awareness about disordered eating and eating disorders.



WHAT'S NEW ON CAMPUS?

Check out the latest updates and changes happening on campus at Tennessee Tech University. Stay informed and see what's new as the university continues to grow and enhance the student experience!

Poet's Coffee - Now Available on Campus



The local Cookeville coffee chain, Poet's Coffee, has opened a new location in the Volpe Library, offering students a convenient on-campus dining option.

Pedestrian Walkway Completed



The new brick pedestrian walkway, replacing Peachtree Avenue, has been completed. Featuring the emblem "Tennessee Tech University," it now stands at the heart of campus.

Awesome Eagle's 100th Birthday



Awesome Eagle celebrated his 100th birthday this semester with a special birthday bash, bringing students together for a fun-filled celebration in honor of the beloved mascot

Tech Strong Day of Service



The Tennessee Tech community honored the anniversary of the March 3, 2020, tornado through the Tech Strong Day of Service—a day dedicated to giving back.



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