

From: Office of the President <OFFICEOFTHEPRESIDENT@mail.etsu.edu>

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EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY



November 13, 2019

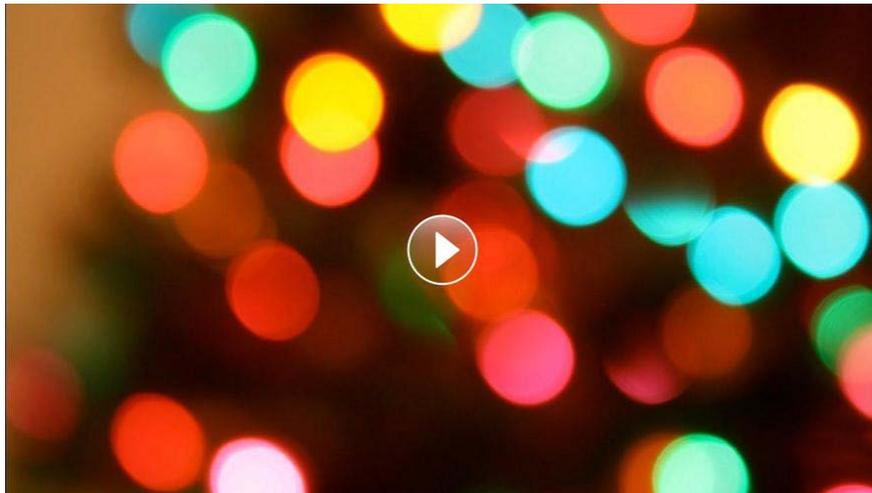
A moment of reflection

As Thanksgiving approaches, I step back from the relentless pressures and demands that every fall semester brings, to realize how blessed I am to be able to come to work every day here at East Tennessee State University. I walk in the footsteps of former presidents who built a campus culture of acceptance and celebration of the individual. It's a campus culture that respects differences, and it always has. It's a campus culture that encourages students, faculty, and staff to go their own unique ways. It's a campus culture that embraces students who are the very first ones in their families to attend college equally with those whose families possess degrees from higher education institutions. It's a campus culture shaped, above all, by dignity and respect in human relationships. Sometimes we fall short, but overwhelmingly, ETSU is a welcoming, understanding, visionary place. I'm honored to play a role in helping to keep it that way. Throughout my Notepads report

today, you will read about initiatives and other announcement that link back to our mission as an institution where people come first, are treated with dignity and respect, and are encouraged to achieve their full potential.

Holiday Lights Celebration tonight

One of my favorite events of the fall semester will take place this evening. I hope you and your family will join me, along with SGA President Aamir Shaikh, Bucky and Santa as we kick off the holiday season and turn on the ETSU holiday lights (view video invitation below). The celebration will take place Wednesday, November 13, at Alumni Plaza. Enjoy music, hot chocolate and cookies from 5:45-6:30 p.m.



Join us for inaugural ETSU Elevates Pitch Competition Monday, November 18

The names of the five organizations who will compete for one of the \$5,000 ETSU Elevates grants have been drawn, and the teams will make their presentations in front of a live audience at our ETSU Elevates Pitch Competition on Monday, Nov. 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Millennium Center. Join us and hear about these exciting initiatives that will be proposed, and remember: each audience member physically present at the event gets the opportunity to vote and ultimately choose which projects are awarded ETSU Elevates service grants. It is not too late to get involved with ETSU Elevates. Application deadlines and events will be held again starting in January 2020. Learn more by visiting <https://www.etsu.edu/ETSUelevates>.

Scheduled presentations for Nov. 18 are: ETSU Elevates Housing; Leadership Kingsport: Working for a Fresh Start; Women's Suffrage Centennial Celebration Coalition; Johnson City Public Library Teens; and Appalachian Outdoor RecPreneurs.

Next ETSU Connects: Wednesday, December 4

As I reported in our last "From My Notepads," our inaugural ETSU Connects event was a tremendous success, and I am pleased to invite you to the next event. ETSU Connects will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 4, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Millennium Center, room 137B. Topics to be addressed include an update from the previous ETSU Connects meeting, an information session on the Office of Equity and Inclusion led by Dr. Keith Johnson, Vice President for Equity and Inclusion, as well as a report on capital projects and facilities upgrades from Jeremy Ross, Chief Operating Officer.

To register for the Dec. 4 ETSU Connects event, visit the following link:
<http://etsupws.etsu.edu/HRTD/Registration/Register/3104>.

Download the ETSU Safe App and text to enroll in emergency alerts today

As many of you have heard, a new smartphone app, called ETSU Safe App, is now available for download on Apple and Android devices. This new app offers many new services, including information on:

- Reporting a tip
- Requesting a friend walk
- Accessing emergency plans for incidents such as a tornado, natural disasters, active shooters, etc.
- Learning about other safety resources.

In addition, with the ETSU Safe App, a person's location will be made available when an emergency call is made. One of the questions many community members have raised is how this will interface with our current emergency notification system Rave, or GoldAlert. Our contractual services with Rave will end at the conclusion of the calendar year, and ETSU Safe App will become the primary notification platform. There are two important steps each student, faculty and staff member should take immediately in order to prevent any lapse in receiving this important information.

1. Download ETSU Safe App if you have not done so already. You can find it in the App store.

2. You must also send a text 237233 to sign up to receive emergency text alerts. If you only have the ETSU Safe App, you will receive push notifications when an emergency message is sent, along with the email updates and the Alertus desktop notifications. However, to get the emergency text messages you must send a text message to the above number to enroll.

The safety of the ETSU community is our highest priority, and these enhancements to our emergency notification systems will strengthen that commitment to our students, faculty or staff. If you have any questions about the ETSU Safe App, contact Andrew Worley at worleyp@etsu.edu.

ETSU Board of Trustees meeting Friday, November 15

I invite each of you to join us on Friday, Nov. 15, for our quarterly Board of Trustees meeting at the Millennium Center. The morning will begin with three committee meetings followed by the full board meeting in the afternoon. The full schedule is as follows:

- Audit – 8:30 a.m.
- Finance and Administration – 9:45 a.m.
- Academic, Research and Student Success – 9:45 a.m.
- Full Board of Trustees Meeting (room 220) – 1:15 p.m.

The agendas and accompanying materials for all of the meetings are available at www.etsu.edu/trustees under “Meeting Schedule & Materials.” The meetings are open to the public and will be conducted permitting participation by electronic or other means of communication if necessary. A livestream of the full board meeting will be available at www.etsu.edu/trustees/livestream.php. Thank you for your continued interest and participation in the decisions that affect this campus.



Campus gathers for 2019 Veterans Day Ceremony

Friday, November 8, was special day on the ETSU campus as we hosted our annual Veterans Day Ceremony where we saluted and paid tribute to the men and women who have served our country. For decades, this institution has preserved a rich history of preparing men and women who have gone on to lead distinguished and highly decorated careers in the U.S. military. Today, ETSU serves our 768 student veterans and military-affiliated families, and through our ROTC program, we have over 90 students, including 54 who are on contract with the U.S. Army. At our December Commencement exercises, four of those students will be commissioned as second lieutenants.

Notepads will return Wednesday, December 4

I look forward to sharing more campus updates with you in my December 4 installment of "From My Notepads." The publication scheduled for Wednesday, November 27, will be postponed for one week given that the institution will be closed on that day for the Thanksgiving holiday. May this be a season of celebration and thanksgiving for you and your family members, friends, loved ones and colleagues. Thank you for all you do for the ETSU community.



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