



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY



December 4, 2019

Retirement Reception for Dr. Bert C. Bach

This Friday, I will have the privilege of being part of a reception honoring Dr. Bert C. Bach, who will retire from ETSU in January. The event will be held on December 6 from 2:30 – 4 p.m. at the Reece Museum. Dr. Bach holds the distinction as ETSU's longest-serving Provost, having joined us in January 1994. He has worked in Tennessee higher education for 43 years, which also includes serving in leadership roles at the Tennessee Board of Regents and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Please join me on Friday in saying thank you to Dr. Bach for all he has done for ETSU.



Photo by Caleb Ishola

A Season of Celebration

On Monday evening I had the honor of being present for the Multicultural Graduation Celebration, which is the first of several ceremonies that will be held in the upcoming days celebrating the Class of 2019. Prior to that event, the Lavender Graduation ceremony was held honoring members of the LGBTQIA community. A number of other ceremonies will be held next week leading up to Commencement Exercises on Saturday, December 14. Join us in extending congratulations to our newest alumni as their journey at ETSU draws to a close.

Thursday, December 12

College of Nursing Convocation

Mini-Dome, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, December 13

ROTC Commissioning Ceremony

Carnegie Hotel (Grand Soldiers Ballroom), 10 a.m.

College of Public Health Pinning and Hooding Ceremony

VENUE at the King's Centre (Downtown Johnson City), 5 p.m.

Department of Physical Therapy Hooding Ceremony

Holiday Inn (Springbrook Drive), 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 14

Commencement Exercises

Mini-Dome, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

A Note of Thanks

Last week, a chiller malfunction caused flooding on four levels of Lamb Hall. As work continues to return the building to operational status and employees complete inventories of items that were damaged, I want to use this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to the many staff and faculty who stepped away from their Thanksgiving holiday to come to campus and address the emergency situation. In particular, I want to commend the employees from Facilities Management, Public Safety, Information Technology Services, and Academic Affairs, as well as the staff and faculty from the colleges of Public Health and Clinical and Rehabilitative Health Sciences for all you have done during the past six days to help ease any disruption this event had on our operations. Your efforts ranged from extracting water and removing damaged debris to assessing the impact on our academic technology infrastructure, identifying alternate locations for classes and communicating these changes to hundreds of students and employees.

One of our principal values is that we are an institution where people come first. The ETSU community is one that rises to any challenge and willingly steps forward and assists whenever needed. During this season of giving thanks, serving others and celebrating the people in our lives, I am reminded how blessed I am to be part of this community. Thank you.

Return of Offices to the Culp Center

The Culp Center renovation project has remained aligned with its original schedule, and in early 2020, offices will begin the process of moving back to the facility. An exact date of completion for the Culp renovation has not been set, and therefore a specific timetable for when those offices will move has yet to be determined. However, it is our goal to have the first floor (Post Office, retail dining, bookstore, Cave), second floor (Student Activities & Organizations, Media Center, ID Services, Multicultural Center), and third floor (dining hall, meeting room spaces) operational within the Culp Center by Monday, February 24, at which time we anticipate the facility also being available for hosting special events. A number of grand opening activities are being planned by Student Life and Enrollment for the week of March 1. I thank everyone for their patience during this time as the much-needed renovation work took place, and I will continue to keep you updated in the coming weeks as we look forward to returning to the Culp.

ETSU Connects session today

Nearly 100 staff and faculty attended our inaugural ETSU Connects event. Join us this

afternoon (Dec. 4) for our second Connects gathering at the Millennium Center (room 137B) from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Topics to be addressed include an update from the previous ETSU Connects meeting, an information session on the Office of Equity and Inclusion led by Dr. Keith Johnson, and a report on capital projects and facilities upgrades from Jeremy Ross, chief operating officer.

Reminder about new Safe App

At the close of the semester, our primary emergency alert platform will be the new ETSU Safe App, which will replace Rave, or GoldAlert. With the ETSU Safe App, you can report a tip, request a friend walk, access plans for emergency incidents and learn about other safety resources.

It is very important that every member of the ETSU community follow these two steps in order to remain linked with our emergency alert system.

1. Download ETSU Safe App if you have not done so already. You can find it in the App store.
2. You must also text ETSU to 237233 to sign up to receive emergency text alerts.

If you have any questions about the ETSU Safe App, contact Andrew Worley at worleyp@etsu.edu.

Deadline Approaching to Sign-up as tnAchieves Mentor

This is the final week for volunteers to sign up to serve as a mentor for a Tennessee Promise student. Volunteers are recruited each year to serve as mentors for students as they transition from high school through their first semester of college. Mentors with tnAchieves spend about one hour per month reminding students of important deadlines, serving as a trusted college resource and, most importantly, encouraging students to reach their full potential. Many of these students will be the first person in their family to go to college.

The deadline is Friday, December 6. As many as 40 volunteers are still needed for Washington County alone. If you are interested in applying to be a mentor, you can do so by visiting www.tnachieves.org/mentors/apply.



