UT System Launches SMART Policy Network

The UT System has formed a policy network in response to substance misuse and addiction. SMART—the Substance Misuse and Addiction Resource Team—will promote community investment in evidence-based prevention and treatment of substance misuse and addiction, especially within underserved communities and rural regions. The network includes State Representatives, state policymakers, healthcare professionals, and community partners. The goal of SMART is to develop and deliver effective and sustainable prevention and treatment programs, policies that are strengthened through evidence-based research, and systems of care for substance misuse and addiction.

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New Opportunities and Funding

Million Pledge: Central High School in Knoxville; Cane Ridge High School, Kenwood High School in Metro Nashville; South Side High School, Whitehaven High School in Memphis.

The Flagship Scholarship is a new opportunity for high school seniors who demonstrate academic excellence, potential for leadership, and personal integrity. This scholarship covers a student's tuition and mandatory fees for up to eight semesters. New schools with students receiving the Flagship Scholarship include Central High School in Knoxville; Cane Ridge High School, Kenwood High School in Metro Nashville; South Side High School, Whitehaven High School in Memphis.

The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) continues leadership to enhance regional economic prosperity (IEP) University by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU). UTIA’s mission is to provide leadership and support to the UT System and the public institutions of higher education throughout Tennessee in research, education, and service that improve the quality of life.

Innovations in Distance Education and Online Learning

UT promotes Tennessee as a destination for international students by co-hosting the US State Department’s annual EducationUSA Forum. It is the center for the promotion of higher education and worldwide exchange with 190 countries. The Center for Global Engagement (CGE) is celebrating international education week and conference from November 16-20. This year’s keynote speaker is Sandra Uwiringiyimana, author of "How Dare the Sun Rise," who will discuss her experience as a genocide survivor. The conference will feature workshops on topics such as global citizenship, cultural competence, and international partnerships.

New Opportunities and Funding

ORISE is hosting a research-based scholarship challenge for undergraduate students. Participants will need to develop a research-based solution to a problem that applies to energy and environment. This includes topics such as climate change, air pollution, water quality, and sustainable energy systems. The deadline for this competition is November 30.

Competition must submit a letter of intent to Volunteer Tennessee by December 16.

The 32nd Annual National Service-Learning Conference will take place April 13-17, 2021. This conference is a national gathering of institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and individuals engaged in service-learning. The conference provides a forum for sharing best practices and networking with others in the field. The conference will focus on the theme of "Service-Learning and Social Justice: Building Community through Partnership.

Awards range from a $5,000 to $1,000 scholarship. Applications will be accepted through December 4.

Volunteer Tennessee invites service leaders, volunteer managers, and policy specialists, and community partners to provide evidence-based practices in the development of programs addressing the needs of underserved communities. The goal of this competition is to support youth-led service or service-learning in afterschool programs. The deadline for this competition is November 30.

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