May 2022

**May is Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

May is Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. It celebrates and recognizes the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States. Learn more about UTK campus events and celebrations on the [Center for Global Engagement website](#).

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May is Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM)

Each year in May, the United States celebrates Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM), recognizing the contributions American Jews made and continue to make to our nation. Originally an effort by the Jewish Museum of Florida and South Florida Jewish community leaders, JAHM was established in 2006 by President George W. Bush and continues to be recognized by Presidential Proclamation.

To recognize and celebrate this month, the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences has curated a list of resources centering Jewish voices and stories, which can be found here. These resources are available through the UT Library and online.
NEWS

*UT Celebrates Research Development Academy Scholars*
On May 13, leadership from the Office of the Provost, Division of Diversity and Engagement, and Office of Research, Innovation, and Economic Development celebrated this year's Research Development Academy cohort at their closing ceremony. The Research Development Academy focuses on empowering diverse tenure-track faculty to advance their own scholarly agenda in research, scholarship, and/or creative activities in a collegial environment with supportive guidance. Learn more about the program [here](#).

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**Applications Open for DDE, OCEO Summer and Fall Opportunities**

**Faculty and Administrative Fellows Program**

The Division of Diversity and Engagement (DDE) is seeking applications for the Faculty and Administrative Fellows Program. This unique experience offers faculty and staff from diverse disciplines an opportunity to develop leadership skills, expertise, and strategies that advance diversity, equity, and inclusion across a variety of colleges and units. All initiatives that are implemented deepen our commitment as the state’s flagship, R1, land-grant university. Eligibility includes being a full-time faculty member (tenure-track or non-tenure track) or exempt staff member. Applications should be submitted [here](#).

**Faculty Advisory Board**

The Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Engagement (VCDE) is seeking Faculty Advisory Board members. Under the leadership of Dr. Samuel, Associate Vice Chancellor, the Faculty Advisory Board meets once a month throughout the academic year to discuss and advise the VCDE on matters concerning the campus environment. They will also provide guidance on diversity and inclusion.

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initiatives originating from the Division of Diversity and Engagement that impact faculty. Applications should be submitted here.

**DDE Partners with Urban League to Host Annual Sneaker Ball**

The Division of Diversity and Engagement and Haslam College of Business co-sponsored the Knoxville Area Urban League's annual Sneaker Ball on May 15 in the Student Union. The Sneaker Ball is the annual end-of-year celebration to honor the Knoxville Area Urban League’s National Achievers Society scholars. Learn more about KAUL initiatives [here](#).

**The Office of Community Engagement and Outreach is Hiring**

OCEO is hiring for several positions including a full-time administrative specialist. Visit the link to learn more and apply.

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Williams Selected for W.T. Grant Scholars
The William T. Grant Foundation has named Deadric Williams, an assistant professor of sociology, one of five members of its newest class of William T. Grant Scholars. The program supports the professional development of promising researchers in the social, behavioral, and health sciences who have received their terminal degrees within the past seven years.

Alumna Thinking Big in the EV-Charging World
Sheryl Ponds, a 1987 graduate of the Tickle College of Engineering, has always been interested in sustainability and making the world a better place. Her current work focuses on helping to alleviate range anxiety, the biggest sticking point keeping auto owners from opting for electric vehicles. She recently founded a company that provides tailor-made turnkey installations of EV charging stations for homes, multifamily developments, and commercial settings.

Drums Up Guns Down Peace Rally
Drums Up, Guns Down Peace Rally is a march advocating against gun violence in our community. Drums Up, Guns Down was designed to help stop the cycle of gun violence in our communities in Knoxville, Tennessee. The program was created by Obayana Ajanaku following the deaths of three Austin-East Magnet High School students who were killed by gunfire in East Knoxville. This year, the theme of the march is "PRO PEACE 365" and was held on Friday, May 13, at Dr. Walter Hardy Park, Knoxville, TN 37915.

DoD Grant Takes Collaboration Between UT, 4-H to the Next Level

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Education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields has emerged as a hot topic in the last couple of decades. One area with an ever-increasing need of highly trained STEM employees is national defense, and a recent grant from the Department of the Navy's STEM Education and Workforce Program will provide the University of Tennessee the opportunity to help meet those needs. Learn more about the collaboration here.

Researchers Map Heat Inequities in Knoxville

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Extreme heat kills more Americans than any other weather event but not everyone’s risk is the same. University of Tennessee, Knoxville, researchers from social work, geography, and public health will team up with local community members to map urban heat islands, or UHI, and collect the data necessary to protect disproportionately affected communities. Read more about the project.

UT Receives Gallup’s 2022 Don Clifton Strengths for Students Award

UT has been named one of two recipients of the 2022 Don Clifton Strengths for Students Award which recognizes colleges, universities, and districts utilizing CliftonStrengths. “It’s our goal to harness the power of our students’ strengths, promote their well-being, and produce graduates who are self-motivated, confident, and driven by service,” said Amber Williams, vice provost for student success.

FUNDING AND AWARDS

Internal Opportunities

Engaged Scholarship Consortium Faculty Travel Funds

Faculty with presentations accepted into the 2022 Engagement Scholarship Consortium are eligible to apply for travel funds from the Office of Community Engagement and Outreach. Registration is now open for the Engaged Scholarship Consortium here.

International Research

The Human Research Protection Program (HRPP) would like to remind any researchers who will be conducting international research this summer to submit early and contact the HRPP office before submitting.

External Opportunities

Engagement Scholarship Consortium Grant Applications Are Now Open

Through the Engaged Scholarship Research/Creative Activities Grants Program for Faculty, the
outcomes for both scholars and communities. Faculty at ESC Member Institutions may apply for up to $5,000 to fund a one-year project. Collaborative projects among faculty from more than one discipline and/or at more than one university are encouraged. Funds may be used for faculty, graduate, undergraduate, community partner, and administrative stipends; supplies and expenses; and/or project-related travel. Applications are due May 23, 2022.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Teaching and Learning Seminar for Graduate Students
Teaching and Learning Innovation will offer the Facilitating Undergraduate Evidence-based Learning (FUEL) Professional Development Seminar during summer mini-term. This seminar introduces participants to evidence-based teaching practices. Participants who complete the course will earn associate-level certification through the Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL). For more information and to register, check out the website.
ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

University of Tennessee Learning Through Giving Grants

The primary purpose of the UT learning through giving grants is to provide students with hands-on experience in evaluating and funding nonprofits. Proposals for capacity building in support of health, education, and financial security are solicited for grants to be awarded by the University of Tennessee students studying nonprofits and philanthropy. Students are expected to award 3-6 grants with a combined total of $20,000. This solicitation is open to any team of two or more nonprofit members of the Alliance for Better Nonprofitss. The deadline is May 27; learn more and apply here.

CALL FOR ARTICLES AND PHOTOS

Subscribe to our email list.
We hope you enjoy OCEO's monthly newsletter and learning about the many ways UT faculty, staff, and students positively impact our community. We are seeking news articles, photos and content that you think our readers would enjoy. Email submissions to communityengagement@utk.edu.