

STUDENT AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

The Division of Student Affairs Quarterly Newsletter



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HOME AGAIN: MARC BURNETT REJOINS STUDENT AFFAIRS

Student Affairs is excited to welcome Marc Burnett back to Tennessee Tech as he steps back into the role of Interim Vice President for Student Affairs that he held for 28 years. Marc first took on this position in November 1991, becoming only the second person to hold the title since its creation. His leadership helped shape the student experience for generations, and his commitment to the university spans an extraordinary 36 years of service.

Marc began his professional career at Tennessee Tech in 1983 and quickly became a trusted voice in student life. His appointment as Vice President for Student Affairs just eight years later marked the beginning of a tenure defined by compassion, innovation, and a deep understanding of student needs.



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Over nearly three decades in the role, Marc championed initiatives that fostered inclusion, personal growth, and a strong sense of community across campus.

Throughout his career, Marc has been known not only for his administrative excellence but also for his ability to connect with students, faculty, and staff on a personal level. His presence has been a steady source of encouragement and leadership, and his return is a welcome moment for those who have long valued his contributions.

Marc's experience, heart, and deep connection to the university community continue to make a lasting impact. His return to Student Affairs is more than a transition. It is a reaffirmation of Tennessee Tech's commitment to student-centered leadership. Welcome back, Marc.



TECH TOGETHERNESS AWARD SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT AFFAIRS LEADERS

Ms. Charria Campbell and Mr. Benjamin Higgins of the Division of Student Affairs have been recognized for their outstanding contributions to building unity across the Tech community. This honor celebrates individuals who strengthen relationships among administrators, faculty, staff, and students through collaboration and connection.



As Director of Intercultural Affairs, Ms. Campbell plays a key role in strengthening campus connections and supporting student engagement. She contributes to several equity-focused committees and launched the Women of Worth initiative, which offers events and resources for women across campus. Her efforts to connect students with alumni and professionals highlight her dedication to building a more unified and supportive Tech community.



Ben Higgins, a proud Tech alumnus and counselor, promotes mental health awareness and creates a welcoming environment for all. His enthusiasm for campus life shines through his participation in events and his collection of vintage Tech memorabilia. His dedication to student well-being and community spirit makes him a true example of Tech Togetherness.

SELF-CARE AWARENESS MONTH

September marks National Self-Care Awareness Month, and Tennessee Tech's Center for Counseling and Mental Health Wellness celebrated with two engaging campus events. On September 23, the center welcomed Christina Kabath, Relationship Manager from Shmoody in Austin, Texas, for a collaborative visit that featured an interactive informational table focused on mental wellness.

The following day, the counseling department teamed up with the Caf to host another interactive table, continuing the conversation around self-care and encouraging students to explore healthy habits and resources.



WEEK OF WELCOME RECAP

Tennessee Tech's Week of Welcome 2025 brought excitement, tradition, and community spirit as new Golden Eagles began their journey at Tech. The week opened with New Student Move-In Day, where students and families filled campus with energy while settling into residence halls. Highlights included the Residential Life Block Party, with games, food, music, and free t-shirts, and an outdoor movie night at Tucker Stadium. At University Convocation, the Class of 2029 was welcomed to campus before gathering at Tucker Stadium for their annual class photo.

That evening, Club Golden Eagle transformed the Roaden University Center into a celebration of music, games, and late-night fun. Students also connected at the Mix & Mingle Involvement Fair, meeting representatives from over 200 organizations. Week of Welcome culminated with the third annual College Town Kickoff in downtown Cookeville. An estimated 8,000 people came out to enjoy food, live music, giveaways, and the energy of the Tech community joining with the city. The night capped off with a high-energy performance by Flo Rida, creating an unforgettable finale to the week. Golden Eagles left the week energized, connected, and ready to take on the semester ahead.



DR. ED BEASON PROMOTED TO ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENTS

Tennessee Tech announces the promotion of Dr. Ed Beason to the newly created role of Assistant Dean of Students and ADA Director. Formerly Director of the Accessible Education Center, Dr. Beason has overseen the center's budget and student case load while guiding students and faculty through the accommodation process. His leadership has helped ensure that accessibility remains a priority across campus.

In his new role, Dr. Beason will continue to lead efforts that support student success and inclusive learning. He regularly provides campus trainings focused on accessibility and technology, helping faculty and staff better serve all students. In addition to his administrative work, Dr. Beason teaches History at Tennessee Tech, bringing academic insight and personal connection to the classroom.



HOMECOMING PREVIEW

The spotlight is on Tennessee Tech as we roll out the gold carpet for Homecoming 2025, happening October 27 – November 1! This year's theme, **Tech on Broadway: A Story of Golden Achievements**, promises a week filled with tradition, celebration, and tons of school pride.

We invite students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the entire community to join us for a lineup of exciting traditions and events, including the banner competition, homecoming carnival, Lipsync competition, the spirited and beloved homecoming parade, and the thrilling Homecoming football game.

Also, don't miss the great homecoming halftime performance by our amazing band, and enjoy the crowning of the new Mr. and Ms. Tennessee Tech. There will also be a wide variety of alumni events, college reunions, and other special gatherings taking place throughout the weekend.

This is your chance to reconnect, celebrate, and be part of the story that makes Tennessee Tech truly golden. We hope to see you around at the various events. Be sure to check out the 2025 Homecoming website for more details.



MEG'S MISSION: MOVEMENT AND MINDFULNESS

Dr. Christina Mick, Director of the Center for Counseling and Mental Health Wellness at Tennessee Tech University, and her daughter, Kayla Mick, a junior at UT Martin, have co-authored a children's book titled *Meg and the Magic of Movement*. The story introduces young readers to Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) and highlights the importance of empathy and resilience.

Written to raise awareness about APD, the book is available on Amazon.com and Kindle. All proceeds support the purchase of jump ropes for physical education programs across Tennessee, promoting movement and wellness in schools.

This creative collaboration between Dr. Mick and Kayla encourages understanding and inspires action. It shows how storytelling can make a meaningful difference in children's lives.



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