



From the Dean's Desk

With the official start of Spring last week, I hope you are enjoying the longer daylight hours and the warmer weather. As we fully march towards the end of the spring semester, we are all busier than ever. Please know that I continue to be impressed that so many faculty and staff are committed to preparing the next generation of DIFFERENCE MAKERS. I am so proud of the work being done with connecting passion to purpose. You guys show up every day to ensure we are empowering the educators, counselors, librarians, and leaders who will positively impact the lives of students and families.

I invite you to read the following stories that are just a small sampling of the impressive and impactful work that consistently happens here in the College of Education. The work shown below (e.g., engaging literacy educators from all over the country, hosting hundreds of our county school “inventors”, students and faculty presenting their research, teacher candidates inching ever closer to leading their own classrooms) is a testament to your dedication, and to you being a DIFFERENCE MAKER yourself.

- Neporcha



*****NOTE** We are having to reschedule the Spring Awards Ceremony.***

As you all know the rollout of the new FAFSA has been bumpy so student financial aid needs have been delayed. The ceremony will be moved to the Fall. A date will be announced later.

The Expanded Leadership Team continues their Strategic Planning work.

The University recently updated its Vision, Mission, and Value statements. This closely aligns with the work the Leadership Team has been engaging in to set College priorities. In this work the team has also been working on developing SMART goals and action steps.

Upcoming Events:

- **Wed. April 3rd - FJE Brunch & Learn w/Dr. Kim Godwin** COE 245 - 9:30am - 11:00am
Reflections and Voices: Seeing our students through culturally responsive resources and accessibility.
- **Tues. April 9 - MTSU Blood Drive**
COE 164 - 1:45 - 6:30pm. American Red Cross on campus. Visit rcblood.org/spring.
- **Fri. April 12 - FJE Emerging Leaders Academy**
Oakland Middle Students and Mentors
- **Sat. April 13 - Alumni Spring Showcase**
COE Building - 11:00am - 1:00 pm
Spring into Education (see article below)
- **Sat. April 20 - Saddle Up for ACE 17th Annual**
8:30-11:30 MTSU Tennessee Livestock Center

* We now have an event calendar posted on our main COE website under Welcome. This feeds from the University's Master calendar, let Kristen K. or Emily M. know if you need us to add your event!



All faculty and staff are invited to join in the fun as we celebrate education during Alumni Spring Showcase!

This is an opportunity to connect with fellow alumni, current faculty and staff, and the new Dean of the College. Light lunch items will be available. There will be a wellness wheel workshop, yard games for the whole family, and tickets to the MTSU Blue Raider baseball game at 3pm will be provided upon request.

RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/yc2yb3p7>



TAKE A TITAN TO SCHOOL



It was Take a Titan 2 School at Overbrook Catholic School on Tues. March 19th. The College of Education was represented by Mia Zellers. Students got to meet Tennessee Titans TE player #89 Thomas Odykoya, have a special pep rally, some farm fun and play flag football!



We were so excited to meet with our College of Education Alums who are teachers at Overbrook - Andrew Atwood, Caroline Crouch, Katy Erwin, Kayla Karlovic, Anh Kohls, Jennifer McCormick, Sister Mary Charles!



We loved hosting future leaders for the Diamond Youth Development Career Day 2024 here in the MTSU College of Education. They gave a special shout out to Dean Neporcha Cone and the Director of the FJE, Dr. Michelle Stevens for their help!



The College of Education recently hosted its 31st annual Invention Convention — one for elementary students and **new this year**, one for middle school students. Over 1,000 fourth - eighth graders from across the Midstate came to campus to showcase their range of creative, innovative inventions. For the full story: <https://mtsunews.com/college-education-invention-convention-2024/>



The bi-annual **Fox Reading Conference** was held over two days earlier this month. This year's conference, titled *Language Variations: Dialects, Multilingualism, Developmental Language Disorder, and Dyslexia*, was hosted by the MTSU Center for Dyslexia. In both face-to-face and virtual formats, more than 2,000 district-level administrators, front-line educators, and literacy coaches from across the country came together with nationally recognized literacy experts to learn about research-based practices and their implementation. This conference was made possible thanks to the support of the Tom and Elizabeth Fox Endowment for Reading.

Our Residency II Students have had a big month! Next stop graduation and leading classrooms of their own!

50 of our district, school, and community partners came together at the MTSU Campus Rec Center.

This mid-semester Seminar and Recruitment Fair paired our future teachers with partners from all over TN!



Students submitting their edTPA on March 20. Successful completion of this portfolio assessment is a requirement to receive their Tennessee teacher licenses.





Recently College of Education students shared their research and creative projects as a part of MTSU’s 18th Annual Scholars Week. Students networked and mingled in a social hour, then Dean Cone gave a speech for students and faculty on “Propelling Our Education Community into the Future”. The evening wrapped up with students presenting their research during a poster presentation. COE faculty served as judges and the top students in four categories earned a monetary prize for their research! Thanks to the COE Scholars Week Committee for all of their work on this great annual event. Special thanks to the FJE for their support of Scholars Week.



MTSU AT AERA 2024



Drs. Lando Carter, Bonnie Barksdale, Kim Evert, Stacy Fields, Kim Godwin, Angela Hooser, Seth Jones, Kevin Krahenbuhl, Sungyoon Lee, and Janna McClain from the College of Education, along with colleagues from across the MTSU campus, will be presenters at AERA (American Educational Research Association) 2024 April 12, 13, 14 in Philadelphia. If you are going make sure you catch their presentations.

11th Annual Literacy Research Conference, hosted by the Literacy Studies Ph.D. program, took place February 24th. Dr. Art Graesser, Professor Emeritus, University of Memphis, Department of Psychology, delivered a keynote address focusing on intelligent tutoring systems and their impact on reading comprehension and learning.

The conference featured over 40 research studies spanning the fields of education, psychology, linguistics, and neuroscience. Attended by approximately 110 researchers and practitioners, the event fostered lively discussions on evidence-based literacy practices, comprehension strategies, vocabulary instructions, and diversity in literacy classrooms.



**Spring into Education!
Write a positive affirmation
or phrase to spread positivity
and celebrate spring!**

We will be displaying your affirmations throughout the College of Education!



(Example)



So proud of our colleague Jennifer Hyde for sharing her Chowchilla survivors story to a packed room last week. Thanks to the MTSU Professional Counseling Program for hosting this event.



Our family has grown by two feet!



The Early Childhood Education program is happy to announce the newest arrival to our team.

Patrick Nathaniel Griffin born on March 1, 2024 7.6 lbs/19 inches.

Dr. Natalie Griffin and family are doing well!

Have you seen the flowers all around the atrium of the COE Building? We are encouraging students, faculty, and staff to write a note to spread positivity and celebrate spring! The flower notes will be displayed all over the College of Education! Pick up a blank flower in the 1st or 2nd floor atrium!



In February Dr. Seth Jones participated in a group planning for the first Data Science Education in K12 Schools conference. They met in Washington DC at the Gates Foundation for 3 days to plan the conference. The first meeting of the conference will happen Feb. 2025.

Quick note from the new Strategic Communications and Marketing Manager...

I want to say thank you. You have all been so welcoming and helpful my first month here. I've met with many of you over the last few weeks, and I have been truly blown away by everything you have going on! I am not surprised, however, at the passion and dedication you clearly have for our students! I look forward to getting to know you all better and communicating the amazing work happening in the COE.



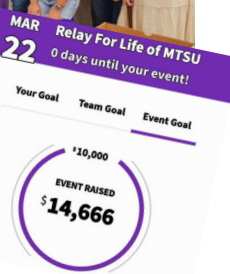
The focus of my duties right now is development of a strategic communication plan, updating our printed marketing and recruitment materials, the COE website, and COE social media.

Please reach out if you have questions about anything above. **If you are on social media, give us a follow on Instagram (mtsu_education) and Facebook (MTSU College of Education).** As you all know, followers, likes, shares, and comments drive the algorithm for us to show up in people's feeds.

Kristin



Way to go to our colleague Teresa Umphrey and the MTSU Relay for Life Team! They shattered their goal raising money for the American Cancer Society



Teresa was their top fundraiser!