



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY



January 15, 2020

A New Semester, a New Year

It is my honor to welcome each of you back to campus for the start of the 2020 spring semester. A new year always brings a sense of renewal, and I hope the 2020 year will be one of many blessings and rewarding opportunities for you and your loved ones.

The start of a new semester is typically the busiest time for many of our offices on campus, particularly for the dedicated staff working in Advising, Financial Aid, Bursar's Office, Housing and Residence Life, Registration, and Admissions. For our faculty, the next few days will be filled with building courses and loading content into D2L, and our departmental executive aides will be there assisting with course preparations and helping students obtain those needed, last-minute signatures. Our facilities crews also have the task of getting the buildings and grounds of our different campuses ready for the arrival of thousands of students.

Thank you for all you do during this busy time to assist our students and to help them be successful. Your efforts, commitment and loyalty to this institution is greatly appreciated.

Celebrating the Legacy of Dr. King

Every year during the month of January, our campus comes together to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Join me today (Jan. 15) at 11:30 a.m. in the second floor lobby of Burgin Dossett Hall for a short program remembering Dr. King. Light refreshments will be served.

Next week, Ayanna Gregory will perform her one-woman show, “Daughter of the Struggle” at 7 p.m. in the ETSU Millennium Center ballroom. Additional information about the event is available through our Multicultural Center at www.etsu.edu/students/mcc/.

ETSU's Legislative Priorities for 2020

The start of the new year also welcomes the beginning of another legislative session in the State of Tennessee. The 112th General Assembly is now under way, and during the upcoming weeks and months I will be engaged in numerous conversations with our elected officials on key issues and initiatives for our campus:

- Support for the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) outcomes formula.
- Support for two additional Pediatric Surgeons and other Pediatric Subspecialists to meet the service and educational needs of the Quillen College of Medicine, Ballad Health and the region.
- Funding support for the construction of a new Humanities Building on the ETSU campus that will enhance the undergraduate experience of our students.
- Creation of scholarship program for students at the Gatton College of Pharmacy that will create a tuition model that is fair and equitable among Tennessee’s public universities.
- Continuation and expansion of the THEC campus safety initiative
- Support for deferred maintenance and other affiliated capital initiatives/ projects.
- Continued examination of the roles and responsibilities of the university system in the post-FOCUS Act environment.

I will keep our campus community informed on any updates to these initiatives.

Festival of Ideas 2020

Last year at this time, hundreds from our campus and the community joined us for our

inaugural Festival of Ideas event. Our second annual event will take place in February, and I am very excited about the platform of speakers who will be part of our 2020 event. You can learn more about the schedule of activities at www.etsu.edu/festival. As faculty build their course schedules for the semester, I encourage them to share this information with their students. Please note that tickets for “An Evening with Jon Meacham” can be purchased now, and a free ticket will be available to students, faculty and staff starting next week. Contact our Office of Student Activities and Organizations at 423-439-6633.

Celebrating the Service of our Employees

The ETSU community is comprised of more than 2,800 faculty and staff who each day, through their contributions in classrooms, offices, departments, research laboratories and on our campus grounds, carry forth our institutional mission to improve the quality of life for the people of our region.

During 2019, 344 members of the ETSU family celebrated a milestone anniversary for their service at ETSU and to the State of Tennessee. On Tuesday, January 28, these individuals will be honored during our annual Celebration of Service event at the Millennium Center.

A listing of the faculty and staff who will be recognized for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years of service is available at www.etsu.edu/etsu-news/2020/01-january/service-awards.php. Please join me in thanking them for all they do for ETSU.

Did you know?

Every week, new success stories emerge from our campus – stories of the work our students are doing in the community, news about awards and rankings spotlighting the quality of our programs, and the recognitions made of our faculty and staff. At the beginning of every fall semester, I have the honor of sharing our most recent accomplishments in the president’s annual report document, which is distributed at our faculty convocation, at the State of the University Address and at other special events.

An online copy of my most recent report, Moving Mountains, is available at <https://bit.ly/35SWDkj>. I encourage you to take time to reflect on these many success stories and to share them with others as we all work together to tell the story of East Tennessee State University.



ETSU Office of the President | president@etsu.edu | 423-439-4211