



Learning and Leadership are indispensable to each another.

- John F. Kennedy

The challenge of leadership is to be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but not bully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble but not timid; be proud, but not arrogant; have humor, but without folly.

- Jim Rohn



The multidisciplinary LEAD programs are designed to equip participants with an understanding of the relationship that learning and leadership play in the instructional process; develop reflective practitioners in a variety of organizations/institutions; and focus on the interwoven nature of leadership, decision-making, and learning; emphasizing the proficiency that individuals will need as they pursue the challenges of organizational change and/or ever-changing instructional processes and practices.

Faculty News



Please welcome Dr. Mike Breakey, Lecturer, to the LEAD Programs. Dr. Breakey is a U.S. Air Force veteran with a background in history, leadership, K12/higher ed instruction, and distance education. He currently teaches in the BAS-AL program.



Please join us in welcoming Dr. P. Mark Taylor, Assistant Professor, to the LEAD Programs. Dr. Taylor has a background in mathematics education, qualitative research methods, K12 ed/higher ed instruction, and distance education. He will begin teaching in the LEAD Programs this Fall.



Please join us in congratulating Dr. David Rausch, LEAD Programs Director/CHEPS Associate Dean, and fellow honorees on the 2023 UT President's Awards (link [2023 Honorees and Nominees](#)). Dr. Rausch received the Nimble and Innovative faculty award.



Welcome New Cohorts

We admitted two new LEAD doctoral cohorts (EdD23 & PhD23) last Spring. Participants are currently completing the foundational course, LEAD 7000 Learning & Leadership: Induction & Integration, on campus and in the Virtual Classroom.

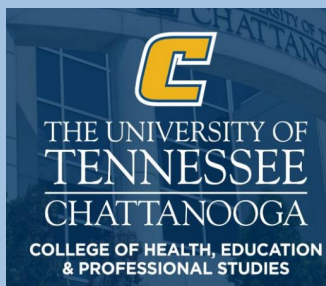
Applications will be accepted to the Summer 2024 EdD/PhD cohorts from **December 2023 through February 2024**. For details, please visit www.utc.edu/lead.



LEAD Participant/Candidate News

- **Renard Miles**, Director of Employee Engagement & Programming at William & Mary, is pleased to report that W&M was named best public university in the nation for internships last year. Their Office of Career Development & Professional Engagement was also featured in NACE Insights.
- Congratulations to **Adam White** on the promotion to Director of First-Year Programs for the Division of Student Success at UTK.
- **Brett Fuchs**, UTC Associate Dean of Students, has pursued numerous professional development opportunities including the Master Trainer Program (Dept. of Homeland Security Natl. Threat Evaluation and Reporting), Student Affairs Educator Certification, Workplace Mediator Trainer program, and opportunities related to crisis prevention, FERPA compliance, and mediation.
- **Tomi Rogers** was recently honored with the 2023 UT System President's "United and Connected" award. Additionally, she was recognized by her peers as the recipient of the Inspire Award for Excellent, Commitment, and Professionalism at last year's Institute for Public Service Annual Conference.
- **John Alpers** has presented several times at the local Knoxville chapter of the TSCPA.
- Last summer, **Liz Nix**, strategic healthcare communications consultant, presented a session titled "Communicating with Humans" at the Next Generation Customer Experience (NGCX) conference.
- **Belinda Martin**, Assistant Principal and Editorial Coordinator, was recognized as the 2022-2023 Outstanding Graduate Participant for the Learning and Leadership (LEAD) Doctoral Programs.
- **Andrew Wilson**, Research Coordinator for the UT College of Medicine, has had 8 publications since joining the LEAD program. Journals include *BMJ Case Reports*, *The American Surgeon*, *Arthroscopy*, *Injury*, and *Spine Deformity*.

UTC CHEPS Faculty Research Awards 2023



Congratulations to **Dr. Jessica Taylor** and **Dr. Andy Browne**, recipients of the Collaborative Research Award; to **Dr. John Harbison**, recipient of the Coaching Award; to **Dr. Elizabeth Crawford**, recipient of the Elizabeth Dalton Award (excellence in teaching, research, and outreach). For details, please visit: [CHEPS Awards](#)

We appreciate your service to LEAD and UTC!



LEAD Participant/Candidate News (Continued)

- Congratulations to **LaToya Newson** on being named the new Director of the Division of Adult Education and Literacy at the U.S. Department of Education this past spring.
- **Kim Page Vickery** previously served as a Research Analyst at HCA Healthcare. While in this role, several teams Ms. Page Vickery collaborated with celebrated successful publications and poster presentations in the field of rheumatology including an [article](#) in the Cardiology Research journal.
- This past year, **Barbara Scales**, Motlow State Community College, completed the TN Board of Regents Maxine Smith Fellows program, was selected to serve on the TBR Equity Blueprint Committee, and was selected to serve as a 2022-2023 Data Equity Fellow for the NWCCU (in partnership with SACSCOC).
- Congratulations to **Layne Bryant** on the promotion to Director of Assessment at Accreditation at MTSU's University College and for earning the MTSU Faculty Fellow designation the previous year.
- At the Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurial and Engaged Universities' global [Triple E Awards](#) ceremony in Barcelona, the UTC CIE team placed third. Congratulations to **Jennifer Herrett-Skjellum** and the rest of the team.
- **Walter Battle** has been appointed to the USDA Land Between the Lakes Advisory Board by the Secretary of Agriculture and has received a \$60,000 USDA Rural Development Business Grant.
- Congratulations to **Tiffany Ramsey** on the promotion to Vocational Rehabilitation Services Director for the State of Tennessee, Department of Human Services last year. Ms. Ramsey is responsible for the statewide leadership and administration of the department's VR program supporting individuals with disabilities in achieving their career goals.
- This past year, **Laurie Allen** contributed to the article, More than an Arts Career, for the Fall 2022 *Our Tennessee* publication. Ms. Allen also co-presented with Dean Valerie Rutledge at the National Forum to Advance Rural Education. Their session provided arts-based strategies for supporting social-emotional learning and literacy.



UTC LEAD was well represented at the
UT Conference for Women in Knoxville in May 2023.

Pictured from left to right: Dr. Izetta Slade, Ms. Laure Pou, Dr. Elizabeth Crawford, Ms. Lisa Stearns, Ms. Tomi Rogers, and Ms. Delphia Howze



LEAD Alumni News

- After 25 years of service at UTC, **Dr. Yancy Freeman** has been named by UT President Randy Boyd as the next chancellor of UT-Martin. Congratulations, Chancellor Freeman!
- Congratulations to **Dr. Michelle Rigler** who was recently honored with the 2023 UT System President's "Embrace Diversity" award. Dr. Rigler currently serves as Executive Director of the UT Disability Resource Center.
- **Dr. Eva Lewis** has served as Vice Chair of the Alabama Articulation and General Studies Committee (AGSC) and Chair of the Academic Affairs Sub-Committee of the AGSC. Their focus includes recommended revisions to the state's general education curricular requirements.
- Congratulations to **Dr. Steven Hood** who has been named Vice President of Student Life at the University of Alabama.
- Congratulations to **Dr. Rita Jackson** who was recognized with the Continued Excellence Award by the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) last year.
- Congratulations to **Dr. Jackie Johnson** on receiving the UT Foundation Board of Directors Award last fall.
- **Dr. Matt Johnson** currently serves as College & Career Access Counselor in Hamilton County Schools. Dr. Johnson's recent professional service appointments include Board Member & Treasurer, TN Assoc. of Supervision & Curriculum Development and Co-Chair, Equity in Action Committee (Hamilton Co Schools Rock Point Learning Community).
- **Dr. Joyce McPherson** serves as executive director for Homeschool Inspire, a new 501c3 that promotes family-centered education through mentoring educators and sponsoring group activities for students. She has also published a children's biography of scientist James Clerk Maxwell.
- **Dr. John Dorris** enjoys teaching Social Statistics at UTC as adjunct faculty while continuing to work remotely for NC State University. Dr. Dorris remains engaged in research/advocacy projects related to college student food and housing insecurity.
- Congratulations to **Dr. Gerry Stark** on the promotion to Clinical Director for Ottobock Patient Care last year. Dr. Stark was also named "Hammontree Finalist" at the American Orthotic Prosthetic Association National Meeting and contributed reference chapter articles to *Atlas of Amputations and Limb Deficiencies*, 5th ed. and *Tecklin's Pediatric Physical Therapy*, 6th ed.



LEAD Alumni News (Continued)

- **Dr. Jennifer Joines** (formerly Spates) has served as an elementary, middle, and high school administrator since graduating from the program. Dr. Joines is currently a Regional Leadership Specialist, providing guidance to school principals in three districts as they lead their schools in compliance with the Alabama Literacy Act.
- **Dr. Stacy Swafford**, Associate Professor at Tennessee Wesleyan University, assumed the role of MBA Program Director last year.
- **Dr. Matt Tolbert**, Professor at Southern Adventist University, has chosen to focus his research in game-based learning and has received of \$30,000 in grants to facilitate this research. Dr. Tolbert has also been named director of the General Psychology program, an online degree program.
- **Dr. Mick Shuran**, Director of Federal Programs and Instruction for Manchester City Schools, was elected as the President of the Tennessee Association of Federal Program Administrators (TAFPA).
- **Dr. Cathy Robbs Baker** stated that it was an honor to be the first graduate of the first cohort of the LEAD doctoral program. The knowledge and experience she gained have been invaluable to her Christian education work and life coach practice.
- **Dr. Stephanie Young** currently serves as the Director of Scholarships with the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga. Dr. Young presented at the National Scholarship Providers Association last year and has written a book/journal called, "Thriving in College: Essentials for Campus Living."
- **Dr. Reid Fisher**, University of the Incarnate Word, established sports medicine integration with US Air Force Basic Military Training and demonstrated that running gait retraining can be effectively used to mitigate risk of serious injury, leading to cost avoidance of \$15M annually to USAF; both are published studies (*Journal of Athletic Training* and *Military Medicine*).

Keep in Touch!

If you have any professional updates or news to share, we'd love to hear from you! Please visit the following survey link:

[Learning and Leadership News Update](#)

