



Learning and Leadership are indispensable to each another.
- John F. Kennedy

The challenge of leadership is to be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but not bully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble but not timid; be proud, but not arrogant; have humor, but without folly.
- Jim Rohn

The multidisciplinary [UTC LEAD programs](#) are designed to equip participants with an understanding of the relationship that learning and leadership play in the instructional process; develop reflective practitioners in a variety of organizations/institutions; and focus on the interwoven nature of leadership, decision-making, and learning; emphasizing the proficiency that individuals will need as they pursue the challenges of organizational change and/or ever-changing instructional processes and practices.

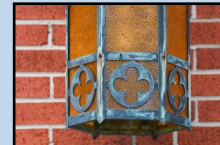
Welcome Dr. Ashleigh Pipes



Dr. Ashleigh Pipes completed her undergraduate studies at Georgetown University and began her early career in business. She earned a M.A. in Communication from the University of West Florida and a Ph.D. in Linguistics from Georgetown. Dr. Pipes held Marketing and Public Relations positions prior to turning her career towards education. She has taught communication and research courses and has presented her research on creativity and second language acquisition both domestically and abroad. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Pipes as Assistant Professor in the LEAD & BAS-AL programs!

Applied Leadership & Learning

As of July 1, 2024, we are pleased to share that our new Applied Leadership & Learning academic department was approved within the College of Health, Education and Professional Studies and currently includes all LEAD/LEAP graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs. For information regarding current AL&L programs, please visit www.utc.edu/all.



Welcome Edd24/PhD24 Cohorts

Our newest Edd/PhD participants successfully completed the initial foundational course, LEAD 7000 Learning & Leadership Induction and Integration, on campus and via the Virtual Classroom (Canvas/Zoom) this Summer. The new cohort members are currently enrolled in their first semester of core coursework (leadership, research, and inquiry). Welcome to the LEAD community and keep up the great work!



LEAD Participant/Candidate News

- This past Summer, **Courtney Boren** was granted tenure at Walters State Community College
- This past Spring, **Jason Harville** was recognized as the 2024 Outstanding Graduate Participant for the Leadership and Instructional Practice Doctoral Program. Jason has assumed the role of UTC Asst. Director of Residence Education for Academic Initiatives and presented at the 48th Annual National Organization for Student Success (NOSS) conference in Las Vegas in February.
- This past Summer, **Brett Fuchs** was the recipient of the UT President's Award in the "Excel in All We Do" category. Brett also assumed the role of UTC Director of Emergency Management, Threat Assessment, and Emergency Communications in August 2024.
- Last Fall, UTK merged new Student Orientation and First-Year Programs to form the inaugural Office of First-Year Experience (FYE), and **Adam White** has been selected as the Director



LEAD 7390 Faculty & Participants presented at the UTC Spring Research and Arts Conference in April 2024. For details regarding this annual event, please visit the [UTC Spring Research and Arts Conference](#) website.

Summer 2025 Admission Timeline



We will accept applications to our Summer 2025 PhD and EdD cohorts from **December 2024 - February 2025**. Step-by-step instructions will be published to our program websites on December 1. If your colleagues with a Master's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution are interested in pursuing their terminal degree at UTC, please encourage them to contact our LEAD Program Office at utclead@utc.edu for more information.

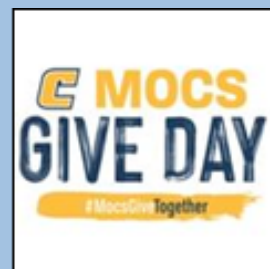


LEAD Participant/Candidate News (Continued)

- Last Spring, **Kristina Krau Waymire** presented sessions at NASPA National Association of Student Personnel Administrators 2023 Annual Conference
- **Lowell “J.R.” Howard** began a new career as an Asst. Professor at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC), Fort Leavenworth, KS, last Fall. This position follows the culmination of his 28-year military career including four deployments, serving multiple combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and planning/participating in exercises across the Arabian Peninsula.
- In August, **Zack Ridder** and his partner welcomed their first child, a baby boy
- Last Fall, **Brian Daniels** finished his term as Immediate Past President of the Association of College and University Auditors (ACUA)
- **Andrew Wilson** has had 17 publications since starting the LEAD program. Those publications include notable journals such as BMJ Case Reports, International Journal of Spine Surgery, CORR, JBJS, JAAOS, OJSM, and Spine Deformity.
- **Laurie Allen** contributed a chapter about recruiting and training Simulated Patient Actors (SPAs) in Simulation Scenarios for Nurse Practitioner Educators: A Faculty Guide (open educational resource) and co-presented a session on the topic of play-based training strategies at the Association for SP Educators Annual (ASPE) Conference in Portland, OR, last year.

Mocs Give Day 2024

Thank you to everyone who participated in UTC Mocs Give Day on October 1! Every gift to UTC, no matter the amount, is important and has the power to transform lives. Contributions are welcome throughout the year. Be a LEAD-er for UTC and [make a gift](#) today. Scroll/search in the list for the Learning & Leadership Doctoral Program gift fund. On behalf of the LEAD faculty, staff, and participants, we appreciate your support!





LEAD Alumni News

- This past Summer, **Dr. Stacy Swafford** was appointed Dean of the Goodfriend College of Business and Professional Studies at Tennessee Wesleyan University
- **Dr. Lisa Godfrey** currently serve as a Reading Specialist/Literacy Coach in Catoosa County. Lisa also works as an adjunct instructor for Georgia Virtual School teaching ASL.
- This past Spring, **Dr. Mariah Perry** was recognized as the 2024 Outstanding Graduate Participant for the Learning and Leadership Doctoral Program
- **Dr. John Alpers** currently serves as the program director for FIN/ECON programs at Carson-Newman University
- This past Spring, **Dr. Colleen Harris** graduated with her Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Nonprofit Management from California State University San Bernardino and has been invited to teach in the newly developed MNPA and Doctorate in Educational Leadership for Equity and Justice (DELEJ) programs launching at CSUCI in 2024.
- **Dr. Ashley Aldridge Wilson** is extremely proud of her students, staff and school community. Over the past 6 years, Nolan Elementary students have increased their TNReady achievement success rate from 68% in 2017 to 88% in 2023 proficient/advanced students. Nolan also earned 2023 National Blue Ribbon School and 2022-2024 PTA National School of Excellence.
- In March 2023, **Dr. Matt Tolbert** founded the Center for Learning Innovation and Research at Southern Adventist University and was named Director. The center facilitates faculty research for the university, provides resources for students to conduct research, and promotes the acquisition of quality research grants. The focus of this research is on innovations in learning, quantitative and qualitative social science projects, and training in pedagogy and andragogy.

Please Share Your News!

If you have any professional or personal updates to share, we'd love to hear from you! Please visit the following survey link:

[Learning and Leadership Update Survey](#)





LEAD Alumni News (Continued)

- **Dr. Peter O'Brien** currently serves on the Jackson Madison County School System Foundation Board and enjoyed a trip to Ireland with his family last year
- **Dr. Mandy Beeler** is pleased to report that the UTK Jones Center for Leadership and Service secured a second \$5 million endowment gift from their namesake donors, Clay and Debbie Jones, to continue elevating their work to develop the next generation of community-engaged leaders
- Last spring, **Dr. Marcy Porter** was the recipient of the Dean Stinnett Award for outstanding service to the college. Dr. Porter also presented a session entitled “Incorporating Students in Graduate and Professional Programs’ Continuous Improvement Model”, at the Assessment Institute in Indianapolis last fall.
- Last summer, **Dr. Chris Silver** was hired as Assistant Professor (tenure track) in the Department of Psychology at the University of the South. Dr. Silver has led a number of initiatives including the analysis of the campus wide culture survey, workshops on personality/leadership measures, and several student led research projects. Dr. Silver was also invited to serve as the primary research methodologist for the summer student internship called Datalab.
- After 38 years in public education, **Dr. Lindy Blazek** currently teaches ELA to middle schoolers at OLPH and is loving it!
- Since completing his doctorate at UTC, **Dr. Robert Stinson** has moved from the position as Athletic Director of Ridgeland High School to Principal of Rossville Middle School.
- **Dr. Elaine Carson** has helped develop conference materials to train women in rural villages of India/ Nepal on how to do basic Bible study. Dr. Carson is also invited to speak at conferences/retreats to Christian women's group in the U.S.
- This past year, **Dr. Jamie Connors** was promoted to Associate Dean of the Wright School of Business at Dalton State College and is working on a paper from her dissertation for possible publication.
- **Dr. Wahtawah (TJ) Battle** continues to investigate health care fraud, waste, and abuse while also providing occasional educational in-services to the Compliance Division of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee. Dr. Battle also volunteers with Remote Area Medical, the Medical Reserve Corps, and tnAchieves.