



Learning and Leadership are indispensable to each another.
- John F. Kennedy



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The LEAD multidisciplinary curricula and programs of study are designed to equip participants with an understanding of the relationship that learning plays in the leadership process; to develop reflective practitioners in a variety of organizations; to focus on the interwoven nature of leadership, decision-making, and learning; and to emphasize the competencies that individuals and teams will need as they pursue the challenges of organizational change.

Faculty Updates

Welcome to UTC, Dr. Jessica Taylor! Dr. Taylor joined the LEAD faculty as Assistant Professor this Fall. She looks forward to working with current participants in upcoming research/statistics/program evaluation courses and to working with candidates on their culminating research projects.



Please join us in congratulating Dr. Christopher Silver, LEAD Assistant Professor, on successfully defending his second doctoral degree (PhD) from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.



In Fall 2021, the new Bachelor of Applied Science: Applied Leadership (BAS-AL) program launched. The online BAS-AL provides an online, flexible program for adult learners seeking employment or advancement in the workforce. For more information, please visit the [BAS-AL website](#).

Welcome EdD21 & PhD21 Cohorts

This Summer, we admitted two new multidisciplinary doctoral cohorts (EdD/PhD). Participants successfully completed the foundational course, Learning & Leadership Integration & Assimilation (LLIA), delivered via the Virtual Classroom this Summer and are currently enrolled in core coursework this Fall.



Participant News

- **Irene Hillman** has transitioned to a new role as Director for the Student Success Center for the UTC College of Engineering and Computer Science. Her knowledge of leadership theory played into the hiring decision, so she appreciates the leg up from LEAD!
- **Tony Galloway** currently serves as the Historian for Sullivan County, TN.
- **Valerie Williams** was appointed to the University Diversity Council (UDC) for her undergraduate alma mater, Vanderbilt University. She also serves as the current national president of the Association of Vanderbilt Black Alumni and is building on existing strengths and identifying opportunities for growth for in the areas of equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- **Brett Fuchs** was awarded the UTC Chancellor's Blue Ribbon Award. Additionally, he attended the Harvard Kennedy School Executive Education Program for certification in Crisis Leadership and Higher Education and was certified as a domestic violence mediator for the state of TN.
- **Mariah Perry** graduated from the 2019-2020 Treasurer's Leadership Academy.
- **Barbara Scales** was hired on a Motlow State Community College at the Chief Compliance, Equity and Inclusion Officer where she serves as the institution's executive-level compliance, diversity, and ethics strategist and champion.
- **Jessica Ghazi** is currently serving as the Biology Content Demonstration Teacher for Hamilton County Schools. She also accepted a position as Academic Administrator of the Flex Academy, an initiative to provide evening and weekend opportunities for students to complete graduation requirements. In October, Jessica and her husband, Hassan, welcomed their daughter, Zaida.
- **Lowell "J.R." Howard**, Brigade Executive Officer, accepted an instructor position at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) in Fort Leavenworth, KS.
- **Damon Sowers** serves on the UTC Graduate Athletic Training Program (GATP) Advisory Board.
- **Will Andrews** authored his first article this past Spring and is currently co-authoring a second article.



Participant News (Continued)

- **Crystal Mayer** accepted a position as the Literacy Content Lead for Midtown Elementary Schools. In this position, she helps support four elementary schools in Hamilton County. I by assisting teachers and coaches with curriculum, standards, and best practices in literacy instruction.
- **Carolina Hammontree** was honored with the Barbara Shiffler '76 Award for Business Teaching at Dalton State College. Additionally, Carolina has led a project with doctoral students/faculty to increase international research opportunities, including another partnership with Mexico, Venezuela, Panama, and Dominican Republic.
- **Walter Battle** has assumed the role of Community Economic Development Extension Area Specialist (Western Region). His responsibilities include conducting a statewide needs assessment and establishing outcome indicators for statewide programming. Walter was also recognized with the Epsilon Sigma Phi Southern Diversity Multicultural Team Award and the regional homebuyer program he developed with a colleague was Recognized as the top University of Tennessee Extension THDA Homebuyer Education program.
- **Kimberly Shurett** serves as Secretary for the Executive Principals Study Council, as a member of the UTC School Leadership Curriculum and Clinical Experiences Team, and a member of Tennessee Rural Principals Network.
- **Marci Reiter** currently serves as Associate Professor at Cleveland State Community College and has assumed the role of Coordinator of First Year Experiences & Advanced Technologies Institute Creator this Fall.



Share Your News

If you have any professional and/or personal news to share, we'd love to hear from you! Please visit the following survey link: [Learning and Leadership News Update](#)



Alumni News

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

- **Dr. Tyler Forrest** successfully defended his dissertation and was promoted to Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration at UTC.
- **Dr. Charles (Charley) Deal** was selected to serve on the United Way of Tennessee Board of Directors.
- **Dr. Joyce McPherson** presented on “Active Learning as a Tool for Teaching at a Distance” at the NeMLA Conference last Spring and was recognized with the UTC Department Head’s Award for Outstanding Adjunct Faculty (English).
- **Dr. Jacob (Jake) Quilliams** was promoted to assistant principal at Seymour High School and celebrated the birth of his daughter, India Lorraine Quilliams.
- **Dr. Gerald (Gerry) Stark** contributed to Tecklin's Pediatric Physical Therapy reference book and is serving as Education Development Committee Co-Chair for the American Academy of Orthotists & Prosthetists and Co-Chair of the Upper Limb Committee for the Amputee Coalition.
- **Dr. Amy Greear** was chosen to participate in LEAD Virginia, the state of Virginia's premier leadership program. Participants are charged with advancing Virginia’s future and engaging in that shared responsibility.
- **Dr. Scott Reece** retired from Roper Corp/GE Appliances and took on an Adjunct role tracing Mass Communication courses at Chattanooga State Community College.
- **Dr. Erin Thornbury** is pleased to announce that their family has expanded to four with the addition of a little boy this Summer.
- **Dr. Ashley Aldridge Wilson** earned NBCT, Early Childhood Generalist (National Board Certification) and NAESP National Principal Mentor Certification (National Association of Elementary School Principals).



Alumni News (Continued)

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- After a successful 3-year research project assessing the effects of embedding athletic training into US Air Force Basic Military Training (Feb 2021, Journal of Athletic Training), **Dr. Reid Fisher**, University of the Incarnate Word, has taken on the lead position over the full implementation and reports that it has been an amazing opportunity to impact lives helping people achieve their dream of serving in the US Air Force.
- **Dr. Selwyn Samaroo** currently serves as Attorney at Law, South West Regional Health Authority in Trinidad.
- **Dr. Steven Hood** was promoted to Senior Associate Vice President of Student Life at the University of Alabama, overseeing Housing & Residential Communities, the Office of Student Media, the Ferguson Student Union, and Business Services.
- **Dr. Wahtawah (TJ) Battle** has continued to serve as a tnAchieves Mentor for the 2021-2022 school year, as well as a volunteer for Remote Area Medical and the Medical Response Corp with Tennessee during the pandemic. Additionally, Dr. Battle has enjoyed being part of the National Park Service Phenology studies in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Mocs Give Day



Please save the date for UTC Mocs Give Day on October 5, 2021, and consider giving a donation to the Learning & Leadership Doctoral Program Fund. For more information, please visit the [Mocs Give Day website](#).