

TECH TOMORROW

Strat^o Exceptional Stewardship

Tennessee Tech is committed to optimizing resources and

for the university, a list of core principles, and

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

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

— We collaborate with community members and organizations to advance positive societal and economic needs.

— We are purposefully innovative in all we do.

Strategic Goal One: Education for Life

Curricular Learning Communities

Human Learning Communities (CLCs) are learning communities, and has developed a proposal for a pilot program of about 80 students for the Fall 2023 semester. Research shows that students who participate in CLCs have higher retention rates, academic achievement (based on GPA course grades), graduation rates, and time to degree completion.

Residential Learning Communities

Human Learning Communities (RLCs) program at Tennessee Tech. RLCs are considered a cluster of students living in campus residential housing that share a living space based on their interest in a common topic. RLCs are widely acknowledged as a best practice in higher education, having been shown to increase student retention rates and academic performance, as well as increase overall satisfaction with college.

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 strategically aligned" strategic plan. As such, Tennessee Tech is beginning a long-term (multiple committees over multiple years) review of its General Education curriculum. The goals for the Vision committee are to: (1) develop a vision/philosophy for general education on our campus, and (2) identify two or three potential pathways for operationalizing that vision. This work will engage numerous stakeholders (students, faculty, administration, community/industry, and alumni) through focus groups (and perhaps surveys) in the coming 12 to 15 months. The Vision committee will also be charged with looking at peers across the nation to see what might be possible as we "dream big."

Tech-infused Course/Program Committee

This committee will examine the degree of technological infusion, and the quality of that infusion, in Tech's current course offerings and programs. This group will look at the ways in which courses/programs incorporate technologies and technology experiences for students (beyond instructional technologies) and is important for identifying potential programmatic changes for technological innovation. The committee will develop proposals for how to strategically increase the number and quality of technology-infused programs/courses at Tennessee Tech, as well as identify opportunities and investigate the feasibility of (1) every undergraduate program of study offering at least one course completely online/hybrid, and (2) every college/school offering at least one degree program (preferably undergraduate) completely online.

One-to-One Technology Committee

This committee will examine the feasibility of a one-to-one technology initiative at Tennessee Tech. One idea to be explored by this university-wide committee is the feasibility of providing

iPads/Laptops/etc. for students, particularly non-traditional adult learners and/or those enrolled in programs fully offered as online/hybrid. First-generation college students are another group of students often have a weaker sense of digital literacy and may come from rural communities that lack the resources to prepare them for college.

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 University is reviewing the University's current compensation structure to ensure it remains competitive and essential elements to attracting and retaining faculty and staff. To make progress toward this important goal, a full-time faculty member will be hired to lead the study. While this university-wide effort is being led by Human Resources, Tom Timmerman is a member of the project team, which will provide input, guidance, oversight, and assistance to Mercer, our compensation consultant.