

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
UT FOUNDATION



A view into fiscal year 2025

Serving the UT System campuses and institutes:

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC)
University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC)
University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK)
University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM)
University of Tennessee Southern (UTS)
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA)
University of Tennessee Institute of Public Service (IPS)



Our Mission

*To raise financial, public
and political support for
the University of Tennessee.*



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Fiscal Year
2026 Goals

Envisioning the Possibilities

Fiscal year 2025 was extraordinary. For the second consecutive year, the University of Tennessee Foundation surpassed a historic fundraising milestone, raising more than \$492 million. These results, driven by the steadfast commitment of our alumni, donors and friends, bring us ever closer to making this the greatest fundraising decade in University of Tennessee System history.

This success offers more than numbers on a page. It provides a clear view of what's possible, as we look inward with pride at how far we have come, and outward with a vision for the opportunities still ahead. There is much to be excited about.

With support from more than 85,000 alumni and friends, we are making significant strides in advancing the university's mission across Tennessee. Every gift provides our students, faculty and staff a renewed outlook on what could be, and the generosity, passion and trust of our donors fuel our progress and empower us to step boldly into the future.

Our recent achievements are the cornerstone to maintaining our forward momentum in the years to come. We are committed to strengthening the services we provide to our donors, alumni and friends, and to expanding the reach and impact of the University of Tennessee.

Thank you for standing with us on this remarkable journey.

Together, we are shaping the future of higher education and ensuring the University of Tennessee continues to thrive for generations.

With gratitude and excitement for what's ahead,

Kerry Witcher



President & CEO
University of Tennessee Foundation





ROI = \$9.46

For every \$1 invested,
the UT Foundation raised \$9.46.

“ This is a defining moment in the life of the University of Tennessee. To be part of a decade where our alumni, donors and friends are showing such extraordinary belief in our campuses is both humbling and inspiring.

- Kerry Witcher, President
University of Tennessee Foundation

2024 - 2025

UT Foundation Board of Directors



Alan D. Wilson, Chair



Arthur L. Sparks, Vice Chair



K. Jeannie Beauchamp



Isaac E. Bennett



Karen M. Bowling



Douglas A. Brown



Emily Capadalis Love



Yancy Freeman



Ronald E. Frieson



C. Doug Haney



Judith A. Herbert



Renee B. Iacona



Deborah A. Ingram



Linda Martin



Misty D. Mayes



J. Phenise Poole



Richard F. Warren, Jr.



David Watson



Brian Winbigler



Kerry Witcher
President & CEO

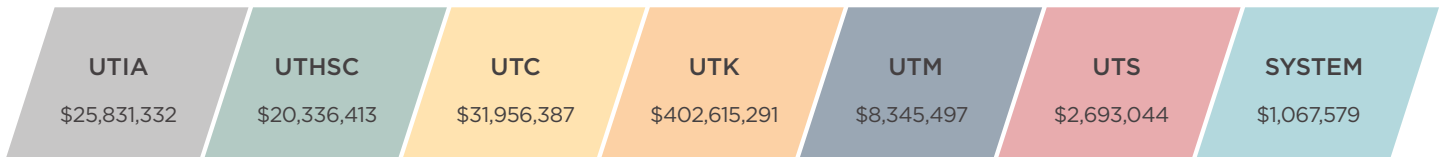


Randy Boyd
University President

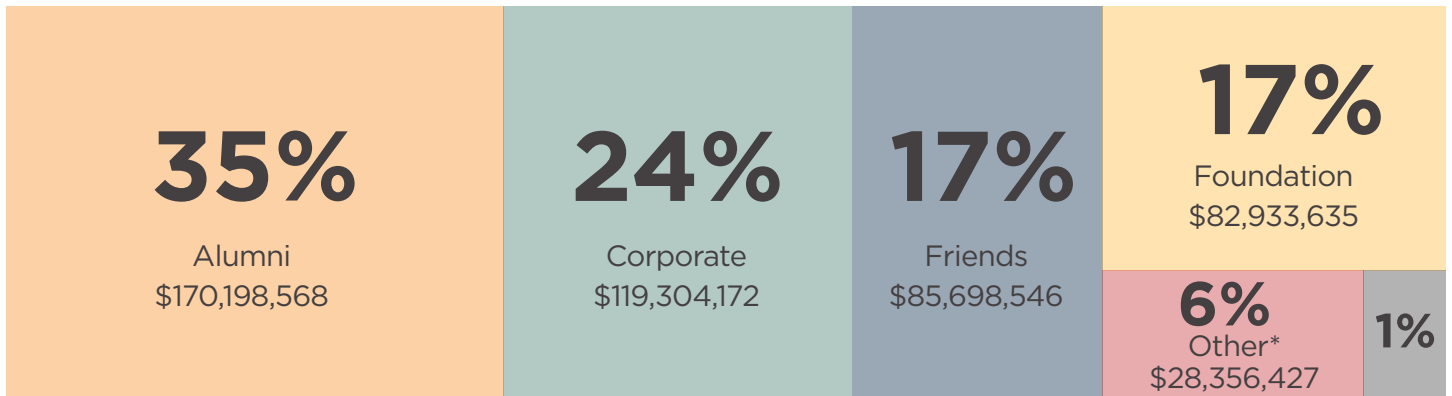
Fundraising

Total Gifts

\$492,845,544



Source



*Other includes public charities, grants, government agencies and other organizations

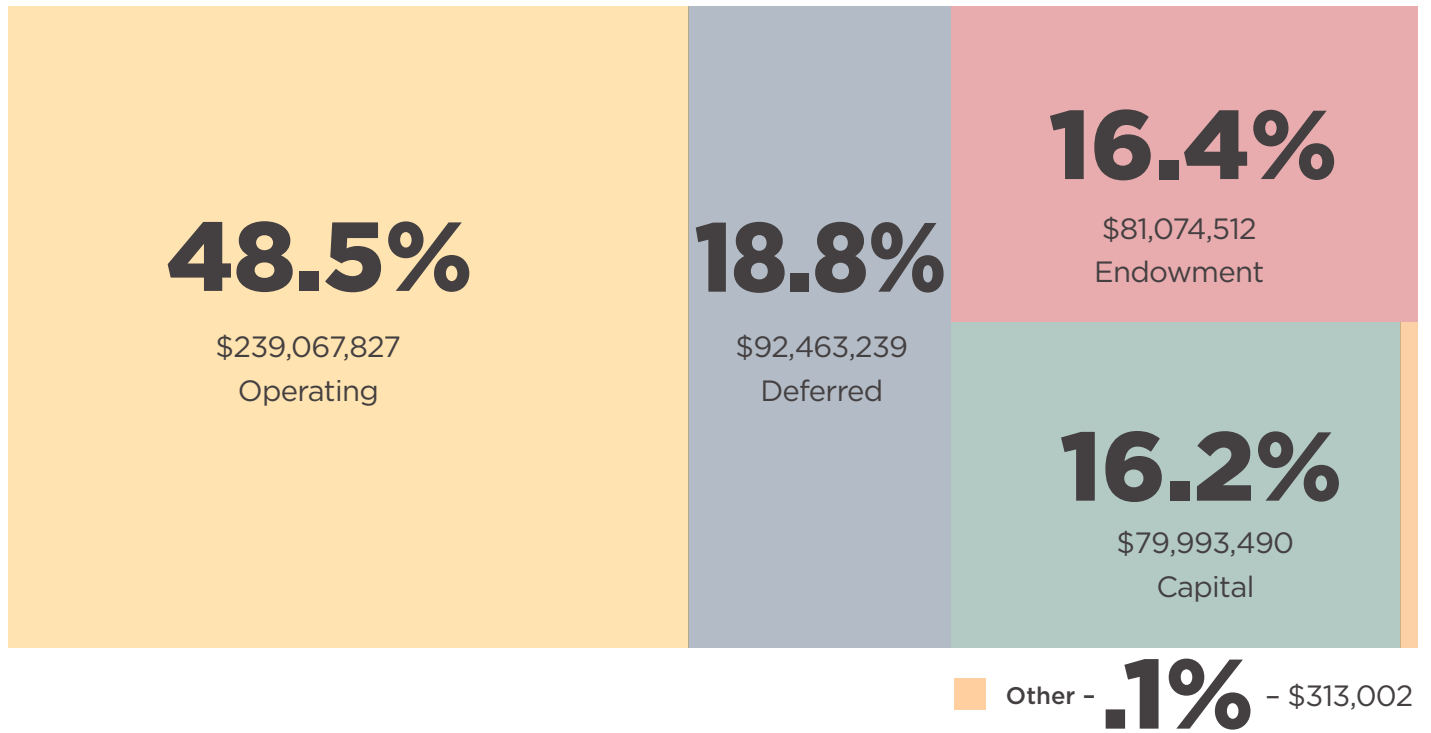
■ Employees - \$6,420,722



Raising nearly \$500 million in a single year is an extraordinary accomplishment and a powerful endorsement of the work happening across our campuses and institutes. Reaching 70% of our \$3 billion decade-long goal marks an incredible milestone on our path to making this the greatest fundraising decade in UT history. I'm incredibly grateful to our supporters for their generosity and belief in our mission to educate, discover and serve the people of Tennessee.

- Randy Boyd, President
University of Tennessee

Purpose



Every gift, large or small, makes a real impact. When we invest in what matters to us, we empower change—and together, our collective philanthropy transforms lives.

– Brigitte Grant, Vice Chancellor for Advancement
University of Tennessee Health Science Center

Gift Size



Dollar Range	\$0 - \$999	\$1,000 - \$9,999	\$10,000 - \$24,999	\$25,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 - \$999,999	\$1,000,000+
Total Dollars	\$19,186,824	\$42,764,986	\$29,320,064	\$31,731,298	\$91,319,246	\$278,589,654

Bequests

\$81,215,228

Total deferred and planned pledges booked in FY25

Insurance

The UT Foundation has \$1,134,889 in outstanding insurance policies and \$10,610,497 in university outstanding insurance policies as of June 30, 2025.

Real Estate

- Acquisitions (7 properties) - \$6,814,990
- Total properties owned (15 properties) - \$11,191,042
- Total properties sold (4) - \$731,740
- Total current properties listed for sale (1) - \$1,688,500

UT Advocacy Network

10,013

Total Members

595

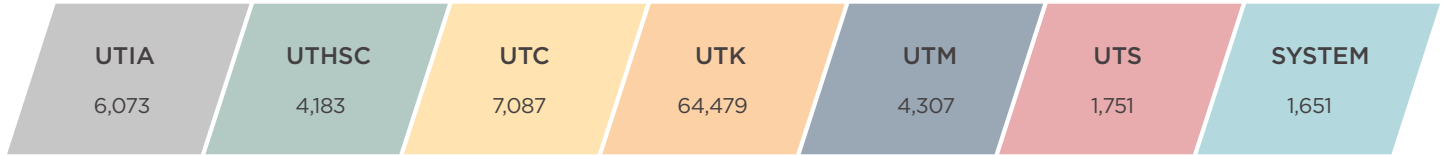
Total New Members

UTC's FY25 fundraising success is a testament to the amazing work being done not only by the advancement team but also our many partners across the campus and community. Philanthropy provides a margin of excellence for our University, and we are grateful for the growing base of supporters who are making a difference for our students, faculty and staff.

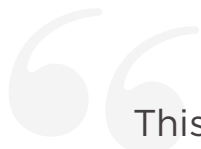
- Kim White, Former Vice Chancellor
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Total Donors

85,820*



*Donor totals do not equal the sum of all campuses because many donors give to multiple campuses and programs.



This year's success is the result of a Volunteer community that believes in this university and what it stands for. UT is a profound investment—one that is changing lives and shaping the future. We are truly grateful for the generosity of our donors and what they make possible.

– Brian Broyles, Senior Vice Chancellor for Advancement
University of Tennessee, Knoxville



3,184

Donors that give to
2+ campuses



18,275

First-time Donors
in FY25



56,473

Retained Donors



11,067

Reactivated Donors

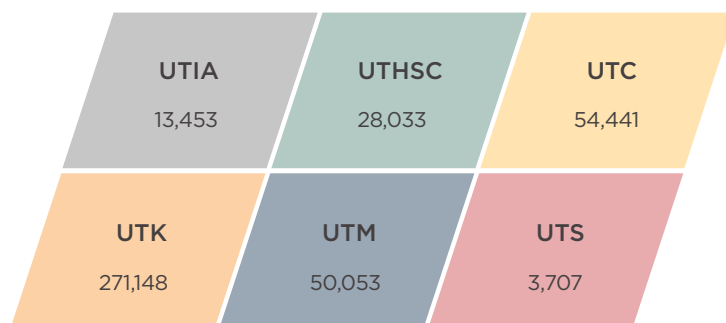
Alumni Engagement

Total Number of Alumni

459,208

Total Number of Engaged Alumni

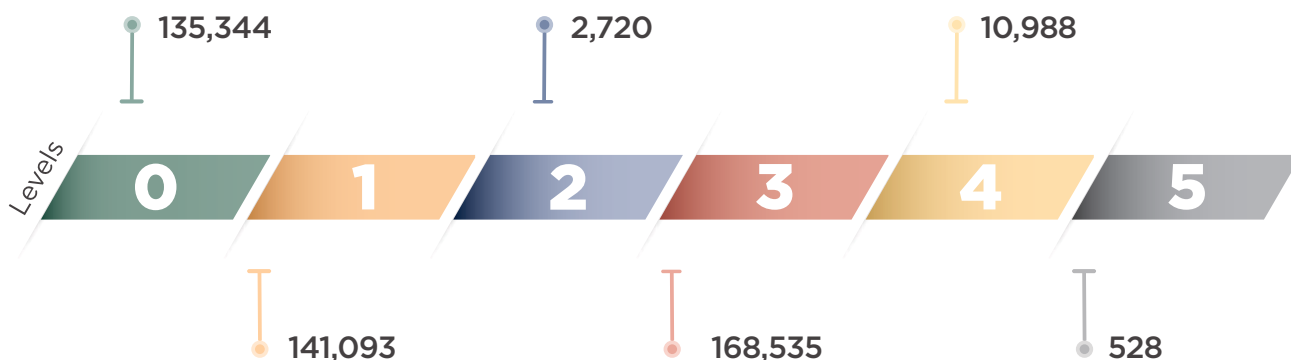
323,864



Our donors see investment in UT as a winning value proposition. The progress and growth we're experiencing right now—the vitality of campus and the student experience—is palpable, and our generous supporters are eager to be a part of it.

- Charley Deal, Vice Chancellor of Advancement
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture

Levels of Engagement



Engagement levels are measured across various connection points between alumni and their alma mater, offering insights into lifelong relationships that help build a legacy for future generations.

Foundation Operations

Total Planned Revenue

\$53,594,066



University Direct Support	Endowment Administrative Fee	Investment Earnings	Advancement Assessment	Other*
\$18,563,586	\$12,323,324	\$6,215,000	\$1,788,518	\$14,703,638

*Other includes prepayments from accumulated savings, marketing revenue, alumni programs and discretionary gifts.

Total Planned Expenses

\$52,261,669

	Personnel	\$39,375,856
	Operating	\$12,885,813

Our donors continue to go above and beyond for our students, faculty and staff. With enrollment continuing to increase, as well as many new facility upgrades, our donors continue to answer the call for support. We appreciate them and thank them for helping us meet the needs of our students.

- Evan Beech, Former Vice Chancellor for Advancement
University of Tennessee Southern



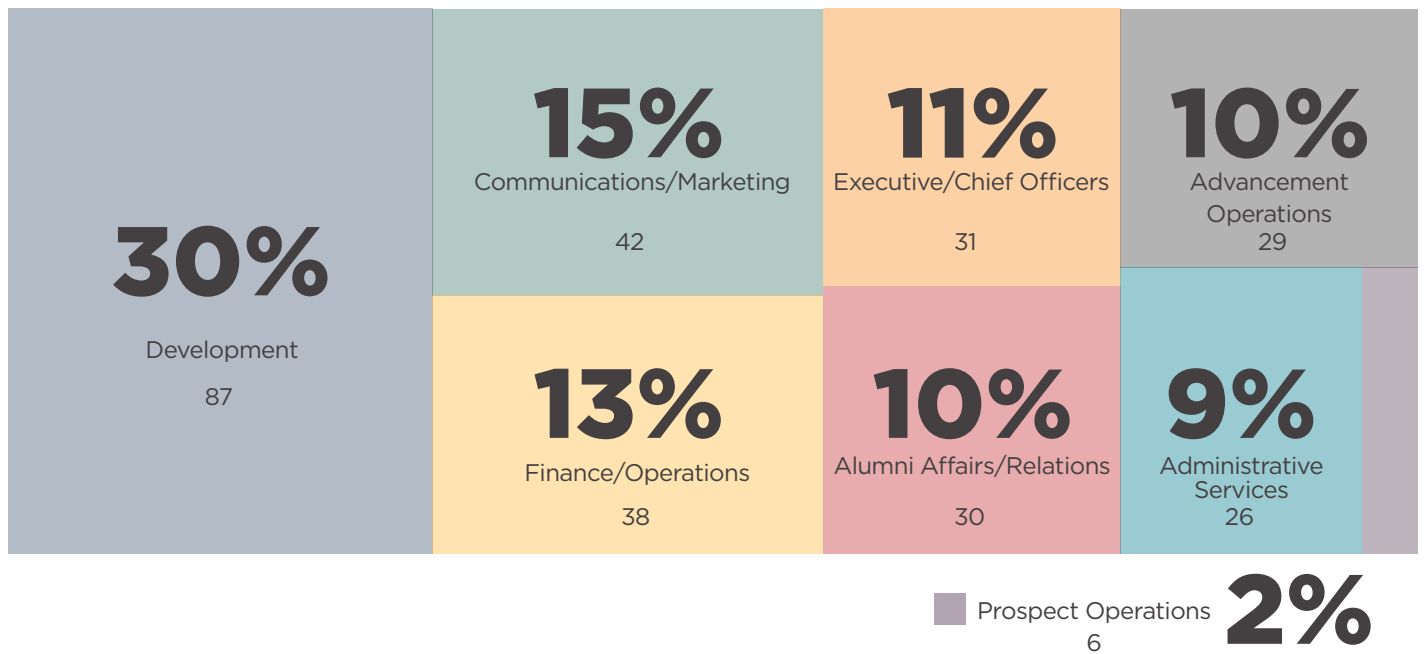
Staff Size

289



88% Fiscal year 2025 staff retention

Job Family Breakdown



UTFI President's Award

The UTFI President's Award is a highly prestigious award which recognizes outstanding achievements by advancement staff in applying creative concepts to improving performance, advancing fundraising and alumni engagement efforts, and promoting a

better understanding of the systemwide advancement activities and asset management services of the UT Foundation. Recipients are nominated by supervisors, and a committee of previous year recipients select up to six employees to receive the honor.

Nominees are selected using the following criteria:

- Promotes a better understanding of the systemwide major gift fundraising activities and alumni engagement initiatives.
- Continually strives to improve the overall performance of the Foundation by meeting or exceeding individual, departmental and system goals.
- Provides innovative and creative approaches for the solution of problems and meeting special needs in assigned areas of responsibility.
- Demonstrates commitment to personal and professional growth and organizational development.
- Supports teamwork and continuous improvement efforts of the advancement division through collaborative efforts.
- Fosters employee and customer loyalty.
- Serves as a mentor to other employees.
- Provides vision through leadership efforts.
- Adheres to core values and possesses integrity.

Congratulations to the 2025 recipients!



*Lydia Ball
UT Southern*

Lydia Ball exemplifies collaboration, teamwork and a deep commitment to stewardship in her role at UT Southern. Her innovative contributions include launching the first UT Southern Gratitude Day, implementing a comprehensive stewardship plan and partnering with Central Services and other campuses to streamline processes for greater efficiency.

Lydia is a trusted resource on campus, known for fostering collaboration between advancement, athletics and academics. Her efforts to engage alumni and donors are enhanced by her active civic and community involvement. Through her warmth and focus on service, she sets the standard for customer care and exemplifies core values of honesty, respect and professionalism. Her leadership and vision continue to strengthen both UT Southern and the UT Foundation.



*Terri Catafygiotu
UT Health Science
Center*

Terri Catafygiotu is the consummate professional whose passion for alumni engagement benefits all UT campuses. She is a dedicated and creative leader through every task, and she is known for her innovative problem-solving and strategic mindset. Terri consistently delivers thoughtful solutions that reflect her deep care for the UT Health Science Center and its alumni.

Beyond her campus, Terri offers support to System partners and Central Services, demonstrating her collaborative spirit and unwavering reliability. She is consistently praised for her commitment to teamwork and creating a positive culture. Terri's servant leadership style makes her a valued, respected and trusted mentor and colleague.



*Paul Clark
UT Knoxville*

Paul Clark has served in nearly every capacity in advancement, which makes him a trusted resource for his colleagues, campus leaders and donors. He works tirelessly to promote major gift fundraising priorities and alumni engagement initiatives for both UT Knoxville and the UT System. Maintaining a strategic focus, Paul is an exceptional fundraiser, cultivating relationships based upon honesty, integrity and authenticity.

Known for his generosity of time and spirit, Paul is quick to stop what he is doing to help a colleague or fellow campus. He is proud to serve as a resource for others and is a sought-after choice to serve on committees or lead as a mentor. His leadership and dedication to providing a customer centered, friendly approach to advancement has profoundly impacted the Foundation and the university community.



*Shuying Liu
UTFI Central Services*

Shuying Liu is well known throughout the Foundation for improving organizational and reporting processes. She plays a pivotal role in transforming UTFI's data infrastructure and processes by taking the lead on critical projects. Challenges are met without hesitation, and Shu is eager to strategize with others to improve overall functionality and efficiency in our processes.

As a creative thinker, Shu balances best practices with business needs to create a solid foundation for data models, reports and dashboards. Her calm demeanor, responsiveness and accuracy have earned her the trust and respect of colleagues and campus partners alike, and her daily contributions strengthen the Foundation's data-driven decision-making and organizational effectiveness.



*Ben Jones
UT Martin*

Ben Jones understands and values the meaning of teamwork and collaboration. His thoughtful, strategic approach to cross-campus proposals has resulted in impactful, multi-campus projects that directly benefit students statewide.


Ben's commitment to UT Martin extends beyond campus involvement. He is a trusted friend and advisor for colleagues, campus partners, donors and alumni. Every challenge before him is met with grace and insight, and as an emerging leader, Ben's commitment to honest feedback, collaboration and continuous improvement has made him a trusted figure within the UT and UTFI communities.



*Nancy Mullins
UT Chattanooga*

Nancy Mullins brings excellence and mentorship in all she does through thoughtfully and professionally sharing event best practices and campus knowledge. She creates a positive culture where donors, alumni, colleagues and campus partners feel connected, and her warmth helps those around her feel at ease.

Nancy is quick to help others and continually goes above and beyond. She skillfully incorporates fundraising into events through strategic thinking and creative execution and sets the example of above standard hospitality for any donor visit, event or fundraiser. Nancy is a trusted colleague and a standard-bearer for donor engagement and campus pride.



UTC shares Chattanooga's strong spirit of ambition, collaboration and innovation. Our fundraising success exemplifies that. The generosity of our Mocs supporters change lives and directly impacts every individual on our campus. We continue soaring to new heights because of our loyal donors, alumni and partners.

- Dr. Lori Mann Bruce, Chancellor



The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

\$31,956,387

Total Gifts

7,087

Total Donors

54,441

Engaged Alumni

(Fund)Raising the Bar

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga achieved a remarkable fundraising milestone in fiscal year 2025, securing \$31.9 million from 7,087 donors. This marks the university's largest fundraising year apart from years in which the Rollins family made major gifts.

A 4.6% increase from the previous record-setting year bucks national trends and reflects UTC's growing momentum. Highlights of the year's philanthropy included the Steiner family's seven-figure commitment to establish a new women's athletic facility, a transformative gift of Raccoon Mountain Caverns and a Mocs Give Day that shattered expectations—raising more than \$2.8 million from 2,201 donors, surpassing its goals by 45% and setting records for both the number of donors and dollars raised in a single day.

UTC's alumni engagement also soared to new heights, with 54,441 alumni engaged over the year—a 10.6% increase and the highest on record. As UTC builds on this momentum, philanthropy continues to play a vital role in shaping a bright future for the university and the Chattanooga community.

Entrepreneurship Meets Philanthropy

UTC's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship received an exceptional gift from Max Fuller, a 1975 alumnus and successful local entrepreneur, to name the center at the Gary W. Rollins College of Business the Max Fuller Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. This \$5 million gift will further the center's mission to inspire discovery, innovation and entrepreneurial initiatives at UTC and in Chattanooga and beyond.

Additionally, Fuller's gift will help expand the center's paid internship program, which allows students to work with start-ups and entrepreneurial support organizations. The gift could also seed an investment fund to support entrepreneurial ventures by students and alumni.

Fuller, former chairman and CEO of U. S. Xpress, spent his professional career in the motor carrier industry.



Along with a business partner, he founded U.S. Xpress in 1985 with 45 trucks and grew the company into the fourth-largest truckload carrier in the United States—with more than 8,000 tractors, 22,000 trailers and more than 10,000 employees nationwide. He has also started 14 other businesses throughout his career.

"This gift is entrepreneurial, too," he said. "If we create good entrepreneurial people, our economy will benefit for decades. This picture is much bigger than me. I'm proud to support future business leaders who will hopefully stay in the Chattanooga area because of the support they receive from the local business community."

A Game-Changing Gift for UTC Women's Athletics



A trailblazing gift for the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga's women's athletics, the Steiner family committed to a seven-figure contribution to explore the development of a women's athletics complex at UTC.

This new complex would include competition and practice facilities for women's soccer, new locker rooms for women's beach volleyball, and practice facilities and locker rooms for women's softball. The Steiner family gift is the foundational contribution to an ongoing fundraising effort for the complex, which is planned for the current UTC Sports Complex and Engel Stadium site.

"Supporting UTC and its student-athletes has been a privilege for our family," Movita Steiner said. "This new women's athletics complex will be an exciting opportunity for so many students, and our family is pleased to see the impact this gift will have on campus and our community for years to come."

The Steiner family has a history of generous support across UTC. In addition to extensive support for the women's basketball team, they have supported scholarships and programs in the Colleges of Engineering and Computer Science and Health, Education and Professional Studies.



Your generosity is transforming lives across Tennessee and beyond—fueling education, research, care and service that reach those who need us most.

- Chancellor Peter Buckley, MD



ER

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center

\$20,336,413

Total Gifts

4,183

Total Donors

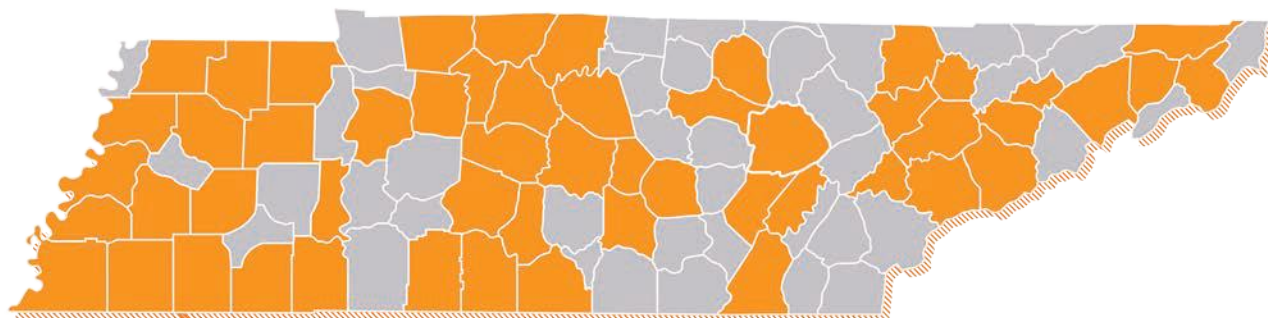
28,033

Engaged Alumni

SPANNING THE STATE



KEY
UT Health Science
Center clinical presence



“Memphis is our campus; Tennessee is our home,” Chancellor Peter Buckley, MD, said. “Through our vital partnerships and campuses across the state, we improve the health and well-being of Tennesseans.”

This year’s highlights—powered by state investment, strategic alliances and philanthropic generosity—bring us closer to our collective vision: Healthy Tennesseans. Thriving Communities.

Uniting for Cancer Discovery

Jessica Snowden, MD, MS, MHPTT, vice chancellor for research and professor in the College of Medicine, brings both scientific rigor and deep compassion to her work. As a pediatrician, she has sat with countless families facing the shock of a cancer diagnosis.

“In Tennessee, where we have the sixth-highest cancer death rate in the country, this is a particularly sobering reality,” she said. “Nearly 40 percent of us will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in our lives. Our communities deserve better—and only by coming together will we make lasting change.”

That spirit of collaboration inspired the creation of the Cancer Discovery Fund in January 2025 to support cancer research across disciplines at UT Health Science Center. On April 29, 2025, during the fifth annual Giving Day, every gift—no matter the designation—was matched to benefit the fund, with direct gifts matched twice. The day set a record, raising \$956,246 from 1,361 donors, including \$332,570 for the Cancer Discovery Fund. Support came from 37 states, reflecting a nationwide commitment to advancing health care and research.

The fund will fuel innovation through competitive grants, with priority for interdisciplinary projects. The first awards will be announced in October 2025 at the Tennessee Cancer Collaborative’s inaugural scientific retreat in Nashville.

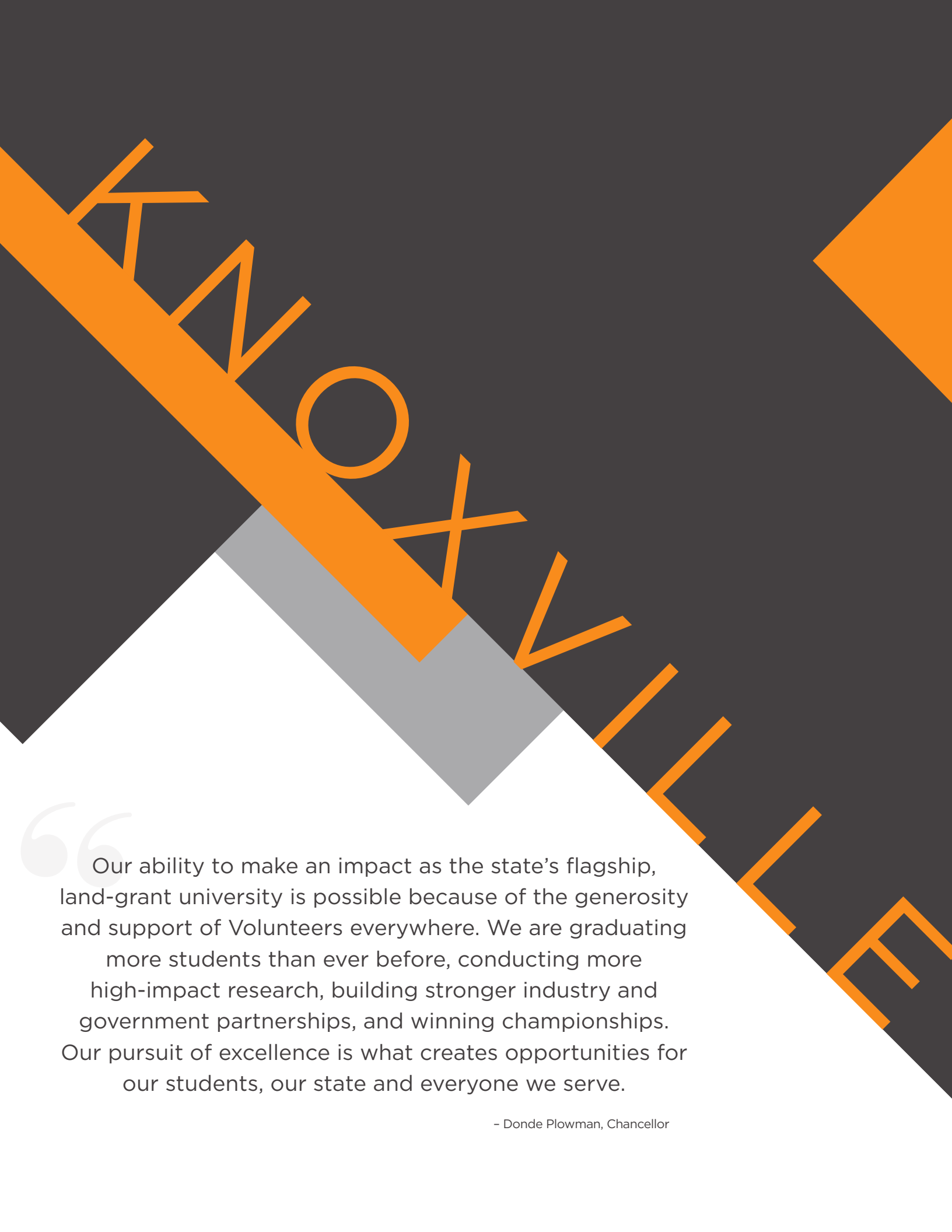
“Cancer research is not just about science; it’s about saving lives, reducing suffering, and ensuring a future where fewer families are torn apart,” Snowden said. “This is literally the fight of our lives.”

Expanding Access to Care Across Tennessee

This year brought a transformative gift from West Cancer Center: two fully equipped vans to broaden the College of Nursing’s outreach. One will serve counties surrounding Shelby County with a variety of health care services. The second—pending an additional private grant—will focus exclusively on Shelby County, offering colorectal cancer screening kits and follow-up care.

This investment builds on a watershed year for the college, which continues to strengthen its role as a statewide leader in improving health care access. The Tennessee Department of Health named UT Health Science Center the Tennessee Rural Health Care Center of Excellence, awarding a \$12 million grant to reduce health disparities for rural Tennesseans. Dean Wendy Likes, PhD, DNSc, APRN-BC, FAANP, FAAN, serves as principal investigator and as the university’s executive director and special advisor on rural health.

In addition, a new \$3.6 million grant will expand nurse-led care via a mobile medical unit to Hardeman, Haywood and Dyer Counties—extending the reach of the Nursing Mobile Health Unit, which already serves Lake and Lauderdale counties and delivered more than 500 patient encounters in the past year. This grant, the Center of Excellence funding and other existing grants bring current total rural health funding to \$28.9 million.



“ Our ability to make an impact as the state’s flagship, land-grant university is possible because of the generosity and support of Volunteers everywhere. We are graduating more students than ever before, conducting more high-impact research, building stronger industry and government partnerships, and winning championships. Our pursuit of excellence is what creates opportunities for our students, our state and everyone we serve.

- Donde Plowman, Chancellor



The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

\$428,446,623

Total Gifts

70,552

Total Donors

284,601

Engaged Alumni

Totals reflect UT Knoxville and UT Institute of Agriculture combined.



The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, has achieved its largest fundraising total in history. Donors contributed an extraordinary \$428 million during fiscal 2024–25, affirming the Volunteer community’s shared commitment to the state’s flagship land-grant university.

This milestone comes just one year after UT surpassed \$300 million in philanthropic support for the first time and more than doubles the support the university received in fiscal year 2020–21. More than 70,000 donors contributed to this historic effort—from first-time supporters to those making transformational gifts—reflecting a shared vision of impact and progress.

Fueling Momentum Across Campus

Generosity from the Volunteer community continues to elevate every part of the university, from student scholarships to cutting-edge research to championship athletics. More than 12,000 student scholarships were supported by donors, helping UT maintain a record 91.9 percent first-year retention rate and giving 96 percent of first-year students the opportunity to receive scholarships or financial aid. Donors also contributed a record \$92 million to the university’s endowment, strengthening UT’s ability to adapt to changing needs and enhancing the Volunteer experience.



Transformational Gifts Leave a Lasting Legacy

In May, UT named its College of Law in recognition of a transformative gift from the Bill Gatton Foundation, honoring law alumnus Frank Winston. This gift positions the college—the university’s fifth named college—to competitively recruit top students who will lead in the classroom, the community and the legal profession. It also marks the second named college at UT Knoxville in less than a year, after the Natalie L. Haslam College of Music was named in June 2024.



The Alan and Wendy Wilson Communication and Leadership Academy, supported by a gift from Alan and Wendy Wilson, equips students with essential communication and leadership skills. It is housed in the College of Communication and Information in partnership with the Haslam College of Business.

In October 2024, the Baker School of Public Policy and Public Affairs launched an endowed scholarship initiative to prepare the next generation of leaders for impactful careers in government, public service and civic engagement.

Support for student veterans—made possible through the generosity of John and Debbie Grubb—enhances scholarships, research and instructional support, and services, reinforcing UT’s commitment to this community.

Whether UT donors chose to support life-changing research, student access to education or championship-level athletics, every gift means UT can advance its vision for a stronger future for all Vols and all Tennesseans.

The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture



One of the many joys of working in public education is seeing everyday examples of how investment in the university brings new opportunities, new collaborations and new resources to our students, faculty and staff. It's truly life changing.

- Keith Carver, Senior Vice Chancellor
and Senior Vice President
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture

\$25,831,332

Total Gifts

6,073

Total Donors

13,453

Engaged Alumni

The UTIA numbers are included in the UT Knoxville totals on page 28.

The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) has a presence in all 95 counties in Tennessee and provides Real. Life. Solutions. through its land-grant mission of research, teaching and extension. UTIA is one of only a handful of American agricultural institutes, a designation that demonstrates the importance of agriculture and its partnering industries in Tennessee.

FIFA Invests in Turfgrass Research



Following the June 2022 announcement of host cities and venues for the FIFA World Cup 26, FIFA's pitch management team launched a five-year research and development project with UT and Michigan

State University, including a \$2.4 million investment in UTIA's East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center's plant sciences unit. The initiative aims to produce ideal playing surfaces, ensuring consistency and top performance for players regardless of climate or stadium type.

Baby Seven Goes Viral

This year, UTIA received gifts from 6,073 supporters—a new donor count record—and much of that success can be attributed to Baby Seven, a foal who became a viral sensation while undergoing treatment at the UT College of Veterinary Medicine. Born two months premature, Baby Seven spent much of his first year under the care of Dr. Tena Ursini, whose regular updates were shared by owner Katie Van Slyke to her millions of followers on TikTok, Instagram and Facebook. Baby Seven passed away in August 2025, but his legacy will carry on through Van Slyke's scholarship, which awards \$7,000 to seven third-year equine medicine students.



New Young Alumni Council Established




The Herbert College of Agriculture welcomed 24 members to the inaugural class of the Young Alumni Council. Along with attending two on-campus meetings each year, council members commit to promoting the college and agriculture in Tennessee, mentoring current students, recruiting future students, and serving as an advisor and advocate for the college and its leadership.

Smith Center Partners with UniAndes

The Smith Center for International Sustainable Agriculture hosted Julianna Lopez and Javier Penaros, the first two interns in its newly established partnership with the Universidad de los Andes in Columbia. The relationship was coordinated with Carolina Naar, a UniAndes and UTIA alumna who was inspired by UT's "Volunteer spirit" to promote cross-border collaboration. "In this interconnected world," Naar says, "the Smith Center understands something essential: small actions create momentum."

New Student Program Supports Tennessee Farmers

Tennessee has lost 200 acres of farmland each day since 2017. All four units of UTIA address this issue in various ways - in the classroom, in Extension offices and AgResearch facilities, in labs and in the field. John Jared, a two-time Herbert College of Agriculture alumnus, UTIA retiree and Knox County Farm Bureau president, contributed to the effort by establishing the Young Farmers and Ranchers Scholarship. The fund provides scholarships, stipends and travel grants for undergraduates at the Herbert College of Agriculture, with preference given to students who are active members of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Program.

The background features a large, diagonal watermark of the text "UT MARTIN" in a dark blue, sans-serif font. The watermark is partially obscured by a dark blue diagonal bar and an orange diagonal bar. The overall design is modern and geometric, with a dark grey background and white foreground.

“ UT Martin empowers students through academic excellence, real-world experiences and service, preparing them to lead and advocate in a multifaced, global society. This campus truly is a small-town university for people with big dreams.

- Dr. Yancy Freeman Sr., Chancellor



The University of Tennessee at Martin

\$8,345,497

Total Gifts

4,307

Total Donors

50,053

Engaged Alumni

The University of Tennessee at Martin is a modern university established on history and tradition. Since its beginnings in 1900 as the Hall-Moody Institute, UT Martin has been a fixture in West Tennessee and beyond. The campus boasts a vibrant community spirit that lasts long after graduation day, ensuring the Skyhawk experience offers education with connections that last a lifetime.

TEST Hub Groundbreaking



UT Martin held a groundbreaking for the Tennessee Entrepreneurial Science and Technology (TEST) Hub on Feb. 28, 2025. The new facility, which will be located behind the Student Recreation Center, will combine educational facilities and manufacturing workshops surrounding a shared industrial makerspace.

Additionally, the TEST Hub will serve as the new home for the Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center, which assists existing and potential business owners through one-on-one consultations and interactive training programs. “The TEST Hub is a national model for demonstrating how public universities can revitalize rural communities,” said UT Martin Chancellor Dr. Yancy Freeman during the ceremony.

Funded by the Tennessee General Assembly in April 2022, University of Tennessee President Randy Boyd credited partnerships for making the TEST Hub possible. Through continued partnerships with Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology Henry/Carroll and Dyersburg State Community College, the facility will offer educational opportunities at the certificate, associate and bachelor’s degree levels, as well as career and technical education opportunities for the region’s high schools. The facility is currently scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2027.

Captain’s Challenge Sets Records

Held on April 2, 2025, this year’s Captain’s Challenge—UT Martin’s annual 24-hour day of giving fundraiser—surpassed its goal of raising \$450,000 by 1,500 donors with a total of \$579,291 raised from 1,665 donors across four countries and 39 states.

The historic year was made possible through the collaboration of team members across annual giving, development and advancement services. Donors offered matches for various funds across campus up-to \$300 per gift - until the total match amounts (ranging from \$1,000 to \$49,500) were met.




Dr. Danny Walker Endowment

Dr. Danny Walker, a professor of animal science at UT Martin, retired at the end of the spring 2025 semester after 14 years of teaching. During his retirement dinner, the creation of the Danny Walker Endowment was announced in his honor. The fund primarily supports scholarships for Veterinary Science and Technology undergraduate students, with additional allocations for the teaching program and enhancements to laboratory equipment needed to maintain accreditation standards set by the American Veterinary Medical Association’s Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities. The endowment became fully funded in May 2025.

Walker, a doctor of veterinary medicine, is past president of the Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association and received the Elsevier Award for Teaching Excellence in 2017 from the Association of Veterinary Technician Educators.





“The success of the University of Tennessee Foundation reflects the power of generosity and vision. At UT Southern, we see firsthand how this support transforms opportunities for our students and strengthens our ability to serve Tennessee. I am deeply grateful to the donors and partners who believe in our mission and help us chart a brighter future together.

- Dr. Melinda Arnold, Chancellor



The University of Tennessee Southern

\$2,693,044

Total Gifts

1,751

Total Donors

3,707

Engaged Alumni

The University of Tennessee Southern marked a successful year in philanthropic giving, receiving \$2.6 million in new gifts and commitments from 1,751 donors during fiscal year 2025. The year was highlighted by the growing confidence in the university's mission, momentum and vision for the future.

Donor contributions have had a transformative impact across campus, providing critical support for student scholarships, academic program development, facility improvements and initiatives that enhance the personalized student experience for which the Pulaski-based campus is known. As UT Southern continues to evolve as a member of the University of Tennessee System, the generosity of alumni, friends and supporters is expanding access and opening doors for the next generation of leaders.

Baseball Field Gets Major Upgrade with New Outfield Wall

In a significant step forward for UT Southern athletics, the university completed its first full-scale construction project since joining the UT System: a full replacement of the outfield wall at Bobby Walker Field.

Years of wear, rot and patchwork repairs had left the wall in disrepair. Thanks to a generous \$100,000 gift from an anonymous donor, the outdated structure was torn down and replaced with a modern, more durable wall. Construction was completed in January 2025, just in time for the Firehawks' baseball season.

The gift not only improves the safety and appearance of the field but also signals a broader commitment to enhancing athletic facilities for student-athletes and fans alike. The project reflects UT Southern's continued investment in creating first-class experiences across campus.



Endowments Ignite Vibrant Student Life Initiatives

Two new unrestricted endowments have been established to strengthen student life programs and foster leadership and service outside the classroom. These contributions ensure students have access to

enriching experiences that align with UT Southern's student-first philosophy.

Dr. Doug and Tammy Haney, longtime supporters and UT alumni, created the Dr. Doug and Tammy Haney Student Life Excellence Endowment to fund programs that broaden student engagement. Their endowment has already helped launch the university's first alternative spring break trip. In spring 2025, students traveled to Asheville, North Carolina, to assist Habitat for Humanity in rebuilding homes following flooding caused by Hurricane Helene. The initiative emphasized service, leadership and experienced learning.

Brenda Speer, a member of the UT Alumni Association Board of Governors and the President's Council, established the Brenda Speer Student Life Excellence Endowment, which will support similar co-curricular programming on campus.



Investment in Science Lab Expands Hands-On Learning

Dr. J. Allen Scoggin, a three-time UT graduate and retired faculty member from the UT Health Science Center, made a transformational gift to UT Southern's science department through the J. Allen Scoggin Science Fund.

As the founder of MedCommunications, a global pharmaceutical services firm, Dr. Scoggin understands the importance of real-world experience. His \$35,000 gift will provide state-of-the-art lab equipment and expand research opportunities for students, better preparing them for careers in the sciences and healthcare.

This investment strengthens the university's commitment to academic excellence and ensures students have access to the tools and experiences necessary for success in a competitive, ever-evolving workforce.



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