

**COLLEGES
AND
UNIVERSITIES
GUIDE
2021**

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ETSU expanding rehabilitative sciences footprint with two new programs

East Tennessee State University is preparing to launch two in-demand programs that will expand its footprint in the rehabilitative sciences – a Doctor of Occupational Therapy and a Master of Science in Orthotics and Prosthetics.

ETSU has begun accepting applications for both programs and will welcome the first cohorts of students in May 2022.

The programs will be housed on the VA campus in Building 2, which is set to undergo renovations that will transform it into ETSU's rehabilitative sciences hub. Currently, Building 2 houses ETSU's Physical Therapy Program on the second floor. A \$4 million renovation began in August.

"There are very few examples of the kind of collaboration that we will have here at ETSU, with these programs – Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Orthotics and Prosthetics – all housed in the same building and department," said Dr. Jeff Snodgrass, chair of ETSU's Department of Rehabilitative Sciences. "In this environment, interprofes-

sional interactions and opportunities among the faculty, students and staff will happen organically."

Students in both new programs will benefit from ETSU's thriving interprofessional curriculum, which prepares health care professionals to work across disciplines to ensure better client outcomes.

The Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) will prepare graduates as generalists to treat injured or ill clients or those with disabilities through the therapeutic use of everyday activities. Occupational therapists help these patients develop, recover, improve and maintain the skills needed for daily living and working. They work in hospitals, offices, schools, home health care settings and nursing care facilities.

The employment of occupational therapists is projected to grow 16% from 2019-2029, nearly four times the national average growth rate of 4%, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Currently, there are only two OTD programs offered in Tennessee.

The OTD program will begin accepting applications in July, with the first cohort of approximately 24 students beginning the program in May 2022. This program is three years in length and requires 108 credit hours and includes both didactic and laboratory coursework.

To learn more about the OTD program, email rehabsciences@etsu.edu or call 423-439-7045.

The Master of Science (M.S.) in Orthotics and Prosthetics will prepare graduates for this specialized health care profession that combines a unique blend of clinical abilities, technical design and the integration of material and computer technologies as a therapeutic treatment for patients who have neuromuscular and musculoskeletal disorders and/or clients who have partial or total absence of a limb.

Employment for orthotists and prosthetists is projected to grow at a faster rate (17%) compared to the 4% average projected growth for all occupations between 2019 and

2029, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

As of March 2021, there are only 13 accredited orthotics and prosthetics programs accepting students in the United States. ETSU's program will be the only graduate level orthotics and prosthetics program in the state of Tennessee and within a 275-mile radius.

Students will complete 70 credit hours, which will include didactic, lab and clinical experiences, as well as engagement in faculty-directed research.

To learn more about the M.S. in Orthotics and Prosthetics Program, email rehabsciences@etsu.edu or call 423-439-7045.



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
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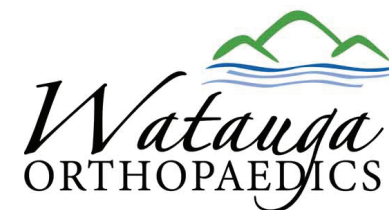
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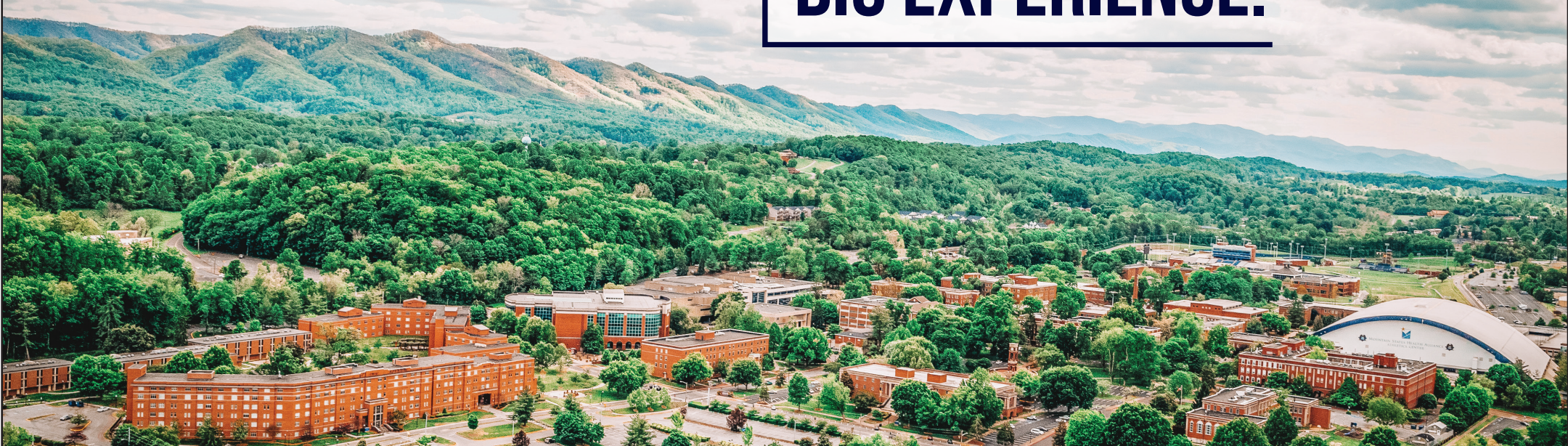
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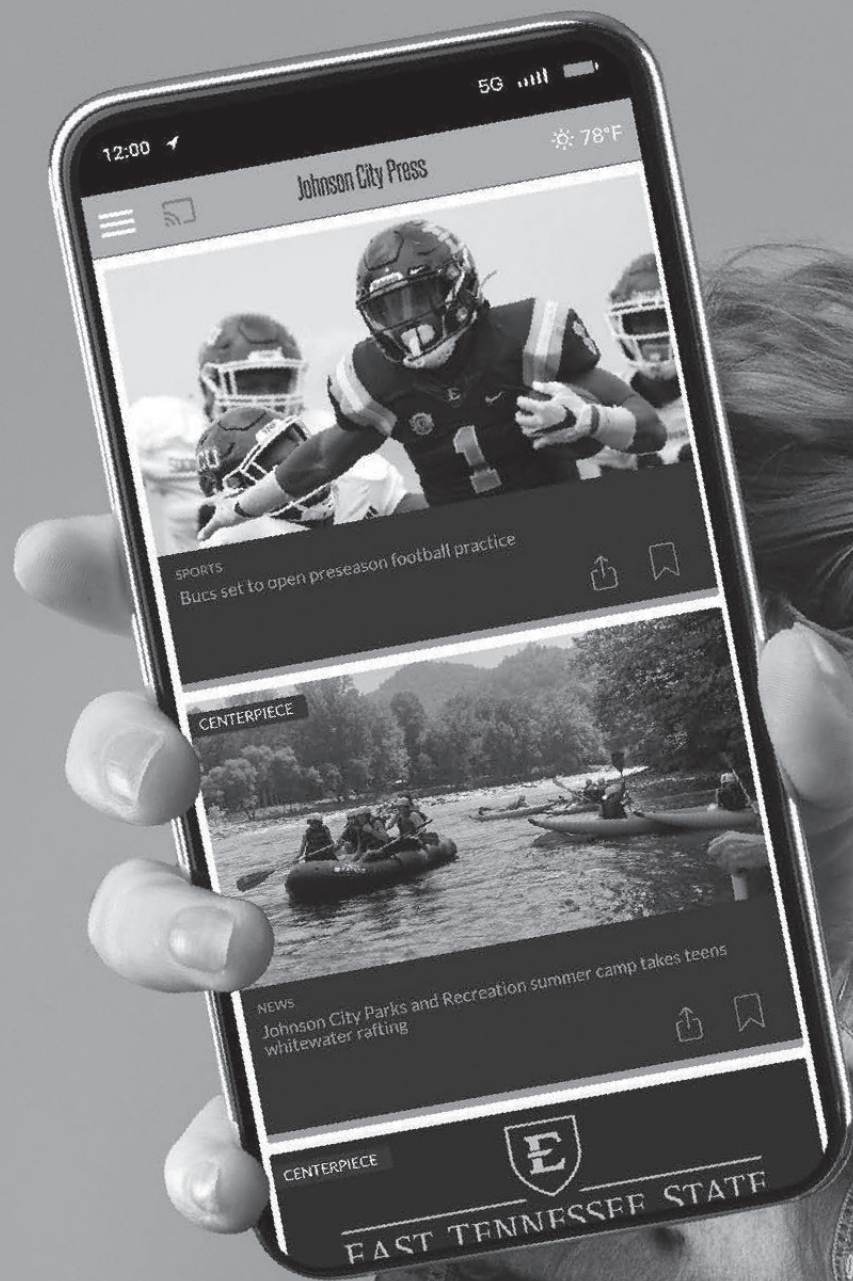
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Northeast State student named Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar

Bryan Kirk, a student at Northeast State Community College, is one of 207 Phi Theta Kappa members named a 2021 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar and will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

The program helps new Phi Theta Kappa Society members defray educational expenses while enrolled in associate degree programs. Kirk is from Kingsport and serves as treasurer of the College's Alpha Iota Chi chapter. He was named as a distinguished chapter officer at the PTK Catalyst 2021 national convention this spring.

"I'm incredibly pleased to be selected as a Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise scholar. When I started college at Northeast State, I never expected to achieve something this special, nor that there would be so many wonderful people to guide my journey," Kirk said. "My instructors have pushed me in many unexpected ways and taught me to never say no to opportunities. This scholarship represents the work Northeast State put into me."

Scholars are encouraged to assume leadership roles by participating in Society programs and are selected based on academic achievement, community service, and leadership potential.

"We congratulate Brian for this notable achievement," said Northeast State President Bethany Bullock. "We are

thankful to the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and Phi Theta Kappa for their generosity in supporting our students and their academic efforts."

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing students' academic achievement at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them grow as scholars and leaders. More than 900 applications were submitted for the honor.

"Research shows that Phi Theta Kappa members are four times more likely to complete a college degree than their peers," said Dr. Monica Marlowe, executive director of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation. "The Leaders of Promise Scholarships recognize students for what they have achieved already and assure that financial need isn't an obstacle to achieving their academic goals."

The Society comprises more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 nations, with 240,000 active members in the nation's colleges. Learn more at ptk.org.



Tips for dorm room and campus safety

Life on a college campus can be exciting, especially for freshmen enjoying their first taste of life away from home. As exciting as campus life can be, it also can be a bit nerve-racking for students who have never before had to fend for themselves.

Administrators and security personnel work to make school environments as safe as possible, but incidents can happen on any campus. A recent report from Campus Safety and Security, there were 38,100 reported criminal offenses, including burglary and identity theft, on college campuses in the United States.

Students need not live in fear on campus, but embracing various safety measures can make life at school that much safer.

- Hide or lock up valuables. You never know what may catch the eye of a thief. Devices and cash are near the top of lists of most commonly stolen possessions, but a desperate student may steal notes or even expensive textbooks if he or she is struggling. Always close doors and lock dorm rooms when leaving. Keep valuables out of sight at school. Consider buying a dorm room safe and lock your locker at all times.

- Prepare for emergencies. Research the school's policies on emergency preparedness. Some have text alert systems for emergency situations like adverse weather conditions, while others have clear guidelines on what students should do if they feel threatened in any way. Participate in fire drills and learn the nearest exits and protocols for emergency evacuations.



- Utilize the buddy system. Most campuses are safe to move around, but it can't hurt to schedule certain classes, particularly if they take place after dark, with a friend so you can walk to and from classes together. Security experts say that elevators and stairwells are common places for assailants to target victims. If you ever feel uncomfortable, trust your instincts and err on the side of caution.

- Install window alarms. Many retailers sell battery-operated window alarms that can be adhered to windows. The alarms will activate if the window is opened or the glass breaks. These alarms can provide extra security even if your dorm room isn't on the ground floor.

- Be alert when ridesharing. The safety resource Safety.com says rideshare crimes are on the rise. Always identify your driver and vehicle before getting in and ask the driver to identify your name, as he or she will have it and your destination. Wait for the ride in a safe place, and try to avoid riding alone.

- Maintain personal health. Be sure to visit the doctor and stay current on necessary vaccinations, such as the one for meningococcal disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the risk for meningococcal disease in college students is slightly higher than the risk in other teens and young adults who are not attending college. Other communicable diseases can spread more easily on campus as well.

Campus and dorm safety is multifaceted. Informed students can reduce their risk of being involved in accidents or being targeted by criminals.



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**Mountain Empire
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Northeast State now offering CCNA program

Northeast State is now offering a Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) certification, a premier credential for information technology professionals.

The CCNA program provides a range of networking technology and software development skills that keep the internet and its infrastructure performing 24/7. Communication, education, e-commerce, and healthcare, among others, depend on this technology and IT professionals to function.

Instructor Jim Holbrook, who also teaches in the College's Computer Science program, said the course covers general networking terms, equipment configuration, protocols, and security. At the end of the class, students will sit for the two-hour CCNA certification exam.

"Students that complete the course will have a better than average opportunity to pass the certification exam," said Holbrook, who holds three Cisco certifications. He also has 20 years of experience as an IT professional.

According to Cisco, 78 percent of technology executives and managers consider technical credentials a critical success factor,

and 99 percent of organizations use certifications to make hiring decisions.

"Having a certification--especially a Cisco certification--is a ticket to employment opportunities," Holbrook said. "This certification is almost crucial anymore."

The 16-week, one-night-a-week course is funded by a \$1 million grant through the Governor's Investment in Vocation Education (GIVE) program.

The grant is designed to foster long-term regional partnerships between higher education, industry, economic development/workforce agencies, and K-12 to address skills gaps in local workforce pools.

According to Dr. Donna Farrell, interim dean of the College's Technologies Division, the grant allowed Northeast State to replace antiquated equipment with new switches, routers, laptops, desktops, and other equipment needed to present a state-of-the-art course.

"If you can pass an industry-standard certification, it means you are at a level of proficiency in that field," said Daniel Dotson, a Northeast State graduate enrolled in the

course. "In some ways, employers like to see that just as much as they like to see college degrees. That means you are out there doing some independent learning and putting time and money toward passing that test."

The CCNA networking classroom is located at the Kingsport Center for Higher Education, 300 W. Market St. The College is also considering the possibility of offering the course on the Blountville campus, 2425 Highway 75.

Farrell said the next class would start Aug. 24 and run through Dec. 7. The course fee is \$1,030, which includes the CCNA exam cost. There are no prerequisites for registration, but knowledge or experience in the computer science field is recommended.

Northeast State's office of Workforce Solutions is handling registration. For details, contact Dr. Cindy Tauscher at cmtauscher@northeaststate.edu or 423.354.2570.



Mountain Empire Community College Serving the community for more than 50 years

For almost half a century, Mountain Empire Community College has served as the primary career training center for residents of Wise, Lee, Scott, and Dickenson County and the City of Norton. Thousands of students have furthered their education and skillsets to provide a better life for their family and community by earning credentials at MECC.

From humble beginnings, the College first opened in 1972 with 507 students taking classes in one building at its Big Stone Gap campus. MECC was developed from a statewide initiative to increase educational attainment rates for the Commonwealth. In 1966, the Virginia Assembly enacted historic legislation establishing a statewide system of comprehensive community colleges. This legislation brought most post high school education below the bachelor's level into one system, and broadened the base of higher education in the state. As comprehensive institutions, community colleges endeavor to serve all segments of society and are charged with providing open access to higher education for all students.

In Southwest Virginia, a committee comprised of local business, civic, industrial and political leaders was appointed by the local governing bodies of Lee, Scott, Wise, and Dickenson Counties and the City of Norton for the purpose of establishing a comprehensive community college. In April of 1970, the college Board had its first meeting at which Judge William C. Fugate was elected chair. Funds for construction were allocated by the State Board for Community Colleges and construction began in 1971.

Today, more than 1,300 students are enrolled full-time and more than 3,000 students are enrolled part-time at MECC. The Big Stone Gap campus has expanded to include five buildings accommodating more than 100 academic programs of study in traditional classroom formats, as well as online and hybrid offerings. In 2019, MECC opened the Center for Workforce and Innovation of Appalachia (CWIA) in Appalachia to house its power lineman, commercial driving license, smart farming, advanced manufacturing, and dental assisting programs. Future plans include the

development of culinary programming at the CWIA.

In addition to MECC's career training focus, the College has served as a primary resource for the preservation of the region's rich cultural and musical heritage. For fifty years, the College has hosted the annual Home Craft Days festival every third weekend in October, highlighting Appalachian traditions. MECC also hosts its annual Mountain Music School, which provides students age 10 and up with the ability to learn traditional mountain music during a one-week camp the last week in July. The MECC Foundation annually hosts the John Fox Jr. Literary festival highlighting Appalachian writers with a featured poetry and short story contests for the community. The CWIA library will feature Appalachian archives to include collections of Melungeon records and the Wise County Historical Society. The Wampler Library on the College's main campus houses the Slep Gallery, featuring a rotating exhibit of regional and national art installations.

MECC will celebrate its 50th anniversary October 2021 – December 2022. Activities and events are planned throughout the year, to include a community picnic on October 1, 2021 recognizing the initial groundbreaking for the college. Additional scheduled events include a community concert in May 2022 and a 50th Anniversary Gala in October 2022. The MECC Foundation, which exists to support the mission of the college, has set a goal to raise \$2M to support scholarships, infrastructure improvements, and other needs to commemorate this special anniversary.

MECC is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The College's Enrollment Services Division, Student Services, Business Office, Library and all other services can be reached by calling (276) 523-2400. For more information on MECC's career pathways, please visit www.mecc.edu/pathways. To enroll, please visit www.mecc.edu/apply. For information on the college's 50th anniversary, please visit www.mecc.edu/MECC50.



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Tennessee College of Applied Technology Elizabethton

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Elizabethton has been changing lives since instructors began teaching career and technical education subjects in 1965.

TCAT Elizabethton is located at 426 Highway 91 in Elizabethton and began operation in 1965. The first classes taught were in Automobile Mechanics, followed by Electricity and Electronics and Office Occupations. The first graduates were awarded diplomas in November of 1966. Since then, thousands of students have been trained for work in a variety of fields.

TCAT Elizabethton is one of twenty-seven colleges of applied technology located from Memphis in the west to Mountain City in the east. Governed by the Tennessee Board of Regents, authorized by the Tennessee General Assembly in House Bill 633, TCAT Elizabethton is accredited by the Council of Occupational Education (COE)

TCAT Elizabethton has programs that may be completed in eight weeks to 20 months. The college offers full-time on campus programs in Advanced Manufacturing Technology, Administrative Office Technology, Automotive Technology, Computer Information Technology, Cosmetology, Criminal Justice, Diesel Powered Equipment, HAC/Refrigeration, Industrial Electricity, Machine Tool Technology, Millwright Skills, Pipefitting, Phlebotomy, Practical Nursing, and Welding.

For the past several years, program completion, job placement and licensure pass rates have been in the 90-percentile range. Safety guidelines suggested by the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) are followed in programs. TCAT Elizabethton is also a National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC 3) Regional Training Center.

TCAT Elizabethton is also one of the region's premier industry training centers. Currently TCAT Elizabethton provides specialized training to several local and national companies. These companies include Kubota, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, Snap-on Industrial, Subaru, and others.

In order to meet industry needs and supply a skilled workforce, TCAT Elizabethton is looking to expand training opportunities. Plans are in the works to add several extension campuses in the Northeast TN region. The new sites will include Kingsport, Washington County, Bristol, and Unicoi. Class offerings at these sites will expand the number of programs offered by TCAT Elizabethton and will allow the college to offer new programs not previously offered.

Dean Blevins is president of the college. The average age of students is 27. They commute to class daily from their residence in Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington Counties. In 2015 Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect grants began. Tennessee Promise for high school students and Tennessee Reconnect for adults offers two years of free tuition at TCAT Elizabethton after all other applicable financial aid has been applied.

Milligan University

For over 150 years, Milligan University has been dedicated to educating men and women to lead and to serve. Grounded in a tradition of excellence in scholarship, an emphasis on community and a dependence on faith, Milligan's approach to higher education prepares students to not only excel in their chosen careers but also make a difference in the world.

Milligan prioritizes offering a first-rate education at an affordable cost. The university consistently ranks among the best regional universities and best value schools in the South by U.S. News & World Report. Incoming undergraduate students also have the option to complete select undergraduate degrees in three years, saving time and money. Undergraduate majors include business administration, computer science, exercise science, information systems and psychology.

With more than 100 majors, minors, pre-professional degrees and concentrations, as well as graduate and adult degree completion programs, Milligan prepares students for a variety of fields. Our most popular undergraduate majors continue to be business, education, engineering, ministry and nursing. In 2020, Milligan celebrated the first graduates from our electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, physician assistant studies, master's in information systems and master's in humanities programs.

With small class sizes and a mission to prepare global servant-leaders, our professors create projects to address real issues and change lives around the world. Engineering students construct water purification systems for rural communities in Tennessee and Kenya. Chemistry and biology students research how to improve antibiotics for cystic fibrosis patients. The Ministry Leadership Program allows ministry students to take classes from transformative church leaders and visit innovative ministries around the country. Each undergraduate program builds upon the liberal arts and our unique humanities program, ensuring students can analyze information and explore the nature and meaning of the world.

Our strong campus community creates the Milligan difference. The majority of our 1,300 students, representing 35 states and more than 20 countries, live on campus. With over 40 campus-life organizations, there are plenty of ways for every student to get involved. Chapel services and other campus events allow students to worship together weekly and grow in their faith. For decades, the most anticipated day on campus has been Wonderful Wednesday, an annual surprise holiday where classes are cancelled and students enjoy a waterslide, food trucks, fireworks and more.

Milligan has incorporated several new competitive activities to add to our healthy, active and vibrant community. Beginning last fall, Milligan now offers fly fishing, disc golf and a drumline, and each of these three competitive activities offer scholarships to first-time traditional undergraduate students.

Milligan Athletics continue to excel at the national level in 31 sports. Competing in the Appalachian Athletic Conference (AAC) and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), the university is proud of its winning tradition. Milligan athletes have achieved 18 national champion titles and won over 40 conference champion titles.

Milligan cyclist Megan Jastrab made history as Milligan's first student-athlete to compete in the Olympics as a member of USA Cycling at the Tokyo Olympics. She continued to make history by earning a bronze Olympic medal in the Women's Team Pursuit and a ninth-place finish in the Olympics' inaugural running of the Women's Madison cycling event.

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Time to complete shown by each training program	Program Completion Rate %	Job Placement Rate %	Licensure Pass Rate %
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Computer Information Technology	100	83	-
Cosmetology	69	88	100
Criminal Justice Technology	100	100	-
Diesel Powered Equipment Technology	100	87	-
Dietary Manager (on-line)	100	100	100
Industrial Electricity	92	83	-
HVAC / Refrigeration	100	86	-
Machine Tool	100	100	-
Millwright Skills	94	94	-
Phlebotomy	91	100	95
Pipefitting	100	100	-
Practical Nursing	93	100	97
Welding	97	97	-
Totals	94	93	99



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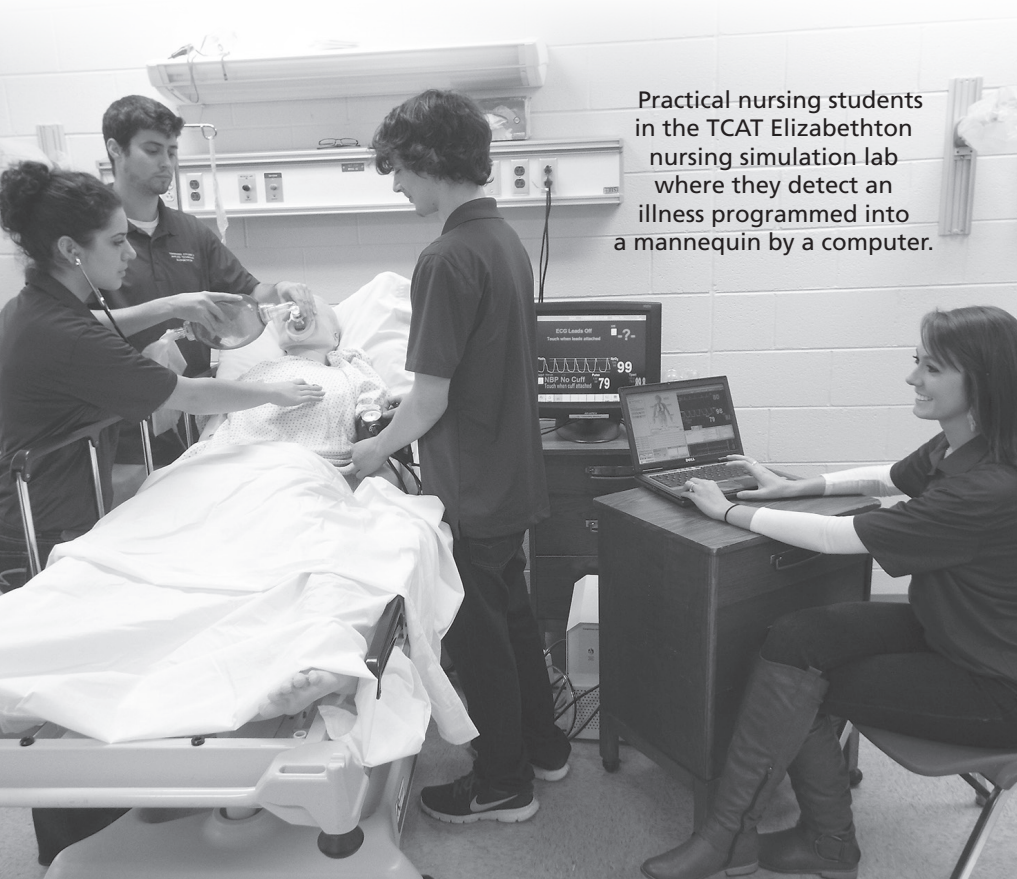
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Preparing the next generation at TCAT Elizabethton



Practical nursing students in the TCAT Elizabethton nursing simulation lab where they detect an illness programmed into a mannequin by a computer.

While the medical profession nationally faces unprecedented attacks on the COVID-19 virus, 65 students at TCAT Elizabethton are preparing to assist by becoming a License Practical Nurse. Currently, there is a 100 percent job placement rate in the area for nurses.

Patricia Henderson, student services coordinator, just completed orientation sessions for 65 new nursing students following CDC guidelines. College President Dean Blevins said TCAT Elizabethton will continue “hybrid” instruction in the next trimester that begin Jan. 4, 2021.

Blevins said the decision was prompted by the the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in the Northeast Tennessee region and also with Gov. Bill Lee’s recent guidance that includes a strong recommendation to work from home if possible. “I have decided to continue our “hybrid” instruction delivery mode we were in at the end of the Fall 2020 trimester,” Blevins said.

Blevins advised faculty to use on-line instruction as much as possible with limited in-person activities on campus.

If there is a need to have in-person instructional sessions, Blevins said faculty must:

--Maintain small groups of 10 or fewer including instructor (unless preapproved by the administration);

--Use the health screening questionnaire

--Follow CDC safety guidelines (social distancing, face coverings required, etc.).

Meanwhile, seven students have completed the online Certified Dietary Manager (CDM) program, according to Lisa Blackburn, program coordinator. For the past eight months, CDM students used the internet to access 714 web-based online hours, in addition to 150 hours of field training in hospitals and nursing homes in the student’s local area.

In addition to nursing and online dietary manager programs, there was 100 student job placement in Automotive, Machine Tools and Pipefitting at TCAT Elizabethton for the 12 month period ending August. 31, 2020.

TCAT Elizabethton faculty, staff, and administration are preparing the next generation of workers to meet the challenges during this pandemic. Bullen said there is a shortage of health care workers caused by the pandemic. The practical nursing program is helping to fill that gap, she said.

Follow form and function when outfitting your dorm room

College campuses are a home away from home for much of the year for students who go away to school. According to Azusa Pacific University, many universities, APU included, require students to live on campus during their freshman and sophomore years. Doing so provides many students opportunities to fully immerse themselves in their school communities and enjoy a little independence at the same time.

Dorm rooms afford students a chance to impart their own unique touches on their living spaces. A dorm room need not be drab. In fact, with a little creativity and some design tips, a dorm room become a space to be proud of.

• Coordinate your vision. Once you meet your roommate, discuss how you see the dorm room evolving. Choosing a color palette is a great place to start. If you can’t agree on bedding patterns, work with a color scheme so your side of the room and your roommate’s will coordinate.

• Invest in high-quality linens and bedding. Focus your attention on making the one area of the room where you’ll spend most of your time as comfortable and attractive as it can be. Look for high thread counts on sheets and pillowcases. HGTV recommends a duvet cover that can be swapped out to change the look of your bed when the mood strikes. Throw

pillows and a throw blanket are ideal for lounging in style, and they can be arranged to make a tradition XL twin bed look like a daybed or chaise.

• Opt for multi-use furniture. If your dorm room only has the basics and you can add a few pieces, maximize space and function with

items that serve multiple purposes. Storage ottomans can keep belongings organized and also serve as extra seating for guests. A mirror behind your desk can serve as a vanity for getting ready when the shared bathroom is occupied.

• Set aside a kitchen area. While you may not be cooking a four-course meal inside your dorm room — and most schools limit which types of cooking can take place in dorm rooms — set up a kitchen station with some essentials. According to the storage and organizational company Spacewise, a rolling utility cart equipped with a coffee maker, small microwave, mini fridge, and some cube storage containers is the perfect place to have snacks and beverages at the ready.

• Maximize storage. Shelves over a bed, underbed storage, bedskirt organizers, closet caddies, and additional organizational gadgets can keep rooms tidy and functional. Dorm rooms can be customized with some simple additions to make these spaces feel more like home.



Mars Hill University Scholarship Program Expands to East Tennessee

Mars Hill University has expanded its scholarship program geared to local students to include students from counties in East Tennessee through the Tennessee Neighbor Promise. Established in 2019 to provide a 50% discount on tuition for residents of counties within a 50 mile radius of Mars Hill University, The Tennessee Neighbor scholarship is available to traditional undergraduate students from Carter, Cocke, Greene, Unicoi, and Washington counties in Tennessee. Mars Hill seeks talented students from this region who plan to attend school closer to their home.

The Tennessee Neighbor scholarship program exemplifies Mars Hill's commitment to more intentionally serve students from the region, on both sides of the state line. University President Tony Floyd has said the university is dedicated to serving "extremely talented students who love the mountains and want to stay in a

setting like Mars Hill. We want to help them find their way in education and enable them to discover their purpose and passion at an affordable cost. Mars Hill University has rededicated itself to connecting local students to good jobs and great futures in a vibrant economy in this part of the world."



Tennessee Neighbor scholarships are available to traditional undergraduate students who live or attend high school in any of the listed counties. The scholarships will cover half of the tuition cost to attend Mars Hill University. For the 2021-22 academic year the scholarship amount is \$17,832 per year. Mars Hill University offers specialized visit days to

students who are interested in seeing more of the campus.

Mars Hill University is known in the region as a small, personalized university that sees the potential in every student and helps them develop skills to carry out their life's calling. Featured majors include business, nursing, zoology, community and nonprofit leadership, and criminal justice. The university encourages anyone interested in this opportunity to contact the MHU admissions office at 866-642-4968 or admissions@mhu.edu.

ETSU Martin Center ready to serve community

As the East Tennessee State University Martin Center for the Arts finalizes plans for its first public shows as a presenter, the staff is opening the center's doors to the community for their events and gatherings.

"For the last 9-10 months, the Martin Center has been excited to accommodate Music and Theatre and Dance students for classes, streaming recitals and concerts with distancing and other precautions," says Jennifer Clements, executive director of the Martin Center and University Events. "Now, we are finally able to invite the public into the Martin Center – for their own events.

"We expect to have several fall shows of our own to announce very soon, but in the meantime, we have 93,000 square feet available to share with the community – three venues, three rehearsal/meeting rooms, three green rooms, six dressing rooms, a 3,000-square-foot lobby and a gorgeous plaza between the Millennium and Martin centers."

Construction on the Martin Center for the Arts began in early 2018, after a fall 2017 groundbreaking, and was completed in fall 2020, in the midst of the pandemic and an

arts world of virtual, rather than live, experiences.

"In an arts center the size of the Martin Center, we have many options for safe gathering," Clements says. "Our Grand Hall, especially, can accommodate hundreds of attendees with adequate and comfortable spacing. Our Recital Hall, flexible theatre and instructional rooms are also spacious and adaptable to training sessions and meetings."

The ETSU Foundation Grand Hall can seat nearly 1,200, while the Powell Recital Hall will hold slightly over 200 and the Bert C. Bach Theatre, a flexible black box space, seats about 200 people – more than 200 for receptions or banquets.

"You hear the term 'multi-purpose facility,' and that describes the Martin Center perfectly," Clements says. "We are proud to be an academic center for ETSU arts programs. We are also here to serve the community and its arts and meeting/gathering needs, and last but certainly not least, we look forward to soon being able to bring in patrons from not only the area, but the greater Appalachian Highlands, to enjoy our

unique spectrum of events. We hope visitors to our area will attend our performances, then stay a while to experience the indoor and outdoor entertainment and dining that the entire region offers."

To book an event, visit ETSUMartinCenter.org, email MartinBooking@etsu.edu or call 423-439-8588.

To receive the latest news about the Martin Center, Clements invites patrons to sign up on the website to receive Martin Center email updates.





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Meet ETSU student pharmacist Rochelly Rivera Matos

Rochelly Rivera Matos grew up speaking Spanish as her primary language in her hometown of Toa Alta, Puerto Rico.

However, language has not been a significant barrier for her at East Tennessee State University Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy. The third-year student pharmacist has immersed herself in student organizations and helped her peers from different cultures and languages adapt to life in East Tennessee.

“My best friends in pharmacy school are from different cultures,” Rivera Matos said. “One is from China, one is from Vietnam, and another friend is Filipino/Mexican. I love that because we learn from different cultures, we grow as people and as pharmacists. We understand each other because we come from places where English is not the first language and the culture is different.”

Rivera Matos has known she wanted to be a pharmacist since she was a child. She majored in biology at the University of Puerto Rico – Rio Piedras campus and learned about Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy from a friend.

“When they called me for an interview, I flew from Puerto Rico with my dad and we fell in love with the city, the university and the people who work at Gatton College of Pharmacy.”

Since arriving at Gatton, she has been a part of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) and the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA). She is currently serving as director of social media and marketing for Gatton’s chapter of the Industrial Pharmacy Organization (IPhO) and as a Student Ambassador. Rivera Matos will be traveling back to Puerto Rico during the fall 2022 semester as an ambassador for Gatton to help recruit students who are interested in a career in pharmacy.



She hopes to share with prospective students some of her experiences at Gatton, such as the opportunities she has had to serve the community. For example, she has volunteered at local Remote Area Medical (RAM) clinics and helped translate for Spanish-speaking patients.

It’s rewarding to give them the service they need in a language that they can understand,” she said.

As she moves into her final years of pharmacy school, Rivera Matos looks forward to a career where she can help patients overcome barriers to achieve wellbeing.

“I see pharmacy as more than helping; it is also about caring, empathy and humanity,” she said. “It is about feeling what patients feel and understanding them and giving them the quality of life that they need.”



Lauren Mars Hill University Sophomore Greeneville, TN

Business/Economics major
Cheerleader
Bailey Mountain Clogger
Delta Zeta sorority member

I love this small school. Everybody is so welcoming here and you can really get to know each other. I feel like if I went to a bigger university I would not have been able to connect as well with other students or my professors.

I feel like I’m home, but I’m also away from home. I’m so close to Greeneville that I can go home if I want or need to visit. But I also get the experience of being away from home—even though I’m close, I’m in North Carolina, and it’s very nice to have my own space.



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