

TECH TOMORROW

Strategic Goal One Education for Life

Tennessee Tech provides education that unleashes the potential and passion within our students and prepares them for successful careers and culturally enriched lives. Tech also provides educational opportunities, programs, credentials, and degrees to fuel the lifelong learning necessary for enduring achievement.

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Strategic Goal Two Innovation in All We Do

Tennessee Tech innovates in all we do, embracing and deploying our technological foundation in our education, research, service, and stewardship.

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Strategic Goal Three Exceptional Stewardship

Tennessee Tech is committed to optimizing resources and continuously improving effectiveness, efficiency, and return on investment for students.

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Strategic Goal Four Engagement for Impact

Tennessee Tech fosters partnerships with government, business, and non-profit organizations to advance economic and workforce development, create and disseminate knowledge, serve the public good, and generate cultural impact.

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About Tech Tomorrow

Tech Tomorrow, the dynamic strategic plan for Tennessee Tech University, was approved by the university's Board of Trustees on June 26, 2018. The plan contained new mission and vision statements for the university, a list of core principles, and four strategic goals (with priority actions and tactics underneath each goal).

Four faculty members serve as chairs of working groups for each of the plan's strategic goals, with the working groups drawn from both faculty and staff across the university. Each group, working from the approved plan, develop proposals which are brought to the Implementation Steering Committee.

Mission

Tennessee's technological university creates, advances, and applies knowledge to expand opportunity and economic competitiveness. As a STEM-infused, comprehensive institution, Tennessee Tech delivers enduring education, impactful research, and collaborative service.

Vision

Tennessee Tech will achieve national prominence and impact through its engaged students, dedicated faculty, and career-ready graduates known for their creativity, tenacity, and analytical approach to problem solving.

Core Principles

Academic Excellence – We expect and produce high academic achievement, foster collaboration, exemplify integrity, and inspire creativity and realized potential for the entire campus community.

Community Engagement – We collaborate with community members and organizations to advance positive societal and economic needs.

Meaningful Innovation – We are purposefully innovative in all we do.

Student Success – We empower students to realize their potential, craft individualized experiences, and discover their passion.

Supportive Environment – We are committed to a diverse and welcoming community and provide a campus size and atmosphere that fosters personal attention and fit.

Value Creation – We provide a high return on investment from our state, tuition, and donor resources and foster productive, responsible, and caring contributors to society.

Strategic Goal One: Education for Life

Curricular Learning Communities

This task force is examining benefits to students of curricular learning communities. This fall, more than 250 incoming freshmen have been placed in seven different learning communities. The aim of this initiative is to positively impact retention rates, academic achievement (based on GPA course grades), graduation rates, and time to degree completion.

Microcredentials & Digital Badges

Tech Tomorrow calls for the development of “innovative, stackable credentials.” While certificates have been developed at the graduate-school level as a stair-step for programs, this group will examine how Tech could utilize microcredentials and digital badges to help students through industry-specific or transferable skills badges or credentials, along with providing continuing education avenues for non-traditional learners. A first-step is to make Tech’s Career Readiness certificate program into a digital badge.

Strategic Goal Two: Innovation in All We Do

General Education Vision Committee

Creating “a Tech-unique general education curriculum to provide the foundation for technologically adept, analytically capable, and career-ready graduates” is identified as a priority action in the strategic plan. The Gen Ed Vision Committee has completed its work, which resulted in a final report to be handed off to the upcoming Gen Ed Implementation Committee. Documents and summaries created and used by the committee are available at the committee’s website (<https://www.tntech.edu/strategic/gen-ed-vision.php>).

One-to-One Technology Committee

This committee is examining the feasibility of a one-to-one technology initiative at Tennessee Tech. The committee’s early discussions focused on how to best accomplish providing a similar student technology service to all students. The two avenues are: (1) Issuing a device to all students; and (2) Providing a client-based service that will deliver university-licensed software to a student’s personal device. The committee is preparing a proposal with a tentative starting point of incoming freshmen for Fall 2025.

Strategic Goal Three: Exceptional Stewardship

Enrollment Data Analytics Task Force

Utilizing data about Tech students, this task force is leveraging university expertise in business intelligence via College of Business faculty and senior capstone students to examine factors in student retention and recruitment, and develop proposals on how to best use this intelligence.

University Compensation Study

Tennessee Tech engaged the services of a professional consulting firm to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the compensation levels and structure among faculty and staff. As a major determinant of the attraction and retention of talented employees, the compensation plan plays a key role in driving the effectiveness and efficiency of employees’ daily work.

New Initiatives

Additional projects related to stewardship are being pursued including:

- Additional analytics projects related to enrollment, retention, and the Launchpad Advising Center.
- An interactive dashboard to promote budget understanding and transparency.
- Feasibility of an Asset Management System to better track and maintain the physical assets on campus.

Strategic Goal Four: Engagement for Impact

Center for Global Experiences

The Center for Global Experiences, formerly the Office of Study Abroad, is an all-inclusive global research and learning hub for both faculty and students. The Center’s leadership develops, facilitates, and supports study abroad opportunities, student and faculty exchanges, international teaching residencies, sustainable global partnerships, supports international students through orientations, and serves through their Global Ambassador program. The Center has added pre- and post-assessments for experiences and offers faculty-led programs, faculty exchange programs, and assistance with grant and travel funding. The Center provides cultural enrichment for students and faculty and sparks a lifelong spirit of exploration.

The Center for Global Experiences has recently moved offices to the Volpe Library 248. We are in the process of evaluating and enhancing the mission, vision, services, partnerships, spaces, staffing, and funding to maximize the impact of the newly established Center.

Art, Culture & Innovation Program

We are currently developing specialized campus tours and interactive campus maps that connect Tech’s public art, campus collections, and architectural sites with the city of Cookeville. Additionally, we are discussing designing printed signs and digital graphics for campus monitors to showcase student works, as well as exploring methods to display student works and innovations both on and off campus. While a task force for this initiative has not been officially formed, faculty and staff from across campus have been involved in these early discussions.

The Art, Culture & Innovation program will celebrate Tech’s creative, cultural, historical, and innovative offerings through specialized campus tours and exhibitions showcasing the university’s collections, artworks, architecture, and innovations. This program will develop new outreach initiatives and sustainable partnerships that will further shape and define Tech’s culture by creatively telling the university’s story through diverse and multidisciplinary perspectives.

[tntech.edu/strategic](https://www.tntech.edu/strategic)