



**East Tennessee State University
Office of the President**

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**Announcement of ETSU Arts Initiative
Thursday, Feb. 14, 2013 - 10 a.m.
Millennium Centre**

Thank you, Hannah and Chelsea. Let me take a moment to introduce Chelsea Kinser and Hannah Hasch. Chelsea is a senior at ETSU and Hannah is a junior. Both are theater majors and are minoring in dance; they will be part of the cast of the upcoming play, "Blithe Spirit" which will be performed April 11-14 in the Bud Frank Theater. This promises to be an amazing production, and I encourage each of you to put this event on your calendars.

People like Hannah, Chelsea, and the students you will be hearing from shortly are the reason we are here today. As you heard, the arts have been part of our history since 1911. They define who we are today, and they will guide us as we look to the future.

During the past several months, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members have been part of an ongoing conversation about the future of East Tennessee State University. Where do we want to be as an institution during the next five, 10, and 25 years? What are our dreams? Throughout the 125 process, the concept of an arts center has been one of the unifying elements across those discussions. The creation of a performing arts center is a dream shared by this campus and across the region. It is a dream that campus and community leaders identified more than a quarter-century ago when we celebrated our 75th anniversary.

Today, we have the opportunity to move that dream forward. The arts center has been on the state's capital projects list for a number of years. We have been waiting patiently, but today I am pleased to announce that our dream moves one step closer to reality, for in his proposed 2013-14 budget, Gov. Bill Haslam has recommended approval for ETSU to utilize \$1.5 million to begin planning for the arts center. The total cost of the facility will be approximately \$38 million, and we will be required to fund 25 percent, which is around \$9.5 million, of that project.

ETSU is a diverse and complex institution, enrolling more than 15,000 students in programmatic areas ranging from teacher education to public health. Each of these areas are central to the mission to be the best and most engaged regional university in the nation. Today, as we launch our ARTS INITIATIVE, we celebrate the arts and their role in weaving together the diverse academic offerings of ETSU. The arts touch us all, rekindling memories of a favorite play,

portrait, or performance. The arts unify the campus, bringing together students from across disciplines to celebrate our culture, heritage, and the talents of our students.

Given the immediate challenge to have matching funds in hand by next July, the arts initiative will serve as the focal point of our efforts to expand the bounds of the possible at ETSU. Over the next 16 months, it is our goal to raise \$9.5 million to meet the state's matching fund requirement. While this is our immediate goal, the arts initiative is more than just a fundraising campaign for a building – it is an initiative to expand our work in the arts. This campaign will grow over time as we deepen our scholarship support for students across the institution.

It is now my honor to turn the program over to Dr. Paul Stanton, who I am honored to announce has agreed to lead this effort. There is no individual who better personifies the spirit of ETSU, a spirit in which people come first, relationships are built upon trust and integrity, and diversity in people and thought is respected. It is my distinct pleasure to introduce the head of our arts initiative, Dr. Paul Stanton.

One of the most powerful ways ETSU has been able to influence the arts has been through the Mary B. Martin School of the Arts. This initiative began in 2009 through a \$1 million gift from Mr. James C. Martin in memory of his wife, Mary. His generous support of the school has been steadfast, and this morning I have the privilege of announcing that Mr. Martin will provide the lead gift of \$3 million for the new performing arts center at East Tennessee State University. This gift will bring his total level of giving to \$7 million in support of the arts at ETSU. Mr. Martin is a true champion for the arts and a true champion for ETSU. He is here with us this morning. Let's give him a round of applause.

I will now turn the program over to Anita DeAngelis, who is director of the Mary B. Martin School of the Arts.

As I said earlier, our students are why we are here. They are at the core of this initiative. I would like to take this opportunity for you to hear from a few of our arts students. Please join me in welcoming William Cate, Michael Hale, Matthew Brickey, and Seth O'Kegley.

Again, thank you for being here today. I thank you for the many ways you support the arts at ETSU and for being part of this new journey. Have a wonderful Valentine's Day, and go BUCS!