



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Weekly Update for Faculty & Staff | May 4, 2020



[ETSU Virtual Commencement Ceremony May 9](#)

ETSU will hold a Virtual Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2020 on Saturday, May 9. More information about how to watch the ceremony is available at www.etsu.edu/classof2020. The ceremony will be streamed online beginning at 10 a.m. WJHL News Channel 11 will broadcast the ETSU Virtual Commencement Ceremony at 12:30 p.m.

For a more personalized experience, graduates will select and stream a specific ceremony for their college or academic program. More information about how to watch the ceremony is available on the [Class of 2020 website](#). Video stream links will be available on the website at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 9. Viewers may also stream the ceremony and arrange a watch party on the [ETSU Facebook](#)

[page.](#)

Gatton & Quillen to host Virtual Commencement Ceremonies May 8

Gatton College of Pharmacy will host a Virtual Hooding & Commencement Ceremony for its 68 graduates on May 8, at 11:30 a.m. on its Facebook page at [facebook.com/ETSUPharmacy](https://www.facebook.com/ETSUPharmacy) and the college's YouTube channel at [youtube.com/COPtechnology](https://www.youtube.com/COPtechnology).

Quillen College of Medicine will hold a Virtual Hooding & Commencement Ceremony for its 68 graduates on May 8, at 2:30 p.m. A link to a livestream of the ceremony will be hosted on Quillen's website at www.etsu.edu/com/graduation.php.

CARES Act update

East Tennessee State University is establishing a process for eligible students to receive emergency assistance funds being made available through the CARES Act. An internal team is meeting to create and provide recommendations to senior leadership on a plan to award and distribute these emergency funds in accordance with the CARES Act. Updates will be provided as soon as they are available. Questions should be directed to virusresponse@etsu.edu.



[Bucs Help Bucs](#)

In times of challenge and adversity, the East Tennessee State University family unites to serve the Appalachian Highlands and support one another. In other words, "Bucs Help Bucs." ETSU has launched the Bucs Help Bucs initiative to assist students and employees facing extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

By giving to any of the identified relief areas, you can assist students facing job loss, financial hardships, food insecurity and mental health needs:

- Student/Staff Emergency Funds
- Bucky's Food Pantry

- ETSU Counseling Center
- Other - Support any specific area of ETSU

Gifts can be made online at etsu.edu/bucs-help-bucs. ETSU faculty and staff may choose to make a [payroll deduction](#).

Partners for Health Insurance Premium Holiday

The State of Tennessee has approved a premium holiday for health insurance premiums. If you are currently enrolled in one of the State sponsored health insurances, you will not see health premiums deducted from your May paycheck due to this premium holiday. The premium holiday only applies to the health insurance, so you will see your usual deductions for dental, vision, and other elected insurances.

[ETSU University Health Center open for in-person and telehealth visits](#)

The ETSU University Health Center is open and still providing services for the ETSU community. If you are a student, staff, or faculty member and would like to see one of our providers, there are several options to choose from.

Do you want to be seen in person? You can schedule an appointment during clinic hours:

- MWF 12 p.m.-4 p.m. and
- Tues/Thurs 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

We are also offering Virtual Telehealth visits for those who are not in Johnson City or prefer not to come in. These virtual visits can either be conducted over the phone like a phone call or it can be on a computer/laptop or camera capable cell phone. The latter provides both an audio and visual component, so you can see and speak with one of our providers in the comfort of your own home.

We are currently offering virtual behavioral health appointments, in person and virtual sick visits, immunizations, TB tests, etc.

For more information, please visit the [University Health Center website](#) or call [423-439-4225](tel:423-439-4225) during our clinic hours.



[Illuminated Magazine](#)

The School of Graduate Studies is proud to present *Illuminated*, a magazine that focuses on graduate student research at ETSU. Additionally, it provides profiles of students who recently graduated. [Click here](#) to access the magazine.

This issue features work by graduate students and their academic advisors from the following departments: Brand and Media Strategy, Biomedical Sciences, Public Health, Speech-Language Pathology, Chemistry, and Special Education. *Illuminated* is edited by Karin Bartoszuk, Ph. D. and includes the work of a talented ETSU graduate student, Hannah Warren (Sport Science and Coach Education) who conducted and wrote the interviews; and Emily Redd (School of Graduate Studies) who designed the graphics and layout.

[Interested in mask making and addressing PPE shortage? Let us know](#)

ETSU is home to many "makers" and "doers" working to meet the demand for personal protective equipment (PPE) during the coronavirus pandemic. If you are looking for ways to contribute your time, talents and supplies to help our neighbors across the Appalachian Highlands and beyond, please **[fill out this form](#)**. For the next couple weeks, we will help ETSU Health clinics collect fabric masks for patients. We have estimated the need at around 150 masks per day. Patients will be able to keep the masks, which not only will help the clinics, but the region as well.

Visit <https://www.etsu.edu/coronavirus/maker-project/> to learn more about PPE projects currently underway.

[Call for requests: Research Discovery Work Study Positions for 2020-21](#)

The ETSU Research Discovery Program gives students exposure to research projects and skills in their fields of study. The program allocates undergraduate work-study students (either APS or FWS) into “research assistant” positions working under the supervision of a campus faculty member. Faculty members can submit a request for a Research Discovery student to the Office of Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities at www.etsu.edu/honors/ug_research/funding/discovery.php.

Requests for 2020-21 academic year are due June 26. Availability is limited. Please submit early. Upon approval, positions will be administered by the faculty member’s home department. The department will be responsible for processing the hiring and timekeeping, and for covering the costs of any overages. Contact Dr. Richard Ignace at ignace@etsu.edu, or Dr. Chris Keller at kellercj@etsu.edu with questions.



[Saturday Night Live comedian Kenan Thompson comes to ETSU campus virtually May 7](#)

Short of a COVID-19 vaccine, laughter may be the medicine we all need during this difficult time. Kenan Thompson, the longest-tenured cast member in the show's history, is the final guest in this live virtual comedy series just for ETSU students, staff and faculty. The final event with Kenan Thompson will be Thursday, May 7 at 8 p.m. Registration is required. [Click here to register.](#) For more information go to [ETSU Laughing Alone Together Comedy Series Featuring “SNL” Cast.](#)

[Nomination deadline extended for Distinguished Faculty Awards](#)

Due to the COVID-10 disruption this spring, the deadline for college submissions of Distinguished Faculty Award nominees has been **extended to June 1**.

Nomination materials should be submitted electronically to provost@etsu.edu in PDF format.

[Nominations open for Distinguished Staff Awards](#)

Please consider nominating a staff member for the Distinguished Staff Awards. Nominations are requested for each EEOC category, as well as the Career Award. [Click here](#) for more information and to download nomination forms. Email your nominations to booheri@etsu.edu. The Senate mailbox will be monitored should any nominations be sent via campus mail. Although the Staff Picnic scheduled for May 20 has been postponed, winners will be announced on the rescheduled date which has yet to be selected. Nominations will be accepted through May 15.

[Grubhub now accepting ID BUC\\$](#)

Use your ID BUC\$ to pay for food from nearby restaurants within the app and have it delivered to your home anywhere, anytime! To find out how to add your ID BUC\$ to your Grubhub account, [click here!](#)

[SERS grant proposals for 2020-21 due May 8](#)

The Office of Equity and Inclusion is now accepting SERS Grant proposals for fiscal year 2020-2021. Proposals should be received by the Office of Equity and Inclusion by May 8 for review prior to the May 18 submission deadline. Click [here](#) for more information and to access the application under "Funding Opportunities," then select 2020-2021 Student Engagement, Retention, and Success.

[ETSU Global Year Program - deadline extended](#)

Given the various transitions taking place on campus right now, the application deadline for the “ETSU Global Year: South Korea, 2021-22” has been **extended to May 15**. We continue to monitor COVID-19 and continue to assess plans for this program centered on South Korea. As of now, the goal is to proceed with the Global Year as originally planned since any travel to South Korea would take place, at earliest, in January 2021. We will update the campus community on the program as we continue to learn more about COVID-19 and travel possibilities in the future. **[Click here](#)** for more information and to access the application.

Benefits review

Are you getting the most out of your ETSU Benefits? Can you answer the following questions? Am I a member of the sick bank? Who are my beneficiaries? What is Long Term Disability, and do I have that coverage? Am I contributing to my 401k to receive the employer match? If you cannot answer these questions, or if you have other questions pertaining to your ETSU benefits, we invite you to spend 15-30 minutes reviewing your current enrollments with a Benefits Team member. Email **hr@etsu.edu** to schedule a Benefits Review.

[Upcoming employee training opportunities](#)

Leadership tip of the week: “**[12 new habits for leading in a virtual environment](#)”**

IMPORTANT: ALL HR Employee Learning & Development Classes will move to Zoom Video or will be postponed until further notice. Please check the **[Event Calendar](#)** and the **[Scheduled Classes](#)** websites for latest training information. Also, employee learning opportunities are available online at **[Percipio](#)**. Contact us at **gloverke@etsu.edu** or **[423-439-6133](tel:423-439-6133)** if we can help in any way with your learning.

[Student Employee Supervisor Training](#): This is a mandatory training of new software for all APS, FWS, and RSWP supervisors. Any faculty or staff member involved in the advertising and hiring process of student workers and/or APS service students must attend to gain access to the new website. We will be reviewing the process from advertising to submitting the new electronic timesheets. We will also review the process from the students’ view in order to

better assist you with their training. There will be several sessions; all sessions will be offered via Zoom Video. **Dates: May 18; June 8; July 20; August 10 from 2-3:30 p.m. and June 30 from 9-10:30 a.m.**

All Employee Check-in Zoom Call: This will be a periodic Zoom call to see how we can best stay connected during social distancing and working remotely due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. How can Learning & Development help you during this unprecedented time? There will be no agenda, other than to check in on everyone and let you know that People Come First at ETSU. We care about you and want to help you be as successful as you can be during these trying times. The next session will be held **Thursday, May 7, at 10 a.m.** via Zoom.

Retirement Basics: Presented by the Benefits Center, this informational Zoom webinar will be appropriate for ETSU employees who are considering retirement in the next 3 years. If you are curious about the process to retire, this webinar is for you! Q & A will be welcome throughout. The webinar is scheduled for **Thursday, May 7, from 11 a.m. to noon.** Zoom link to be provided once you register.

“What’s Emotion Got to Do with It?”: Carter Wright will present this Emotional Intelligence Zoom Workshop via Zoom Video (link to be provided to those who register by clicking on title). Emotional Intelligence is our mind’s ability to perceive, manage, and express emotions effectively in real life. This 1.5 hour training will walk you through the main components of what it looks like to have a strong grasp on our own emotional intelligence and how this affects our professional career and personal life. The workshop will be held **Tuesday, May 12, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.**

UPCOMING EMPLOYEE TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS

ETSU VIRTUAL EVENTS CALENDAR

ETSU NEWS



ETSU Office of University Relations | emails@etsu.edu | 423-439-4317