

INSPIRING AND TRANSFORMING **THE CAMPUS LIFE EXPERIENCE**

The Division of Student Affairs

**ENGAGE!** **IMPACT**  
»»» **2025-26** **REPORT**



**AP** Austin Peay  
State University  
CLARKSVILLE  TENNESSEE

Student Affairs



Introduction  
to Recreation  
Management  
Leisure

**AUSTIN PER**  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
*Champion*

# CONTENTS

**4** Letter from the Vice President  
Leadership Team

**6** Vision, Values and Strategic Priorities

**7** Signature Accomplishments

**31** Division Highlights

**45** Impact-Driven Data

**47** Student Spotlights

**49** Division Recognitions

**51** Philanthropic Support

**52** Advisory Council

**53** Division Departments





**SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**DR. LEONARD E. CLEMONS**  
Vice President for Student Affairs

**DR. LINDSEY GILMORE**  
Associate Vice President for  
Campus Engagement



Dear Austin Peay community,

It is with great pride and gratitude that I share the Division of Student Affairs Annual Impact Report for the 2025–26 academic year. This report reflects more than a collection of accomplishments; it tells the story of our collective commitment to fostering a campus where every student is supported, engaged, and positioned for success.

Over the past year, our division has remained grounded in a clear purpose: to cultivate a student experience rooted in engagement, belonging, and health and well-being where curiosity and collaboration are an ethos, and excellence is achieved together. From enhancing student engagement opportunities and strengthening well-being initiatives to advancing career readiness and deepening our impact on student success, the work highlighted in this report demonstrates the power of intentional, student-centered strategy in action.

You will discover throughout these pages the meaningful progress we continue to make through signature initiatives, innovative programs, and the everyday moments that shape the student experience at Austin Peay. Whether through expanding access to basic needs resources, reimagining pathways to career success, or creating spaces where students feel seen and supported, our efforts are guided by a commitment to ensuring that every Gov has the opportunity to thrive.

This work is only possible because of the extraordinary dedication of our professional and student staff. Their passion, creativity, and unwavering commitment to our students drive this division forward each day. They are educators, mentors, advocates, and innovators, and I am deeply grateful for the care and excellence they bring to their work.

I also extend my sincere appreciation to our campus partners, alumni, and community supporters who continue to invest in the student experience at Austin Peay. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected campus and preparing our students to lead with purpose beyond their time here.

As you explore this report, I hope you are inspired by the stories, outcomes, and impact that define Student Affairs at Austin Peay. The work continues, and the opportunity ahead is even greater.

With Austin Peay Spirit,

**DR. LEONARD E. CLEMONS**  
Vice President for Student Affairs

**ENGAGE!**

**Cultivating An Engaged Student Experience**

— Division of Student Affairs Strategic Vision to 2027 —

**DR. CHRISTOPHER CLARKE**  
Associate Vice President for Community  
Belonging and Success

**DAVID DAVENPORT**  
Assistant Vice President for  
Health and Well-Being

**DR. MICHELLE Y. MARTIN**  
Chief of Staff and Executive Director,  
Student Affairs Administration and Finance

# STUDENT AFFAIRS GUIDING PRINCIPLES



**ENGAGE!**

Cultivating An Engaged Student Experience

— Division of Student Affairs Strategic Vision to 2027 —

**ENGAGE!** is the strategic vision for the Division of Student Affairs that seeks to:

- Contribute to achieving the university's strategic vision - "Experience Austin Peay."
- Create a new path to boost an engaging campus life and student experience.
- Inspire students as they experience development and pursue success.
- Reimagine a community of belongingness.
- Discover divisional core values.
- Develop the division of tomorrow.



## VISION AND VALUES

### Our Vision

To inspire and transform the campus life experience of students through cocurricular engagement, building community and belongingness and supporting a healthy well-being as they achieve student success.

### Our Core Values

We are committed to fulfilling our vision through values that are student-centered, strengths-based and embody the best of Austin Peay State University.

### Respect and Care

Lead our efforts with respect for and care of the entire campus community.

### Be Engaged

Actively and collaboratively participate in fostering intellectual and social cocurricular experiences to enhance curiosity and engagement while increasing the drive to learn.

### Cultivate Belonging

Nurture a welcoming community that develops connections and a sense of belonging that supports the holistic growth and well-being of all.

### Committed to Excellence

Be committed to high standards and robust development in the pursuit of fulfilling our vision.

## DIVISION STRATEGIC PLAN: OUR FOUR MAJOR GOALS

1. Engaged Experience
2. Community of Belongingness
3. Spirit of Well-Being
4. Culture of Purpose and Success

Learn more about the Division of Student Affairs Strategic Plan at [apsu.edu/student-affairs/division-office/vision](https://apsu.edu/student-affairs/division-office/vision).



# SIGNATURE ACCOMPLISH

## ENGAGEMENT

### Innovative Summer Internship Program Making Real-World Impact

The inaugural Summer Internship Program provided 11 rising juniors and seniors with transformative real-world experiences while helping them build meaningful connections with one another and the local community. Beyond professional development, the experience also supported student well-being by increasing career preparedness, building confidence and reducing concern about post-graduation opportunities. Student interns overwhelmingly shared that the 2025 program was more than a summer job — it served as a direct pathway to personal growth, professional development and future employment.

Senior Joshua Martin applied for the program seeking experience. He finished with four job opportunities after the 10-week paid program. A partnership between the APSU Career Success Center and Workforce Essentials, the program placed students in paid, 10-week internships with employers in the Clarksville-Montgomery County area.

“This internship opportunity allowed me to network with other organizations,” said Martin, who interned at Trane Technologies. “We went on site visits every Friday, and I was able to develop four job opportunities post-graduation with Trane, CDE Lightband, Hankook and Nyrstar.” The program’s unique structure is key to its impact.



## From classroom to career

The hands-on work also provided career clarity. Finance major Kade Tjaarda earned his insurance agent license while interning at a local GEICO office, while computer and information systems major Isaac Billeter's work in cybersecurity at CDE Lightband encouraged him to pursue a career in the field. For Martin, the experience at Trane affirmed his academic path.



## 2026 brings program expansion

Building on a successful first year, the program will expand to include 14 interns in 2026, creating even more opportunities for APSU students to gain professional experience while becoming part of a connected community of interns and local industry leaders. Participating organizations include Altvium Inc., The Back Nine Clarksville, Brand My Swag, CDE Lightband, Clarksville-Montgomery County Economic Development Council, Florim USA, Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, Tennessee, Hendrickson USA, Montgomery County Government, and Montgomery County Parks and Recreation.

Through the continued partnership between the APSU Career Success Center and Workforce Essentials, the Summer Internship Program is investing in students' futures while fostering a strong sense of community, professional belonging, and connection to the region's workforce.



**BRAND MY SWAG**.com



**FLORIM**  
USA



**HENDRICKSON**

**MoCo**  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
TENNESSEE

**MoCo**  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
TENNESSEE  
PARKS AND RECREATION



# MEET THE 2025

»»» In the



# INTERNS:

*in their own words*



**Aziz Abdukayumov**, a business major, interned at We Notarize Nationwide Notary Services. He gained hands-on financial experience by analyzing revenue trends and creating monthly reports. He developed a new budgeting template to help the company forecast its cash flow more effectively.

*"Seeing my work directly contribute to better financial planning was rewarding and showed me that even as an intern, I could make a lasting impact."*



**Teanna Albin**, a business major, interned at the Clarksville Area Chamber of Commerce, where she led a community project: designing strategies for welcome signage for the city. The role required her to present to community leaders, which helped her build confidence.

*"I am proud of the amount of times I had to present my project. At first, I was a bit nervous, but as the summer went on, I became more confident."*



**Isaac Billeter**, a computer and information systems major, interned with the IT department at CDE Lightband. He worked on crucial cybersecurity tasks to protect the company's virtual systems and customer information, confirming his desire for a career in the field.

*"I recommended they take on more interns and vouched for the talent within APSU's student population. I was later applauded by my site preceptor for speaking up and felt quite proud of myself."*



**Alyson Cooper**, a communication major, interned at Solutions 21, where she worked on leadership development, retention, and succession planning projects. She helped advance initiatives that had been stalled, creating lasting value.

*"It was rewarding to know that my contributions were not just helpful in the moment but could have a lasting impact moving forward."*



**Destiny Griffin**, a communication major, worked as a design intern at Rossview Farms. She succeeded by designing a logo for Rosscreek Builders that is now being considered for official use — succeeding where three professional firms had not.

*"The moment I'm most proud of is creating a logo that Rosscreek Builders will potentially use after going through three different firms before I arrived. It really gave me motivation."*



**Joshua Martin**, an engineering technology major, interned at Trane Technologies. A proactive networker, he leveraged the program's weekly site visits to develop four potential job opportunities after graduation. He also helped Trane by updating the entire work order database for the automotive department.

*"My advice to future interns is that once you get this opportunity, the ball is in your hands. Don't take it for granted!"*



**Andrew Schramkowski**, a computer information systems major, interned at We Notarize Nationwide Notary Services. He managed the company's technology and social media, increasing its Google and GoDaddy SEO, and hosted a site visit for his fellow interns.

*"This program has helped gain new experiences of what goes on in the professional world in Montgomery County."*



**Lily Skau**, an engineering physics major, interned at CDE Lightband, where she blended her academic interests to conduct a unique research project on the sociology of energy consumption. Her findings sparked immediate discussions among department leaders about creating new customer programs.

*"I am grateful to have been able to provide new and useful information to different teams and to be in the room as they discussed its future impacts."*



**Sophie Sutton**, a psychology major, interned at Rossvie Farms, conducting historical research at the Montgomery County Archives. The internship provided crucial career clarity, confirming her goal to pursue graduate school and an academic career.

*"I would 100% recommend this program. The Career Success Team was amazing and always checked up on me and other students."*



**Kade Tjaarda**, a finance major, interned at the Daniel Ingram Insurance (GEICO) office. His internship went beyond typical duties, as he earned his insurance agent license, gaining experience quoting and selling insurance policies.

*"I learned the importance of confidence and how that plays into sales. I think learning sales is very important in whatever field I want to be in."*



**Tamar Williams**, a communication major, interned at United Way of Greater Nashville. She worked on community-focused projects, coordinating events like "Stuff the Bus" and "National Night Out."

*"Seeing hundreds of families show up to get school supplies for the upcoming school year, it felt full circle to see the first project I worked on come to fruition."*





Strengthening Community  
and Leadership through

# GREEK LIFE



**Focus on belonging and service**

APSU's fraternities and sororities achieved a historic milestone this year, reflecting the growing importance of connection and belonging within the campus community. Increased membership in the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) and the United Greek Council (UGC) highlighted rising student interest in emerging organizations that create spaces for leadership and connection. This momentum led to the establishment of APSU's second UGC organization, Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity, Inc., marking the fraternity's first chapter founded in Tennessee.



Beyond membership growth, APSU's Greek community continued to create meaningful engagement and service both on campus and throughout Clarksville. Through shared traditions, mentorship and service opportunities, these organizations helped students build lasting connections and an enhanced sense of belonging and well-being. Collectively, fraternity and sorority members raised more than \$50,000 for philanthropic causes and contributed nearly 1,900 community service hours during the past year, demonstrating their commitment to leadership, service, and community impact.

**Leadership development**

This year marked the first full implementation of the Greek Pillars of Excellence, a comprehensive framework designed to holistically assess chapter performance across academics, leadership, engagement and operational expectations. Through this model, chapters were supported in setting intentional goals while being held accountable to clear standards. As a result, the Greek community saw increased participation in foundational programs, stronger alignment with institutional expectations and improved documentation of chapter achievements and overall impact. The holistic framework also increased connections among Greek members.

Another initiative this year was the return of the Greek Leadership Summit, a three-day, off-campus leadership experience where chapter leaders focused on collaboration, accountability and skill development. Leadership is a key component of the Greek community and enriches the academic and networking experience of lifelong members.

**GREEK LEADERSHIP SUMMIT IMPACT**

**87%**

MORE CONFIDENT IN THEIR ABILITY TO LEAD THEIR CHAPTER

**94%**

GAINED NEW PERSPECTIVES ON LEADERSHIP WITHIN FRATERNITY/SORORITY LIFE

**92%**

MOTIVATED TO APPLY WHAT THEY LEARNED TO IMPROVE CHAPTERS AND GREEK COMMUNITY

**100%**

LEFT WITH AN ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BETTER THEIR CHAPTER

**92%**

FELT MORE CONNECTED TO OTHER GREEK LEADERS



**TONIE PLEDGE**

*"Greek life and Student Life and Engagement have played a major role in shaping my college experience. Through my involvement, I've developed leadership skills, built meaningful connections, and learned how to be part of something bigger than myself. Being active in Greek life has pushed me to grow in accountability, service, and brotherhood, while also giving me opportunities to lead and give back to my campus community. If I were telling someone about Greek life or SLE, I'd say it's more than just events and organizations — it's where you find your people, build your network, and truly make the most out of your college journey."*

# UNIVERSITY EVENTS AND ID SERVICES ADVANCES CONNECTIONS FOR CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY



In early spring, Student Affairs welcomed University Events and ID Services to the division, bringing together many of the services and experiences that shape daily student life at APSU. From campus events and student organization programming to campus building access and related services, the transition strengthened the division's ability to create a more connected, responsive and student-centered experience. The department's updated name reflects the full scope of its work and its essential role in supporting not only the Morgan University Center, but also events and operations across campus.

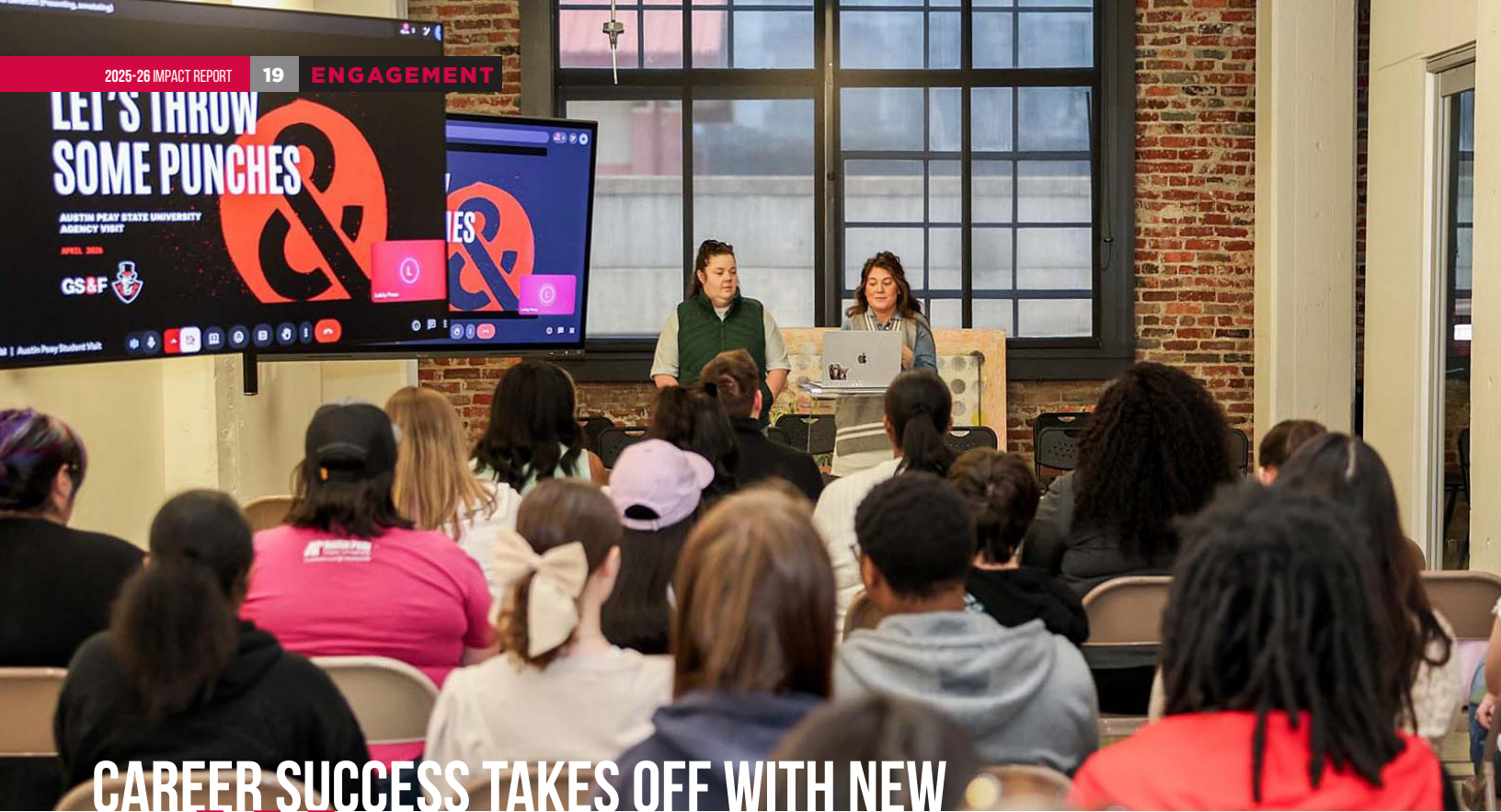
University Events and ID Services plays a central role in many of the moments that help students feel engaged and connected on campus. The department supports event planning and execution, room reservations, audiovisual and technical services, and campus ID systems that students rely on every day. Their work helps bring campus spaces to life through student events, traditions, celebrations and programs that encourage involvement and community. Joining the division has strengthened collaboration with Student Life and Engagement, student organizations, and Housing, Residence Life and Dining Services, improving support for the growing number of student activities and campus events.

These partnerships have helped streamline event coordination, improve responsiveness to student needs and create a smoother experience for students navigating campus life. Collaboration involving ID services has improved access to residence halls and dining facilities, helping students connect more easily to the spaces and resources they use most, and has resulted in more efficient resolution of student ID issues.

Beyond daily operations, University Events and ID Services helps create many of the shared experiences that bring the APSU community together. The department supports large-scale university events including commencement ceremonies, campus celebrations, donor events and ribbon cuttings that strengthen campus pride and connection among students, families, alumni and community members.

Looking ahead, the department will play an important role in supporting the new Turner Event Center, scheduled to open next year, expanding opportunities for student programming, campus events and community engagement. Through collaboration, innovation and a focus on the student experience, University Events and ID Services continues to enhance the spaces, events and connections that make campus life more engaging and meaningful.





LET'S THROW SOME PUNCHES

AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY AGENCY VISIT

APRIL 2025



# CAREER SUCCESS TAKES OFF WITH NEW TASK FORCE

In October 2025, the Career Success Task Force was established as a collaborative, cross-functional working group within the Division of Student Affairs. The task force was charged with identifying and recommending strategic initiatives to enhance career readiness and student employment outcomes across the university. Its work focuses on strengthening the integration of career development into the academic experience, ensuring students are equipped with the skills and competencies necessary for post-graduate success. The task force also explores and leverages emerging career technology platforms to expand access to resources and streamline career readiness efforts.

In addition, the group is committed to advancing employer engagement by cultivating and sustaining meaningful partnerships that create pathways for internships, employment and experiential learning opportunities. A central priority of the task force is to improve career outcomes for APSU students while fostering a culture of collaboration among faculty, staff, and community partners to support student success from enrollment through career placement. To achieve their objectives, the task force involves faculty, staff and student representation from across campus.

**Membership includes:**  
Co-Chairs: Keashla Marengo, Career Success Center, and Dr. Jonniann Butterfield, Sociology and Community Development

**Career Integration into the Academic Experience Sub-Group**  
Dr. Charles Gonzalez, Education  
Dr. Melissa Kates, Leadership  
Dr. Russ Longhurst, Physics, Engineering and Astronomy  
Dr. Allie Michael, Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment

**Career Integration into the Student Life Experience Sub-Group**  
Alejandro Herrera, Admissions  
Whitney Milliken, University Student Success  
Kaylee Dries, Student Government Association

**Employer Engagement Sub-Group**  
Dr. Robert Baron, Communication  
Dr. JJ White, College of Business  
Erin Morton, Alumni, Engagement and Philanthropy  
Hannah Eden, Public Relations and Marketing

Within its first several months of work, the Career Success Task Force demonstrated strong momentum, clear alignment and early measurable impact.

Following its launch in Fall 2025, the task force quickly organized into focused subgroups, enabling members to identify key challenges and opportunities across priority areas. This structure ensured broad representation and positioned the group to take a targeted, solutions-oriented approach. In early spring, the full task force reconvened to affirm its purpose, refine its scope, and establish shared outcomes for the semester. This alignment provided a clear strategic direction and accountability framework for all subgroups.

By developing specific goals, objectives, and implementation tasks, the subgroups translated priorities into action. In April, the task force conducted a comprehensive review of recommendations, offering feedback to strengthen alignment and impact. Final subgroup reports were slated to be submitted in late April, and a complete report outlining strategic goals, objectives and action steps will be completed.



## EARLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACT

Within this brief timeframe, the task force has already achieved meaningful progress:

### Career readiness assessment integration

Approval of a contract for a comprehensive career readiness evaluation tool marks a significant step forward in measuring and enhancing student outcomes. Implementation is scheduled for Summer 2026 and will provide scalable data to inform continuous improvement.

### Orientation programming

Career readiness content has been reinstated into Governors Orientation (GO) 2026, specifically within the parent and family sessions. This early intervention strengthens awareness and objectives beginning with orientation day and reinforces the university's commitment to career preparation from day one.

These early accomplishments reflect the task force's ability to move quickly from strategy to action. As implementation continues, these efforts are expected to significantly expand career readiness infrastructure, improve student outcomes, and deepen cross-campus collaboration, demonstrating strong potential for impact.

## STUDENT EXPERIENCE CHAMPION AWARD RECOGNIZES STUDENT-FIRST CAMPUS PARTNERS

Student success doesn't happen in isolation — it takes a village. This year, Student Affairs proudly began shining a public spotlight on the campus partners who go above and beyond as true champions for our students. To recognize these campus partners, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Leonard Clemons launched the monthly Student Experience Champion Award to honor campus partners outside the division for their meaningful collaboration, an exemplary approach to their work, campuswide impact and support of the Student Affairs mission.

Aligned with the mission of Student Affairs, the student experience champions are recognized for their partnership and for demonstrating these qualities:

### Partnership building

Builds and sustains strong partnerships with the division. Consistently collaborates with Student Affairs through co-sponsored programs, regular strategy meetings and cross-departmental initiatives.



### Approach to work

Demonstrates that “how” they work — their methods and collaboration — is as important as “what” they do by emphasizing inclusive planning and iterative feedback processes.

### Campus community impact

Leads initiatives that have not only enhanced the visibility of support resources but have also fostered a sense of belonging, especially among underrepresented students. Actively supports and advances the mission of Student Affairs through programs and initiatives that enhance student learning and development.

### Support of Student Affairs mission

Furtheres student learning and development by helping students not only succeed academically but develop holistically.

Student Affairs celebrates these champions who enhance campus life and create a positive, lasting impact through dedication, creativity and commitment to putting students first.

## 2025-26 Student Experience Champions

September 2025

**Max Remy**, Assistant Director of Athletics

October 2025

**Pat Walton**, Director of Procurement

November 2025

**Emmanuel Mejeun**, Director of Full Spectrum Learning

December 2025

**LaTara Pearson**, Military Affiliated Student Success Professional

January 2026

**Dr. Blaire Hodge-Woodring**, Director of the Center for Academic Support and Enrichment

February 2026

**Lenora Jackson**, Executive Assistant to the President and Campus-Wide Strategic Initiatives Coordinator

March 2026

**Wes Powell**, Director of Landscape and Grounds

April 2026

**Kathy Lee Heuston**, General Manager of APSU-TV and Professor of Communication

May 2026

**Carrie Taylor**, Senior Director of University Events and Engagement

## STUDENTS GAIN READINESS AND CONFIDENCE THROUGH GOVS SUCCESS INSTITUTE

A six-day, on-campus academic and residential launch program for incoming APSU students, Govs Success Institute (GSI) welcomes students early to preview college-level expectations, meet faculty and staff, access campus resources and build a support network for their first year. Throughout the week, students engage in executive leadership sessions focused on life skills and mentorship, student support workshops introducing Student Affairs opportunities, and academic support workshops to provide a head start on advising and introduce Student Success resources. The innovative program, established in 2024, also includes team-building and social activities such as game nights, waterpark activities, community service and bowling to help students forge connections and engage with each other and campus.

GSI students continue their engagement throughout the academic year through Table Talk, small-group sessions centered on mental health, personal growth and community belonging. Guided conversations support peer connection, self-awareness and skill building, helping students navigate their personal and academic experiences. This year, leadership development included eight academic, career, counseling and faith-based engagements.

Additionally, a UNIV 1010 course was offered for the GSI cohort, with GSI co-chair Aubrey Lewis serving as the instructor. GSI students also joined 250 student volunteers during the GSI Day of Service, supporting "Rise Against Hunger" with students unloading 50-pound bags of food during the event.

To further expand cross-collaboration and engagement, an executive committee with representation from Residence Life, the Office of the President, and Parking and Transportation was added this year.



## 2025-26 GSI Program Highlights

225

TOTAL APPLICANTS

21

STUDENTS ACCEPTED

98%

FALL-TO-SPRING PERSISTENCE RATE

Living-Learning Community designation received in 2025

### Pre- and Post- Program Outcomes

CONFIDENCE IN ASKING FOR HELP

72%  
+32% INCEREAASE

LEADERSHIP SELF-AWARENESS

67%  
+52% INCEREAASE

CONFIDENCE IN FIRST-YEAR PREPAREDNESS

88%  
+73% INCEREAASE

OVERALL PREPAREDNESS AFTER PROGRAM

89%

### GSI Student Impact:

*"I learned that I am a leader and need to change my negative thoughts to positive."*

*"I feel more comfortable asking for help. It's not as hard as I thought."*

*"I enjoyed how at home I felt with people I just met."*

## BUILDING SUCCESS THROUGH STRENGTHS-BASED DEVELOPMENT

The division's CliftonStrengths Standing Committee advances a strengths-based culture across APSU by providing intentional professional development opportunities and expanding strengths education for both faculty, staff and students. Throughout the year, the committee hosted monthly workshops focused on applying CliftonStrengths in supervision, teamwork and leadership development.

### Spring Strengths Day Engages Faculty and Staff

A highlight for this year was Spring Strengths Day, a half-day conference intended to deepen participants' understanding of strengths-based leadership and collaboration. The event welcomed 45 faculty and staff members and featured keynote speaker CJ Sandidge, a Gallup-certified CliftonStrengths coach, strategist, and leadership developer who serves as the chief strategy officer for the University of Tennessee's Center for Global Engagement. Participants engaged in multiple breakout sessions focused on leveraging individual talents to enhance leadership, resilience and team effectiveness. Sessions included "Unlocking Strengths to Overcome Stress," "Strengths as Stories: Using Talent to Understand Lived Experience," and "Leveraging Your CliftonStrengths for Grounded, Sustainable Leadership."

### Students Build Leadership Skills through Strengths Experiences

In addition to employee professional development, this year the committee expanded its work to directly support student leadership development through the launch of the Spring CliftonStrengths Cohort. The new initiative engaged students in a structured, semester-long experience focused on discovering and applying their strengths in academic, leadership and personal contexts. More than 30 students registered for the program, with nearly 20 actively participating. Students met monthly to explore their strengths, build connections, and reflect on how their talents shape their goals and involvement. Students who complete the program receive a certificate recognizing their commitment to strengths-based leadership and personal development. These initiatives demonstrate the committee's commitment to fostering a strengths-based campus culture that supports both employee development and student success.

Rooted in tangible results and research conducted across college campuses, CliftonStrengths have been shown to improve "a variety of student outcomes, including academic performance, engagement, and overall well-being. For example, students in strengths-based programs often report higher levels of confidence, resilience, and a greater sense of purpose (Gallup, 2024)." The needs of students, along with structured and intentional delivery, play a significant role in recognizing students' individual needs and is another tool to transform student achievement and success.



## LIVING-LEARNING COMMUNITIES EXPAND TO BROADEN STUDENT EXPERIENCE

The Division of Student Affairs is excited to continue its reimagined approach to Living-Learning Communities (LLC) and the meaningful role these programs play in strengthening student belonging, well-being and engagement. By connecting students through shared academic interests, residential experiences, and intentional community-building opportunities, Living-Learning Communities create supportive environments where students can build relationships, develop confidence and feel more connected to campus life.

Housing, Residence Life and Dining Services recently selected two new Living-Learning Communities for the 2026-27 academic year, expanding opportunities for students to engage with peers who share similar academic and career interests. The new Career Ambassadors LLC and Communications LLC will join the existing BusinessGovs, Engage and Living Green communities. Each is designed to support student success through meaningful academic connections, mentorship and engaging co-curricular experiences.

Together, these communities create spaces where students can thrive both personally and academically while developing a stronger sense of connection to the APSU community. Through shared experiences, collaborative learning and intentional support, Living-Learning Communities enhance the overall student experience and contribute to a more engaged, connected and student-centered campus environment.

- The Career Success Center's Career Ambassadors Living-Learning Community offers a dynamic, career-focused environment where students build leadership skills, career readiness, and professional confidence. Through mentorship, peer coaching and engagement with the Career Success Center, students gain hands-on experience while forming meaningful connections. Participants prepare for their own career paths while also serving as peer educators who support the career readiness of fellow Govs. This approach fosters belonging, strengthens engagement and supports academic success, retention and post-graduation outcomes.
- The Department of Communication's Communications Living-Learning Community provides first-year students with an immersive academic experience through linked courses, including COMM 2045, COMM 1200, ENGL 1010, and UNIV 1000. Through coordinated coursework, faculty collaboration, and department-sponsored events, students strengthen their writing, speaking and critical thinking skills. Engagement with faculty, alumni, and guest speakers fosters professional connections, while shared experiences cultivate a strong sense of community and support student success.
- The College of Business' BusinessGovs Living-Learning Community offers business students a supportive and collaborative environment that integrates clustered courses with meaningful faculty engagement. Through guest speakers, college events, and service opportunities, students build strong connections while participating in experiential learning that supports academic success and retention.
- Community Engagement and Sustainability's Engage Living-Learning Community supports students who are passionate about social change by providing opportunities to develop leadership skills and create meaningful impact. Through shared living and learning experiences, students build lasting relationships while contributing to campus and community initiatives.
- The Living Green Living-Learning Community, part of Community Engagement and Sustainability, empowers students to adopt sustainable lifestyles through weekly discussions, community-building activities, and staff mentorship. Students explore topics such as carbon footprints, recycling and conservation while connecting with peers who share similar interests.

These student experience initiatives are guided by the LLC Advisory Council, who dedicate their time, expertise and commitment throughout the LLC review and selection process.



## DINING ENHANCEMENTS FUEL STUDENT CHOICE AND WELL-BEING

After three years of gathering student feedback and assessing campus dining preferences, Housing, Residence Life and Dining Services introduced several major dining enhancements designed to better support student well-being, accessibility and everyday campus life. Guided directly by student input, these expansions focused on increasing variety, improving convenience and creating welcoming spaces where students can connect, recharge and engage.

In early September 2025, the university celebrated the opening of three new dining locations in the Morgan University Center: Chick-fil-A, Pei Wei Asian Kitchen and Subway. The new full-service Chick-fil-A includes a dedicated salad and wrap station, expanding access to both familiar favorites and lighter meal options. The reimaged Food Court introduced Pei Wei's fresh Asian cuisine, while the return of Subway added greater flexibility and made-to-order options for students, faculty, staff and visitors.

The opening of the Health Professions Building on Sept. 11, 2025 created an opportunity to expand access to nutritious dining in a high-traffic academic space. Freshens opened within the state-of-the-art facility, offering smoothies, wraps, salads and rice bowls designed to provide quick, balanced meal options between classes and clinical experiences.

Together, these additions enhanced dining access across campus while supporting a healthier and more connected student experience. By expanding nutritious offerings, increasing meal variety and improving convenience across campus locations, Housing, Residence Life and Dining Services continues to play an important role in student well-being and engagement. Early response from the campus community has been strong, reflecting the impact of student-informed improvements that align with evolving needs, preferences and expectations.



## COLLABORATIVE WELL-BEING INITIATIVE: A COMMITMENT TO STUDENT HEALTH AND SUCCESS

A new campus-wide effort dedicated to improving the health and well-being of our students was launched by the division in October 2025. The Peayple's Well-Being Initiative is a collaborative effort aiming to support students by creating programs, resources, and strategies that enhance mental, emotional and physical well-being while recognizing that student success is closely tied to overall health.

The initiative is guided by a dedicated Peayple's Well-Being Task Force, co-chaired by Assistant Vice President for Health and Well-Being David Davenport and Dr. Kadi Bliss from the College of Behavioral and Health Sciences. Members represent a wide range of campus partners:

**Rachel Bush**, College of Arts and Letters

**Jonathan Gladney**, Housing, Residence Life and Dining Services

**Dr. Charles Gonzalez**, Eriksson College of Education

**Dr. Quianda Harris**, Counseling and Health Services

**Emerald Lacy**, University Recreation

**Olivia Lahann**, Community Engagement and Sustainability

**Savannah Longo**, Decision Support and Institutional Research

**Dr. Shelana Martin**, Counseling and Health Services

**Kaitie McKinney**, Community Care and Standards

**Dr. Hamid Noghanibehambari**, College of Business

**LaTara Pearson**, Military and Veterans Affairs

**Dr. Heather Phillips**, College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

**Nate Smith**, Student Government Association

**Dr. LeAnn Wills**, College of Behavioral and Health Sciences

Through their combined expertise, the task force is working to identify student needs, develop programs, and create supportive campus environments that foster well-being. They recently shared results from a wellness survey conducted in the fall, which prompted health and wellness programs during the spring, and will guide wellness efforts over the coming year.

### RAKYIAH WICKS

*"Working at the Foy Fitness and Recreation Center has positively impacted me as a student on campus in many meaningful ways. It has provided me with a supportive environment where I've been able to build meaningful connections, strengthen my communication skills, and grow both personally and professionally. Being part of the University Recreation team has helped me develop a greater sense of responsibility, time management and leadership while balancing my academic workload. It has also given me a space to relieve stress and stay active, which has improved my overall well-being. Most importantly, working at the Foy has made me feel more connected to campus and has truly enhanced my college experience."*





SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS

Food  
Pantry





# »» NOURISHING STUDENT SUCCESS:

## FOOD PANTRY EXPANDING IMPACT THROUGH HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP



### A TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFT - THE MILLAN FOUNDATION IMPACT CENTER

During the 2024-25 academic year, the APSU Food Pantry served 505 new students through 3,889 visits, reaching an average of 220 students monthly plus 312 additional family members each month. This family-oriented approach sets APSU apart from most university food assistance programs, which typically serve only enrolled students. The Food Pantry is a critical resource for students facing food insecurity, allowing them to focus on their academic pursuits with less worry about meeting basic needs.

This growing need led to a historic partnership with the Millan Foundation — APSU's first privately-funded donation of this type. This transformational gift-in-place donation will expand the food pantry's capacity to serve 35% more students facing food insecurity.

The Austin Peay Board of Trustees approved the naming of the campus food pantry facility as the Millan Foundation Impact Center during its December 2025 quarterly meeting. The Food Pantry provides fresh produce, meat, and eggs to students and their families — a comprehensive approach that will be expanded through this partnership.

### Expanded capacity and enhanced access

The new facility will dramatically increase both capacity and accessibility:

- Monthly food distribution will rise from 4,800 to 6,500 items
- Shelf-stable storage will grow from 1,400 to 1,800 items
- Fresh food distribution will double from 50 to 100 pounds monthly
- On-site hydroponic towers for fresh greens will also double in number

In addition to scaling operations, the new location will improve campus and community visibility, accessibility and parking, making it easier for students to utilize services. The relocation will also integrate Community Engagement and Sustainability offices, creating a centralized hub for resources, basic needs and outreach. The partnership comes at a crucial time as food insecurity continues to impact student success nationwide.

### Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Breakfast celebrated new partnership

The partnership was celebrated during APSU's Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Breakfast on Nov. 19, 2025, followed by an official unlocking ceremony at the future home of the APSU Food Pantry. The ceremonial unlocking marked the beginning of the facility's transformation and symbolized new possibilities for student support.

A special moment at the breakfast was the dedication of a ceremonial key to Leo and Lillie Millan, recognizing the Millan Foundation's partnership in building the APSU Food Pantry's new home. University leadership also launched a campaign for a permanent endowment to ensure the long-term sustainability of the food pantry operations. The breakfast was held to update and inform community leaders about the impact the food pantry is having on campus and increase awareness about our students dealing with food insecurity.

### Strengthening resources: Second Harvest partnership established

After a three-year effort, Community Engagement and Sustainability finalized a partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank in February, gaining access to the largest food bank in Tennessee. This collaboration will provide significantly more food and a better variety with weekly food deliveries, increasing available assistance for students. The partnership also brings added support through a Second Harvest staff member who assists with SNAP and food assistance resources, allowing pantry staff to focus more directly on student needs. Achieving this partnership required extensive preparation, including training, compliance, and implementation of inventory and tracking management systems. The expanded food pantry facility will ensure APSU can fully leverage this partnership, further strengthening its commitment to combat food insecurity, enhance student well-being, and support overall student success.

# Food Pantry Timeline

**2010**

Social work graduate students contact APSU President Tim Hall about need for a food pantry for students to help alleviate the strain on surrounding food pantries.

**2011**

Food Pantry opens in an office supply closet in the Morgan University Center.

**2013**

Food Pantry expands to a one-bedroom apartment in Housing's Emerald Hill and begins to take clothing and household items.

**2014**

SOS Food Pantry gets its first health and human performance intern focused on nutrition, encouraging fresh fruit and vegetables. Garden space begins to be built for the pantry. Pantry partners with AmeriCorps and receives its first VISTA member to assist with managing the pantry and gardens.

**2015**

Center for Community Engagement and Sustainability is created, and pantry moves from Student Life and Leadership to this new department, located at 322 Home Ave. Pantry builds a second garden behind building. First pantry chicken flock established to provide fresh eggs.

**2016**

Pantry partnerships with local food pantries grows and increases access to groceries for students. Pantry users doubled from Fall 2016 to Fall 2017.

**2018**

Pantry focus group determines need for emergency funds for students facing unexpected financial emergencies. Fund created and in effect by 2019.

# Community Engagement and Sustainability Food Pantry Fast Facts

APSU is the first state college in Tennessee to recognize food insecurity and create a food pantry.

## CURRENTLY:

- Over 3,500 visits this year
- Limited space
- Fighting stigma (*military-affiliated, veterans, nontraditional students have difficulty asking for help*)

## FUTURE:

- New space is double the size of the current space
- Adding more fresh food including harvest fruits and vegetables
- Space for a full-time staff person, meeting room, educational space
- College Street provides more visibility
- Lacking basic needs is a barrier to studying and succeeding
- Pre-matriculation survey to help identify food insecurities
- New space will be 100% accessible

## COLLABORATIONS:

- Bella's Closet (*business clothing, interviews, confidence*)
- Manna Café
- Yaipak
- Loaves and Fishes
- Second Harvest (*new space will have loading dock, a requirement for Second Harvest*)



## NOAH TRAIL

*"Though my time working in the food pantry has been short, the experience gained will last me a lifetime. I've gotten to meet numerous individuals who have food insecurities, financial troubles, or even those who just need someone to talk to. It's helped me to understand that everyone's situation is different, yet blessings can still come. These individuals are some of the most humble, kind and compassionate people I've met. The staff are the same, with total love and kindness, they seek to help all that walk through the door."*

### 2020

Pandemic response expands services, including delivery and drive-up for affected students; food delivered to affected residence students. USDA grant awarded to build greenhouse, allowing produce growth in winter.

### 2021

Pantry expands to include financial literacy as part of its offerings, focusing on personal budgeting.

### 2022

Campus dining vendor Sodexo provides access to campus cafeteria for students needing extra meals, known as meal swipe program.

### 2023

Initial brainstorming for new food pantry location at College Street garages acquired as part of Jenkins property.

### 2024

Awarded grant by Clarksville-Montgomery County Community Health Foundation for hydroponic towers and roof top garden beds. Basic Needs Coordinator hired. SNAP outreach begins connecting both food and Medicare benefits.

### 2024

Announcement of partnership and funding for new Millan Foundation Impact Center - name change - in 2027, including the improved food pantry.

### 2024

Pantry partners with Second Harvest, largest food bank in Tennessee, to provide increased variety of food and increased food access.

# ▲▲▲ DIVISION



036

035

011

031

053

023

# HIGHLIGHTS



## ENGAGE! Grant Cultivates Student-Centered Practices

### ENGAGED EXPERIENCE

To encourage and support innovative efforts that contribute to the division's mission of fostering a culture of purpose and success for all students, Student Affairs established ENGAGE! Grants to provide funding to campus partners for student-centered programs that aim to have a lasting impact on the success, belonging and well-being of APSU students in one or more of the following categories:

**Engaged Experience:** Activities that provide students an opportunity to engage in student success high-impact practices.

**Community of Belongingness:** Activities that provide students an opportunity to build community belongingness.

**Spirit of Well-Being:** Activities that provide opportunities for students to support their well-being.

Awards were determined each month during the fall and spring semesters, with 11 awarded in February alone. Applications were received from across campus, and funded programs expanded opportunities to engage students and support their well-being and belonging.

A few innovative projects receiving grant funds this year include: Interactive World War II Virtual Field Trip - Cate LiaBraaten, Department of History and Philosophy; Inaugural Chemistry Candlelight Lab Coat Ceremony - Leslie Hiatt, Department of Chemistry; and ENGAGE Before the Call: Building Belonging, Well-Being, and Interprofessional Connection Across APSU - Adrienne Wilk, School of Nursing.

## ENGAGE!

Grant By the Numbers

32

Applications submitted

21

Grants funded

20

Departments awarded

5

Colleges represented

Nearly  
\$9,000

In grants awarded this year



## Career Readiness Gets a Makeover

### ENGAGED EXPERIENCE

To transform the career success experience for APSU students, the Career Success Center teamed up with Public Relations and Marketing on a long-term initiative designed to strengthen student career preparedness and deepen employer engagement with Austin Peay interns and graduates. This effort led to a new marketing and engagement plan under the brand "Gobs Get Hired."

Implementation began this year, with the framework continuing to roll out over the next year. The initiative aims to highlight career connections, support job placement, and reinforce the value of an APSU education. It also helps students understand key steps in their career journey, identify their strengths, and prepare to be career ready in the real-world.



## Preparing Professional Peay Training

18 completed in Summer 2025

45 completed in Fall 2025

57 completed in Spring 2026

## Employer Participation in Career Fairs

149 attended spring career fairs

18 attended Student Athlete Networking Fair

58 attended Spring Job and Internship Fair

5 attended Reverse Career Fair

68 attended Nashville Area Career Fair

## Student Participation in Career Fairs

840 attended spring career fairs

156 attended Student Athlete Networking Fair

641 attended Spring Job and Internship Fair

26 attended Reverse Career Fair

17 attended Nashville Area Career Fair



### OWEN FINK

Junior mathematics and computer science major, offered an internship at the military-focused tech company Altivum

*"The career fair was a great opportunity for me to get my name out there. I've been able to do a lot of networking throughout my semesters here, but I hadn't really had time to look for an internship ... this worked out perfectly."*

## Community Belonging Teams Up to Help “Break the Stigma”

### SPIRIT OF WELL-BEING

The Latino Cultural Center and the Wilbur N. Daniel African American Cultural Center collaborated on an event in November 2025 intended to break the stigma around mental health and spark open dialogue. Guest speaker Dr. Corey D. Sturdivant delivered a meaningful presentation on the power of vulnerability and seeking the support each person deserves, reframing mental health as vital to overall well-being.

To emphasize overall wellness, the program paired education with care: nursing students offered blood pressure screenings, and Counseling and Health Services highlighted key related campus resources. Together, these efforts reflected a campus-wide commitment to mental health awareness and support for one another.

## Student Experience Starts Strong with GO Weekend

### ENGAGED EXPERIENCE

Student Affairs prioritizes student belonging and engagement, and GO Weekend sets the stage for a successful transition to campus in the fall. New and returning students are welcomed back to campus with five days of campuswide events, programs and shared experiences.



This year, highlights of the week included Films @ the Fort at Fortera Stadium with a screening of *Wicked*; New Student Convocation, celebrating the start of their journey at APSU; the ever-popular Glowchella featuring glow-in-the-dark paint and lots of music and excitement; and Peayple in the Community, where students volunteered across campus and in Clarksville to serve together and give back. Attendance at the week’s events increased from the previous year, and the weekend set the tone for moving successfully into the fall semester.



## Focus on Collaborations Brings College to Child Learning

### SPIRIT OF WELL-BEING

In a child’s early years, a variety of experiences through partnerships are especially important as they help create a supportive environment that strengthens social-emotional development and overall school readiness. This year, the Little Govs Child Learning Center expanded collaborations to provide enriched learning, shared resources and meaningful real-life connections. Being part of the university community provides a unique opportunity for staff, faculty, and students to share their knowledge and expertise with the children at the center.



Partners were identified based on shared goals of supporting early childhood development and learning experiences. A primary focus was intentionally connecting the “big Govs” with the “littlest Govs,” creating meaningful opportunities for engagement across the university community and hands-on learning for the children. As a result of these partnerships, new volunteers have been welcomed, and most importantly, the children excitedly share their experiences with both teachers and family members about the visits and what they did together. From children recognizing a nursing student who came to teach and pointing them out to a parent, to the Department of Music bringing each child a pair of rhythm sticks to take home and eagerly telling their families about the music they made with the band, transformations are happening.

## 2025-26 PARTNERS

### Community:

- United Way of Clarksville
- Queen City Jeep Crew
- Clarksville Fire Department
- Clarksville Police Department
- AmeriCorps of Clarksville/Community Action Agency
- Toys for Tots
- Lions Club
- Leadership Clarksville
- Tennessee Association for Children’s Early Education
- Friends of the Forest Nature School

### Campus:

- Fraternities and Sororities
- Department of Art and Design
- Department of Mathematics
- APSU Physical Plant
- College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- College of Education
- School of Nursing
- Wesley Foundation
- Campus Police
- Department of Music

## Old Books Gain New Life and Support Green Goals

### COMMUNITY OF BELONGINGNESS

April Fool’s Day is often associated with pranks, but Community Engagement and Sustainability (CES) focused on making a meaningful impact on April 1. In partnership with the Woodward Library, CES transformed a typical Wednesday into a large-scale book giveaway for the APSU and Clarksville communities, placing more than 2,400 books into the hands and homes of readers - all at no cost.

The initiative began when APSU student Trey Troyani noticed stacks of books slated for disposal during a library reorganization and brought the idea to CES as an opportunity to support the university’s sustainability efforts while giving the books a second life. The event drew nearly 300 attendees, who explored more than 3,000 titles ranging from thrillers and classic fiction to children’s books and nonfiction selections. The giveaway not only promoted sustainability and community engagement, but also expanded access to reading.

## Overdose Emergency Kits Enhance Safety and Well-Being

### SPIRIT OF WELL-BEING

Community Care and Standards (CCS) spearheaded a wellness initiative to increase campus safety with the launch of ONEbox opioid overdose emergency kits and associated training. Positioned in high-traffic areas, the kits provide lifesaving supplies to enable anyone to administer naloxone quickly and safely. Each kit is strategically placed next to existing automated external defibrillators (AEDs), providing easy access during emergencies.

Each ONEbox features:

- Narcan: Two doses of intranasal naloxone used to reverse an overdose.
- Personal protective equipment.
- Video instruction: A self-contained step-by-step guide for responding safely.



Kits are available in all residence halls, the Morgan University Center, the Foy Fitness and Recreation Center, and Counseling and Health Services in the Ard Building. The boxes are checked weekly by CCS. With the addition of the new lifesaving boxes, the campus community has tools and accessible resources to allow bystander intervention when it matters most. This proactive measure provides the campus community with the tools to act quickly and confidently during a crisis potentially saving lives.

## Going Green at Gobs Football: Impacting the Environment and Habitat for Humanity

### COMMUNITY OF BELONGINGNESS

For the second season, Community Engagement and Sustainability (CES) demonstrated that winning extends beyond the scoreboard — it can be measured through sustainability efforts too. Throughout the fall semester, dedicated student and staff volunteers headed into the stands and suites at Fortera Stadium after each home football game to collect discarded aluminum cans and plastic bottles. While fans were heading home, the CES team was getting to work, helping keep campus as green as the turf the Governors play on through recycling efforts.



The effort saw CES attain some impressive numbers across six home games, collecting 330 pounds of recyclables that were diverted from the landfill and a massive 14,021 bottles and cans. The initiative was about being eco-friendly and giving back to the community. CES teamed up with Clarksville's Habitat for Humanity to turn those aluminum cans into homes, as every can collected helped fund local affordable housing projects. This year, the collected "trash" was transformed into a \$103 donation to support Habitat's construction efforts in the community.

### JORDAN HAMM

*"Community Engagement and Sustainability has given me amazing opportunities to step outside my own circle and meet the most incredible people. It has made my overall college experience more meaningful because I'm able to give back to my community and be part of something bigger than just myself. Through CES, I've had incredible opportunities to develop leadership, contribute to sustainability efforts, and spread awareness on platforms like News Channel 5. I've learned that even the smallest actions can make the greatest impact, so never be afraid to put yourself out there."*



## Healthy Lifestyles Promoted at Wellness Expo

### SPIRIT OF WELL-BEING

The Wellness Expo was launched this year to educate the campus community on taking care of their physical and mental health, a cornerstone of student success. Students, faculty and staff met multiple local experts and vendors and learned about services that fit their lifestyle on March 25 at the Foy Fitness and Recreation Center. Counseling and Health Services and University Recreation staff teamed up to host the three-hour event, which focused on practical strategies to help attendees reach their wellness goals by bringing together resources from APSU and across the Clarksville-Montgomery County area.



A few of those providing or showcasing services were Humble Heart Yoga Studio (movement demos), Fortera Credit Union (financial education sessions), the Career Success Center (assistance with interviewing or job applications) and the School of Nursing (blood pressure screenings). The free, confidential Mobile Comprehensive Unit also addressed any immediate health care needs. This wellness event was a part of the Peayple's Well-Being Initiative.

## Basketball Homecoming Pairs Service with Engagement

### ENGAGED EXPERIENCE

Community support and partnership are woven into the fabric of the division. During Student Life and Engagement's "Coming Home" basketball homecoming week, that commitment came to life — turning celebration into impact through service-driven events focused on giving back and strengthening the campus community. Nearly 500 students participated in the week's events featuring the theme "Hearts, Hoops and Homecoming," which coincided with Gobs basketball games on Valentine's Day.



Students raised nearly \$2,700 for the campus student emergency fund through the Coming Home Heroes competition. Christopher Key (Pi Kappa Alpha) and Savannah Helmuth (Alpha Delta Pi) were declared Coming Home Heroes for their top donations and were recognized at the game.

Over 2,000 cans of food were donated to the APSU Food Pantry with the Gobs Can Build competition, where student organizations and teams of students built canned food towers. The competing student organizations that created and displayed the tallest three towers won cash prizes to support their organizations' missions. Grocery Bingo was a favorite event as students competed for prizes centered on grocery items, and Community Engagement and Sustainability staff shared basic needs resources. A new addition to the events this

year was Teddy Grams, where students sent teddy bears to peers on Valentine's Day.

These events demonstrate community belonging and awareness of the needs of peers. These efforts demonstrate how Student Life and Engagement helps transform engagement into meaningful service - mobilizing students to meet real needs and create a culture of care on campus.

### TYLER ROSE

*"Throughout my four years at Austin Peay, I have learned that college truly is what you make of it. Student Life and Engagement provides countless opportunities for students to grow and shape their own experience. Much of my growth as a student has come from experiences outside the classroom, whether that is attending campus events, getting involved with a student organization, or connecting with resources that create a sense of belonging. Student success would not be possible without spaces that encourage students to take risks, pursue excellence, and stay curious. To me, Student Life and Engagement has been the heartbeat of my Austin Peay experience and has continually pushed me to become a better person than I was the day before."*



### Gobs Against Gravity Unites Students From Across the Area

### SPIRIT OF WELL-BEING

On April 24, University Recreation's Gobs Outdoors hosted Gobs Against Gravity, a three-hour climbing event that brought together nearly 20 climbers, including students from Middle Tennessee State University, Middle College and local high schools. The event featured men's and women's divisions tackling 10 routes, aiming to finish as many as possible. Without posted difficulty ratings, climbers had to read each route and learn by observing others. Rather than a leaderboard, pairs earned tickets for each completed route and traded them for prizes, keeping the atmosphere low-pressure and learning-focused. The event's collaboration and connection over a shared challenge united participants from across the region.

## Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrates Community and Connection

### COMMUNITY OF BELONGINGNESS

The Latino Cultural Center celebrated the kickoff of Hispanic Heritage Month with a traditional mercadito in the Housing Quad, a market-style event with local vendors and live Latin music. Students shared time together and enjoyed food, vendors, giveaways and all the festivities. Throughout the month, students participated in a series of events celebrating culture, community and connection, including professional development workshops, career exploration, a veterans block party, an art showcase and a closing Quinceañera Ball.



### DEANGELA MCCLURE

*"The Latino Cultural Center is more than just a place on campus. The LCC has helped me grow in confidence, leadership, and connection while surrounding me with people who genuinely care and support one another. The LCC is a community that makes every student feel welcomed, valued and empowered. Whether through its events, resources, or everyday atmosphere, the center creates a sense of belonging that inspires students to be themselves, reach their goals, and feel at home."*



## Director Recognized for Mental Health Advocacy and Education

### SPIRIT OF WELL-BEING

Claudia Alonzo, director of Community Care and Standards, was honored with the Mid-Cumberland Regional Award for her mental health advocacy during the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN) statewide conference, hosted Sept. 4-5, 2025 as part of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. The Mid-Cumberland Regional Award is presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to suicide prevention and mental health advocacy within their communities.



## Students Gain Connection with New Engagement Platform

### ENGAGED EXPERIENCE

Govs Connect helps students discover they belong at APSU by making it easy to explore their interests, involvement, service, join organizations, connect with departmental support and services and engage in campus life. The one-stop mobile and web-based hub, launched in Fall 2025, supports a more connected student experience and streamlines communications to help students get the most out of their experience. In its first semester, Govs Connect recorded more than 814,000 mobile logins and tracked over 1,000 campus events. These insights are helping staff better understand student engagement and further strengthen connection and belonging across campus.



**SARAH RHINEHART**

*"Student Life and Engagement and Greek Life didn't just fill my college years; they shaped who I am.*

*Through Alpha Delta Pi and my work with the Student Organization Council, I found purpose, leadership, and a passion for life. Every role, every challenge, and every moment helped build the strong, hard working woman I've become, and I wouldn't trade a second of it."*



## WNDAACC Brings Campus Together for Black History Month

### COMMUNITY OF BELONGINGNESS

The Wilbur N. Daniel African American Cultural Center celebrated the spirit of Black History Month with events focused on connections, learning and recognition. The BLOCC Party kicked off the celebrations, featuring free food, live music and dancing. Throughout February, students enjoyed a series of events celebrating culture and excellence, such as the Black Literature Expo, Open Mic Night, the Iconic Fashion show, as well as a professional panel and unique majorette workshop. The celebrations concluded with the special Night of Melanin Magic Awards Ceremony, recognizing excellence and community at APSU.

**KEYON ST. FIRMIN**

*"The Wilbur N. Daniel African American Cultural Center has helped a lot in my collegiate journey whether it was studying, making friends, work or becoming a part of a community that welcomed me with open arms. The center taught me a lot about community and what it means to be a part of a community.*

*I have never felt more at home while being away from home and being loved and supported by everyone that walked through those doors. The legacy that Wilbur N. Daniel and Hattie Walker left has continued to inspire new generations to strive and be better than they were yesterday."*



## Brewing Belonging: Connecting Students with Community and Conversation

### ENGAGED EXPERIENCE

The Starbucks and Swag program created a welcoming space for students to build meaningful connections, fostering a stronger sense of belonging on campus. Through free Starbucks beverages, Govs gear, and informal conversations, students engaged one-on-one with Vice President Dr. Clemons while discovering the people and resources that support their success.



Each week spotlighted a different campus partner — including the Career Success Center, University Recreation, the Center for Academic Support and Enrichment, Community Engagement and Sustainability, Student Life and Engagement,

Counseling and Health Services, Study Abroad and International Exchange — making it easy for students to connect, feel seen, and find their place within the APSU community, all while enjoying special treats.

## Calm and Care: Therapy Dogs Do the Trick

### SPIRIT OF WELL-BEING

Each month, Community Care and Standards hosted Alliance Therapy Dogs on campus for a two-hour wellness break, offering students a chance to pause, recharge and connect with comforting therapy dogs amid their daily demands. The highly anticipated program has become a campus favorite with students eager to spend time with loving dogs and creating moments of calm, connection and emotional support while being encouraged to prioritize self-care and overall well-being.

## Hazing Prevention Week Advances a Culture of Care

### ENGAGED EXPERIENCE

Student Life and Engagement partnered with Community Care and Standards to program Hazing Prevention Week in September 2025, hosting four programs designed to educate students, faculty and staff about hazing awareness and prevention. The week also included campuswide opportunities for education, reflection and conversation about hazing in student organizations. In partnership with Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, the program included an anti-hazing pledge, a Lunch and Learn and a Staff Senate presentation focused on recognizing and responding to hazing.

Following the week, five additional trainings and workshops were facilitated, and a formal process for departments and organizations to request hazing prevention education was launched. These efforts expanded campus awareness and access to prevention programming, leading to an increase in questions and conversations from students, faculty and staff about hazing, as well as an increase in reports of potential hazing. This does not indicate an increase in hazing behavior, but rather demonstrates that prevention efforts are helping the campus community better understand hazing as a spectrum and recognize warning signs earlier.

## Govs in Action: Serving Clarksville, Engaging Campus, Strengthening Community

### COMMUNITY OF BELONGINGNESS

In June, APSU came together in support of Govs Week of Service as students, faculty and staff stepped beyond campus and into the Clarksville community to support multiple local nonprofits. Volunteers joined Community Engagement and Sustainability (CES) demonstrating that being a Gov means showing up and making a difference where it matters most. Through partnerships with the Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Library, Yaipak, Loaves and Fishes, and the Ajax Turner 50+ Center, CES coordinated a series of impactful outreach efforts that connected the campus community with local services.

Volunteers rolled up their sleeves at Loaves and Fishes sorting food and organizing warehouse donations for a nonprofit that helps distribute resources to partner agencies and serves tens of thousands of meals annually. The largest volunteer group supported the Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Library on June 12 by organizing materials, shelving books and preparing resources for upcoming programs, advancing the library's mission of literacy and lifelong learning.

More than a week of service, this initiative offered hands-on insight into the work of local nonprofits while reinforcing APSU's commitment to community engagement. The week was about building connections, contributing time and energy, and showing genuine support for the organizations that serve the Clarksville community every day.

### AVA ANNIKOV

*"Volunteering with Community Engagement and Sustainability has been the absolute highlight of my spring semester. Every day I learn something new: how to feed the chickens, manage the greenhouse, turn the compost, work at the Food Pantry, and so much more. I have realized how sustainability touches so many aspects of campus and student life, and it has been very fulfilling for me to positively contribute to our community. Even though I am not majoring in biology or ecology, sustainability is something I want to*



*carry forward into my advocacy and throughout my life. I would recommend that everyone get involved with Community Engagement and Sustainability at least once, especially through volunteering - the experience will open your eyes and instill a deeper appreciation of everything that exists around you!"*

## Mindful Moments Cultivate Strength

### SPIRIT OF WELL-BEING

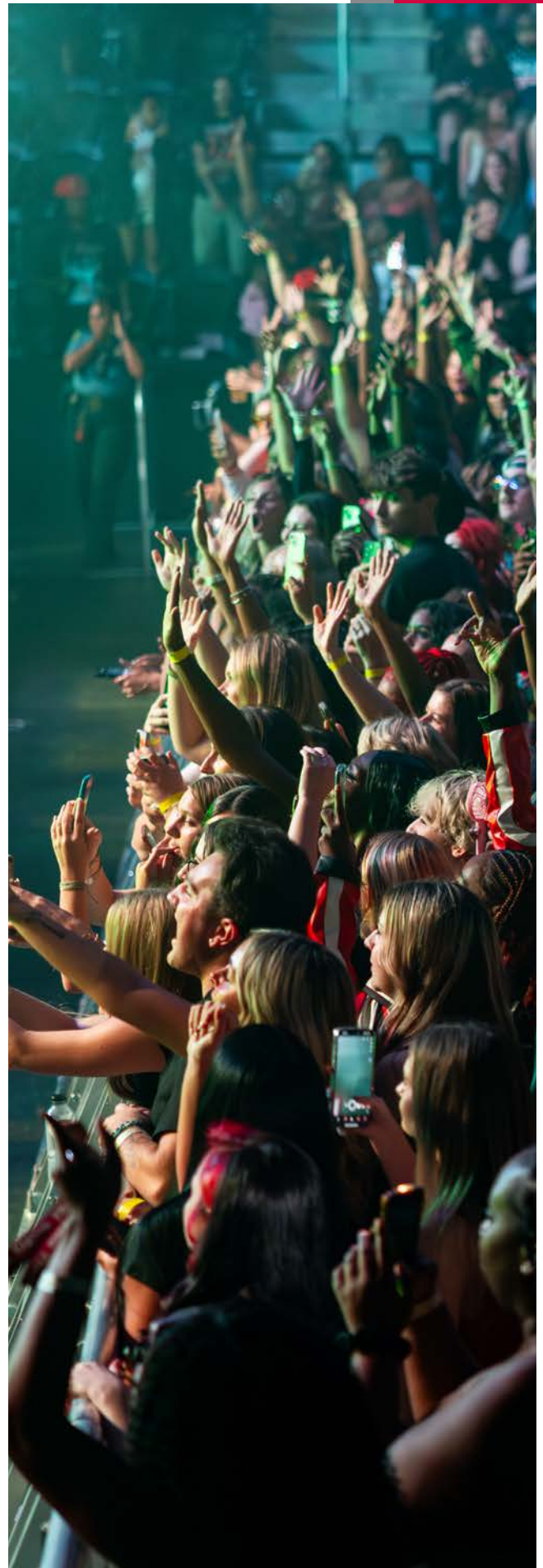
To strengthen students' mental health and resilience, Counseling and Health Services and the Latino Cultural Center piloted an innovative new program called Let's Connect: Building Resilience Workshop Series. The series created a welcoming and engaging space for students to recharge. Each weekly session combined a brief lesson with a hands-on activity, a mindful pause and opportunities for students to ask questions and explore campus resources together.



## Peayple's Concert Sparks Energy

### ENGAGED EXPERIENCE

F&M Bank Arena became the epicenter of APSU's vibrant campus culture during the second annual Peayple's Concert. The much-anticipated event brought national recording artists Waka Flocka Flame and Boosie Badazz to Clarksville, delivering a high-caliber entertainment experience for students and fans alike. Now in its second year, the concert has become a flagship entertainment event coordinated by Student Life and Engagement to enhance student connection and enjoyment and provide students with an exciting concert experience right in their backyard. Also featured was a student DJ set from the Battle at Browning winner, which allowed them to exhibit their skills on the big stage.



## Winter Storm Hidden Heroes Inspire Shared Commitment

### SPIRIT OF WELL-BEING

When a severe winter storm moved APSU's campus to remote operations from Jan. 26-30, our hidden heroes from Housing, Sodexo, the Physical Plant, Campus Police, and CMTi (custodial services) came together to provide essential services and care for the campus community.



Housing, Residence Life, and Dining Services are always operational, and they continued supporting residential students amid the ice and snow. Resident assistants remained on duty each evening, with hall directors and area coordinators on call for emergencies. The Sodexo dining staff ensured continued dining in the Food Hall, with some employees even walking to campus to ensure students received meals. Additionally, Community Engagement and Sustainability partnered with Loaves and Fishes and provided 100 meal bags for resident students during the week.

Physical Plant staff braved one of APSU's most challenging winter weather events in decades to clear pathways, maintain critical infrastructure, and respond to student needs. They dedicated nearly 1,000 staff hours to reopening campus with support from extended crews and external contractors, ensuring a return to normal operations on Feb. 2.

Public Safety and Campus Police remained fully operational, ensuring 24/7 coverage despite hazardous road conditions. Personnel monitored campus conditions, responded to calls, and coordinated with the Physical Plant and Housing to prevent injuries and address safety risks in real time.

CMTi provided daily service to lobby areas and addressed student needs during remote operations. Employees remained on campus to respond to leaks and maintain a clean, safe environment for residential students.

Additionally, Housing offered accommodations for these essential employees who could not travel home or needed shelter due to dangerous road conditions, with staff from Sodexo and the Physical Plant staying on campus the first few days.

This coordinated response resulted from ongoing communication between departments and Student Affairs leadership. While much of this work happens behind the scenes, its impact is felt directly by students who rely on these services every day — regardless of the weather. Moments like these reflect the strength of APSU's community where partnership, dedication, and a shared commitment to student well-being define who we are.







# DATA MATTERS

A look at the Division of Student Affairs Impact by the 2025-26 numbers.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

**102**

PROGRAMS SPONSORED

**10**

STUDENTS ENGAGED IN MENTORSHIPS AND INFORMAL ROLES WITH OFFICE

**3** ALTERNATIVE BREAK AND SERVICE TRIPS

**OVER 620**

SERVICE HOURS PERFORMED

## HOUSING, RESIDENCE LIFE AND DINING SERVICES

**181**

PROGRAMS

**5**

LIVING-LEARNING COMMUNITIES

**90%**

OCCUPANCY RATE

**30,625**

AVERAGE MEAL SWIPES PER MONTH

**244,467**

TOTAL MEAL SWIPES ACROSS ALL VENUES

**11**

RESIDENCE HALLS

**10**

DINING VENUES

## UNIVERSITY RECREATION

**91,236**

TOTAL VISITS (INCLUDES FACULTY, STAFF, COMMUNITY, STUDENTS)

**78,546**

TOTAL STUDENT VISITS

**3.06**

AVERAGE GPA OF STUDENTS VISITING FOY CENTER IN FALL

**68**

STUDENT EMPLOYEES

**1,554**

PARTICIPATED IN INTRAMURAL SPORTS

**175**

INTRAMURAL PARTICIPANTS

**93**

INTRAMURAL GAMES

**25**

SPORTS CLUB GAMES

**7**

GOVS OUTDOOR TRIPS

**807**

FITNESS CLASS PARTICIPANTS

**12**

STUDENT STAFF RECEIVED RED CROSS LIFEGUARDING CERTIFICATION AND RED CROSS ADULT/PEDIATRIC FIRST AID/CPR/AED TRAINING



**MORE THAN 3,300 VISITS**

### GOVS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND

**\$23,719**

DISPERSED TO STUDENTS

**160**

REQUESTS FOR EMERGENCY FUNDS

**1,400**

MEALS PROVIDED THROUGH PEAPLE'S PLATE MEAL SWIPE PROGRAM

## SUSTAINABILITY

24 PROGRAMS

29 FOOTBALL RECYCLING VOLUNTEERS

331 POUNDS OF FOOTBALL RECYCLING

232 TONER CARTRIDGES RECYCLED

142 WATER STATIONS PROVIDED

## COUNSELING AND HEALTH SERVICES

COUNSELING SERVICES

1,434

CLIENT SESSIONS

477

TOTAL CLIENTS

1,399

INDIVIDUAL THERAPY SESSIONS

36

CRISIS VISITS

3 AVERAGE DAYS BETWEEN FIRST CONTACT AND CHECKED-IN APPOINTMENT, DECREASED FROM 7.5 DAYS LAST YEAR

BOYD HEALTH SERVICES

3,358

TOTAL PATIENT VISITS

2,694

UNIQUE PATIENT VISITS

528

NEW PATIENTS, A 5.5% INCREASE FROM 2025

850

TOTAL VACCINES ADMINISTERED

855

MEDICATIONS DISPENSED, AN 8% INCREASE FROM 2025

WELLNESS INITIATIVES

56

TOTAL EVENTS

1,100

STUDENTS ENGAGED

\$650

CAMPUS GRANTS FOR PROGRAMS

3 MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING CREATED FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

## CAREER SUCCESS CENTER

5,110

EMPLOYERS IN APSU NETWORK ON HANDSHAKE - A 1,322 INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR

390

JOBS POSTED ON HANDSHAKE

138

RESUMES REVIEWED

605

CAREER ADVISING SESSIONS, AN INCREASE OF 152 FROM LAST YEAR

149

EMPLOYERS AT SPRING CAREER FAIRS

840

STUDENTS AT SPRING CAREER FAIRS

41

PROGRAMS COMPLETED

68

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS COMPLETED

## STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMUNICATIONS

351

PROJECTS COMPLETED, A 228% INCREASE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR

219

COMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS

132

MARKETING PROJECTS

702

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

## STUDENT LIFE AND ENGAGEMENT

339

TOTAL PROGRAMS

25,627

TOTAL PROGRAM ATTENDANCE, AN INCREASE OF NEARLY 6,000

NEARLY 3,413

UNDERGRADUATES ATTENDED AT LEAST ONE EVENT

OVER 1,200

WAYS FOR STUDENTS TO CONNECT

176

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, AN INCREASE OF 24 OVER LAST YEAR

2,789

STUDENTS IN RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS

986

EVENTS HOSTED BY STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, NEARLY DOUBLE FROM LAST YEAR

NEARLY 400

STUDENTS IN FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES

3.06 AVERAGE GREEK GPA

## COMMUNITY CARE AND STANDARDS

907

TOTAL CASES

286

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT CASES, A 36% INCREASE FROM 2025

167

STUDENT CONDUCT CASES

113

ORGANIZATIONAL CONDUCT CASES

339

BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION TEAM CASES

## COMMUNITY BELONGING

46

4,238

TOTAL VISITS TO THE COMMUNITY BELONGING CENTERS

5

COMMUNITY BELONGING PROGRAMS WITH NEARLY 400 IN ATTENDANCE

9

GOVS SUCCESS INSTITUTE PROGRAMS WITH NEARLY 100 IN ATTENDANCE

WILBUR N. DANIEL AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

1,059

VISITORS

28

PROGRAMS

OVER 830 IN ATTENDANCE

LATINO CULTURAL CENTER

2,039

VISITORS

15

PROGRAMS

NEARLY 900 IN ATTENDANCE

ADULT, NONTRADITIONAL AND TRANSFER STUDENT CENTER

1,140 VISITORS

## University Events and ID Services

9,873

TOTAL EVENT RESERVATIONS

2,602

TOTAL MUC EVENT RESERVATIONS

5,292

MOBILE ID CARDS ISSUED

1,188

PHYSICAL ID CARDS/BADGES ISSUED

223

NIGHTS BOOKED IN APSU GUEST HOUSE

5,100

STUDENT EMPLOYEE HOURS STAFFED TO SUPPORT TOTAL OPERATIONS

262

NEW STUDENTS REGISTERED FOR ACCESS TO GAME ROOMS



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

## LINDSEY WELKER

"Working at Little Goves has honestly been such a meaningful part of my life, and it's hard to even put into words what it's meant to me. I've been here for four years, and getting to watch it grow and become what it is today has been really special. I've seen the program expand, new ideas come in, and the connections between everyone get stronger, and being a part of that has truly shaped me into who I am today. A big part of that has been the leadership. Angie stepped into her role so naturally and has led with so much care and confidence. You can tell how much she believes in the program, and she's done an amazing job helping it continue to grow. Watching that has been really inspiring. The people here are what make it so hard to leave. The teachers all have their own unique personalities, and it makes the environment feel like home. I know if I ever had a bad day, Mrs. Betty was always there to talk me through it or just constantly asking about life and how school was going. That kind of support means everything. I've loved every part of being here, whether it was working with the kids or helping in the office. It never felt like just a job. Leaving is really hard, but this experience has pushed me to keep growing, and I'll carry it with me moving forward. I'm truly going to miss this place so much."



## KADE TJAARDA

"I first became familiar with the Career Success Center through the inaugural APSU Summer Internship Program. My experience was great, and you can really see that the career coaches wanted to get to know us and help us do something we enjoyed that we would be good at. Throughout the internship, I was provided with very beneficial career information and advice. I was able to take some of the skills from the summer and take those with confidence into a new internship and leadership position as president of the APSU Goves Fund - skills such as how to lead and how to become a valuable worker. One specific topic that stood out to me was how to help solve problems rather than just being told what to do."



## CODY HEGLER

"My experience with being on staff at The All State has helped me transform my passion of photography into usable career skills I can implement in life after graduating from APSU."



## GEOMIYA WHITE

"Being a part of the Wilbur. N. Daniel African American Cultural Center didn't just shape my college experience, it became one of the most meaningful parts of my life. I walked into college with uncertainty, still learning myself, still questioning where I belonged, and still trying to find my voice. But through the WNDAACC, I found more than a place. I found purpose, I found people, and I found a version of myself I didn't even know I could become. There were moments when I doubted myself, when I felt small, when I questioned if I was enough, but the WNDAACC never let me stay in that space. It challenged me, poured into me, and reminded me repeatedly that I am powerful, that my voice deserves to be heard, and that I have something real to offer this world. It gave me opportunities that pushed me out of my comfort zone and into rooms I once thought I didn't belong in until I realized I did. Through every conversation, every connection, every late night, and every moment of growth, the WNDAACC became more than just a place, it became a safe space, a support system, and a source of strength. It taught me how to lead with confidence, how to stand firm in who I am, and how to uplift others while continuing to grow myself. It showed me that impact isn't always loud, it's in the small moments, the genuine connections, and the courage to keep showing up as your authentic self. Because of the WNDAACC, I'm not just going through college trying to get by. I became someone who is walking in purpose, moving with intention, and striving to make a difference. It helped shape my identity, my confidence, and my vision for the future."

And no matter where life takes me, a piece of who I am will always be rooted in everything the WNDAACC has poured into me. It didn't just change my college experience; it changed my life, my mindset, and the way I see myself."

## AARON JONES

"University Recreation has had a great impact on my experience here at APSU, both as a student and a worker here. I can say with certainty that I've never had a bad experience here! University Recreation has provided a safe and lively atmosphere for me throughout my time here, so whether I come alone or with others, I always feel at home. Not to mention, since starting as a worker here, I have found some great friends here and have been able to grow as someone who interacts with and helps others. In essence, I have found University Recreation to be a place that provides a safe haven for students and the community, and a place that fosters growth."



## MALACHI GIBBS

"Just enjoy it; it's a party every day. That's been my experience in Housing, where I've grown through constant connection with students from all walks of life, including first-generation, transfer and non-traditional students. Because of Housing, I've been deeply involved on campus as SGA Chief Justice, a liaison for the Adult, Nontraditional and Transfer Student Center, the APSU-TV weatherman, and even had the opportunity to study abroad in Serbia. Residence Life pushed me out of my comfort zone, helped me discover who I am and opened doors I never expected. I wouldn't trade the experience for anything, and I'm excited to continue it as a Residence Hall Director."

## JATERRIKA CHAMPION



"My Greek life experience has shown me the importance of service and sisterhood, giving me opportunities to give back to the community while building lifelong bonds."

## NYA WRIGHT

"My student experience with the Foy before I started working there was amazing, honestly. I went to the Foy almost every day and they were always so welcoming. I'd have long and stressful days or short and boring days. I would make my way to the Foy to find relief and to fill myself with joy and productivity. When I started working there, I felt like I had an extension of what I had before but now firsthand. I'm doing for others what was done for me. I see how hard they work, and now I'm in that position and I love it. Even when I'm tired, I enjoy coming to work, and when things come up or I'm not feeling good I think about what I'm missing or what great things the Foy will do that day and how I miss working. I for one also love that they allow schools and or competitions because we get the opportunities to help and bring people back. I love saying welcome in, have a nice day, and welcome back because I get to see those same people every day and remember their names and that keeps them coming back. I love the Foy."

## MARAYA FULTON



"This was my first semester as editor-in-chief of The All State, and it has honestly taught me so much. It has impacted me as a student in so many ways and has taught me lifelong lessons, while also making me feel valued and appreciated. I have grown as a leader, communicator and teammate, and this experience has put me in contact with so many good people. It has brought me so much joy this semester, and it is something I am really proud to be a part of."

## GRACIE KEMP

"I have had a phenomenal experience working with Housing, Residence Life, and Dining Services! It has been a huge part of my college experience. I have met so many amazing people all across the board, from the faculty to the students. Since working with Housing, I have learned the importance of starting conversations and building meaningful relationships. Every person has a story worth hearing, and I love the opportunity Housing has given me to connect with students all across campus. It has been a privilege working for the department."





## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The Student Affairs Recognition Committee established recognition initiatives for the Division of Student Affairs in 2024-25.

This year, the committee added two new division awards - Program of the Year and Department of the Year. Additionally, the division established an award that recognizes campus partners who impact students with the new Student Experience Champion Award.

### 2025-26 STUDENT AFFAIRS DIVISION ANNUAL AWARDS RECIPIENTS

#### Professional of the Year

This award recognizes a Student Affairs professional staff member who exemplifies exceptional leadership by inspiring, guiding and empowering others to achieve their best. The recipient demonstrates vision, integrity and the ability to foster collaboration, innovation and excellence.

##### **Keashla Marengo**

Director  
Career Success Center

#### New Professional of the Year

This award recognizes new professionals who contribute to the success of the Division of Student Affairs and their department. This individual is successful in moving a team toward goals that are consistent with the vision of the department and university.

##### **Makenna Biehl**

Communications and Marketing Coordinator  
Assessment, Planning and Communications

#### Hidden Hero of the Year

The Hidden Hero of the Year award recognizes full-time staff who work "behind the scenes" contributing to the success of the Division of Student Affairs, their individual department and the APSU community. While not being publicly celebrated, this staff member demonstrates meaningful impact through dedication and service.

##### **Jason Longan**

Director  
University Events and ID Services

#### Commitment to a Community of Belonging

This award is presented to an individual, department, or team for demonstrating their commitment to the promotion and celebration of belonging at APSU.

##### **Jackie Crape**

Coordinator  
Latino Cultural Center

#### Above and Beyond for Administrative Support

This award recognizes an administrative assistant who contributes to the success of the Division of Student Affairs and their individual department. This employee exceptionally completes essential administrative functions within the division and fosters student success.

##### **Allison Booker**

Administrative Assistant III  
Student Life and Engagement

#### Program of the Year

This award recognizes an outstanding Student Affairs program that exemplifies high quality programming and impactful initiatives. The program demonstrates innovation and creativity in addressing student needs, supports divisional and/or institutional goals, and meaningfully contributes to student success.

##### **Hazing Prevention Week Program**

Student Life and Engagement and  
Community Care and Standards

## Department of the Year

This award is presented to the members of a department that helped provide a positive impact to the mission and values of the Division of Student Affairs. Recipients exemplified exceptional collaboration and teamwork to achieve a shared goal. This award recognizes those who broke down silos, fostered cooperation, and worked seamlessly across departments or reporting lines to demonstrate how collaborative efforts can deliver exceptional results.

### Assessment, Planning and Communications

## GOV OF THE MONTH AWARD RECIPIENTS

This award recognizes team members who have contributed to the success of the division in moving a team toward goals that are consistent with the vision of a department, committee or university organization(s). Recipients take initiative to improve areas in their department, division and/or university; are a team player within the department and division; contribute to the direct or indirect impact on the development of students and/or student groups by promoting an environment that encourages student success; and serve as a role model to others.

### Fall 2025

June  
Allison Booker, Student Life and Engagement

August  
Victoria Zook, Student Affairs

September  
Joe Mills, Housing, Residence Life and Dining Services

October  
John Carter, Housing, Residence Life and Dining Services

November  
Angie Reed, Little Goves Child Learning Center

December  
Betty Nall, Little Goves Child Learning Center

### Spring 2026

February  
Sue Fort, Housing, Residence Life and Dining Services

March  
Brandy Crisostomo, Housing, Residence Life and Dining Services

April  
Kathleen Evans, University Recreation

May  
Emerald Lacy  
University Recreation

## STUDENT EXPERIENCE CHAMPION

This award recognizes an outstanding staff, faculty member or department, outside of Student Affairs, who has significantly contributed to student development through collaboration and partnership and enhances the mission of Division of Student Affairs. The award is presented each month.

### 2025

September  
Maxwell Remy  
Assistant Director Athletics, Event Management

October  
Pat Walton  
Director of Procurement

November  
Emmanuel Mejeun  
Program Director, Full Spectrum Learning

December  
LaTara Pearson  
Military Affiliated Student Success Professional

### 2026

January  
Dr. Blair Woodring  
Director of Academic Support and Enrichment

February  
Lenora Jackson  
Executive Assistant to the President

March  
Wes Powell  
Director of Landscape and Grounds

April  
Kathy Lee Heuston  
Communications Faculty and General Manager of APSU-TV

May  
Carrie Taylor  
Senior Director of University Events and Engagement



## PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT 2025-26

Philanthropic support directly shapes the student experience at Austin Peay State University. On behalf of the Division of Student Affairs, we extend our sincere gratitude to the individuals, foundations, corporate partners and community supporters whose generosity makes a meaningful difference in the lives of our students. Each contribution enhances our ability to provide programs, services and spaces that foster student success and well-being. These investments expand access to essential services and resources, create opportunities for engagement and leadership, and provide the tools for students to be successful.

### MILLAN FOUNDATION GIFT

# \$1,000,000

We are immensely grateful for the Millan Foundation's transformational gift-in-place donation - APSU's first privately-funded donation of this type - which will expand the capacity of the food pantry to serve 35% more students facing food insecurity. This generous gift will transform Community Engagement and Sustainability's operations, including the buildout of the new food pantry. The APSU Food Pantry is a critical resource for students facing food insecurity, allowing them to focus on their academic pursuits rather than basic needs. The foundation's mission-driven approach aligns closely with the university's focus on student support and community partnership. We are fortunate to have the Millan Foundation as a partner.

**Advisory Council Gifts: \$10,000**

**Individual Gifts: \$77,242.36**

**Sponsorships: \$30,595.06**

**Total: \$117,837.42**

**Food Pantry Endowment: \$104,000**

**Other Endowments: \$78,000**

**Total: \$182,000**

**Sodexo Operations, LLC\***

**Gift-in-Kind: \$85,000**

**Faculty/Staff Weekly meal swipes: \$172,144.70**

**Govs Guarantee/Swipe Out Hunger: \$19,663**

**Total: \$276,807.70**

**TOTAL SUPPORT: \$1,299,837.42**

The impact of this combined generosity is seen every day: in students who are able to persist and graduate, in programs that promote belonging and connection, and in initiatives that prepare Govs to lead and serve in their communities. Your support at all levels strengthens our mission and affirms a shared commitment to student success. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and these resources that allow action that positively shapes the APSU experience.

\*Vendor contributions are excluded from overall donation totals and are reported separately to distinguish philanthropic gifts from vendor-supported partnerships.

## ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Advisory Council for Student Affairs is a volunteer leadership team established for the purposes of advocacy and engagement of strategic efforts that promote a thriving experience and the success of students at Austin Peay State University. In strengthening relationships with Austin Peay constituency groups, the council is comprised of alumni, community members and industry partners who advise the vice president for Student Affairs on the vision and strategy for the student experience.

The Division of Student Affairs engages the council membership on the following areas of the student experience: campus and community engagement, health and well-being, community belonging and career success, and national trends in higher education affecting the student experience. The council may perform additional functions as agreed upon by the vice president for Student Affairs and the membership of the council.

We are grateful for these members and their continued commitment to the success of our students.

**Maggie Kulback (chair), 1977**  
Management Executive (retired)  
Clarksville, Tennessee  
Term: 2025-2027

**Dr. Kelvin Rutledge, 2012**  
University Administration  
New Haven, Connecticut  
Term: 2025-2027

**Will Roberts (co-chair), 2016, 2018**  
Healthcare Communications Professional  
Nashville, Tennessee  
Term: 2025-2027

**Dr. Anthony Simmons, 1989**  
Naval Captain (retired)  
Chesapeake, Virginia  
Term: 2025-2027

**Doug Barber, 1972**  
Tourism and Special Events (retired)  
Clarksville, Tennessee  
Term: 2025-2027

**Shea Darnell, 1991**  
Government Contractor  
Clarksville, Tennessee  
Term: 2026-2028

**Zac Gillman, 2015, 2025**  
Account Executive  
Clarksville, Tennessee  
Term: 2025-2027

**Roger D. Grove, 2004**  
Business Executive  
Nashville Tennessee  
Term: 2026-2028

**Charlsie Hand Rainey, 1988**  
Business Professional  
Clarksville, Tennessee  
Term: 2025-2027

**Lori Smith, 1992**  
Business Owner  
Clarksville, Tennessee  
Term: 2026-2028



# »»» THE DIVISION OF



A dedicated team of nearly 80 professional staff members and over 250 graduate assistants and student employees makes up the Division of Student Affairs. Through cross-collaboration, teamwork and partnerships, division staff consistently demonstrate their commitment to serving our campus community and advancing the success of students. These staff are leaders who provide support and services for students to excel, learn, lead and thrive.

# DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS



## CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

Community Care and Standards

Community Engagement and Sustainability

Housing, Residence Life and Dining Services

Student Life and Engagement

University Events and ID Services

## COMMUNITY BELONGING AND SUCCESS

Adult, Nontraditional and Transfer Student Center

Wilbur N. Daniel African American Cultural Center

Latino Cultural Center

Career Success Center

## HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Counseling and Health Services

University Recreation

## ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Assessment, Planning and Communications

Little Goves Child Learning Center



Austin Peay State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs and activities sponsored by APSU. Policy 6:001 AP439/6-26/100