



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY



October 30, 2019

Homecoming week: A time for celebration

This week is a special time for our campus. Homecoming presents an opportunity for all of us, including those who may have not visited campus in several years, to come together to celebrate a common theme - our bond to East Tennessee State University. I continue to be amazed by the many ways ETSU impacts the lives of those who choose to make it their academic home. Recently, I saw a wedding ceremony taking place on our campus. It turns out that the couple met at ETSU and they could think of no better setting for one of the most important days of their lives. I look forward to hearing more of those stories and seeing familiar and new faces at Homecoming festivities this week.

As you will see in the video below, Bucky is also excited about Homecoming. The theme for this year is "X Marks the Spot." I will not spoil the video for you, but I did have fun making a guest appearance!

A complete schedule of ETSU Homecoming events is available at <https://www.etsu.edu/homecoming>.



Update on EAB review of University Advising

As I reported in a previous issue of “From My Notepads,” a number of structure and process reviews are being conducted across campus, and I indicated that I would use this platform to keep everyone updated on how these initiatives are progressing.

A team from EAB visited the ETSU campus July 30-31 for a comprehensive review of our advising system. During 14 sessions with more than 50 staff members and students, the EAB team centered its review around the following areas: Mission and Definitions, Organizational Structure, Advising Technology, Training and Development, Policies and Processes, and Accountability.

Our goal is to move to a Student Success Model that brings activities that support learning and success, such as advising, under a student success structure. The report and recommendations provided by EAB give us the foundation to implement a new advising model that is decentralized but has a standard structure.

Here is a summary of the plans moving forward:

- Our University Student Advisement Office and University Advisement Center will report to the Division of Student Life and Enrollment effective January 1, 2020. The division will provide oversight of the advising model on campus as it builds a total student success-focused experience for students starting with their recruitment and admission to ETSU. The division will be responsible for assuring a consistent advising experience for students through the development of policies and procedures, training and development.
- The decentralized model supports continuation of advising offices within each college. Advisors serving with the colleges will continue having the same reporting

structure. These professional advisors, joined by faculty mentors, will provide academic advising and career mentoring for students through 120 credit hours.

- A search will begin soon for an Executive Director of Student Success who will be part of the Student Life and Enrollment team.
- An implementation team will be formed to create a plan and timeline for this initiative.

Again, I will keep you updated on our progress as we move forward in meeting the goals of our strategic plan. Additional information is also available at

<https://www.etsu.edu/academicaffairs/pds/strategicplan/strategicplan.php>.

Applications open for ETSU Elevates service grants

In my last “From My Notepads” update, I talked about our new *ETSU Elevates* initiative that will award \$90,000 to fund service projects across the region. Grants of \$5,000 each are available to teams that submit their ideas to create a healthy, thriving region with opportunities for all. Anyone may apply for an *ETSU Elevates* service grant as long as they form a team with at least one member of the ETSU community (faculty, staff, students, organizations, departments, colleges) and surrounding community (individuals, non-profits, faith-based organizations, schools, civic groups etc.).

The first application deadline is November 10 at 10 p.m. All applicants will have an equal shot at an opportunity to pitch their service project ideas in front of a live audience. The audience will vote and choose who gets to elevate their project and our region.

Learn more about the initiative by visiting <https://www.etsu.edu/ETSUelevates> or emailing ETSUelevates@etsu.edu. Thank you for all you do in support of our mission to improve the quality of life for the people of this region.

Mentors needed for tnAchieves program

Every year, thousands of volunteers are recruited to serve as mentors for Tennessee Promise students as they transition from high school through their first semester of college. More than 55,000 students have already applied for the Tennessee Promise Class of 2020.

If you are interested in applying to be a mentor, you can do so by visiting www.tnachieves.org/mentors/apply.

Inaugural ETSU Connects gathering a success

More than 100 staff and faculty joined us for our first ETSU Connects gathering on Thursday, October 24. The group participated in an hour-long discussion on campus communication and generated several excellent ideas on how this process can be further enhanced.

Watch future “From My Notepads” installments for information on the next ETSU Connects event. If you have an idea for a topic at ETSU Connects, please email my office at president@etsu.edu.

Holiday Lights Celebration

One of my favorite events of the fall semester is our annual Holiday Lights Celebration. This year, the event will be held on Wednesday, November 13, at Alumni Plaza. Please join me, SGA President Aamir Shaikh, and Bucky as we kick off the holiday season and turn on the ETSU holiday lights. Enjoy music, hot chocolate, and cookies from 5:45-6:30 p.m.



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