



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY



July 1, 2020

Update on July 1 Transition Process for Reopening of Campus

In higher education, you often hear people extend “Happy New Year” wishes on July 1 as this date traditionally marks the beginning of the new fiscal year. For ETSU, today begins a phased reopening of campus. Our highest priority remains the health and safety of the entire ETSU community, and in light of Governor Lee’s recent announcement that the State of Emergency for Tennessee is extended through August 29, the following guidelines are in place as we transition through this next phase of reopening.

- Remote work flexibility should continue.
- Rotational coverage of offices and units is expected; however, a 100% physical staff presence is not required.
- Employees should work with their supervisors to develop an appropriate schedule that addresses workspace safety, health concerns, childcare responsibilities and other needs.
- Offices are accessible for in-person assistance during normal business hours;

however, remote access to campus services will continue

- Anyone who does not feel well should stay home.
- COVID-19 testing is available to any student, staff, or faculty member who wishes to be tested. For more information about how to get tested, call the University Health Center at [423-439-4225](#).

Additional announcements will also be available on the Bucs Are Back website: etsu.edu/bucs-are-back. The [announcements page](#) provides a chronological listing of messages shared with the campus community since the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak

Independence Day Observance

ETSU offices will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day. May this special day in American history be overfilled with cheer and blessings for you and your loved ones.

Organizational Changes Involving School of Continuing Studies

The beginning of the 2020-21 academic year coincides with some structural changes within the School of Continuing Studies and Academic Outreach:

- Effective today (July 1) upon the forthcoming retirement of Dr. Rick Osborn, current Dean of Continuing Studies and Academic Outreach (SCSAO), the university is merging the School of Continuing Studies and Academic Outreach and the School of Graduate Studies into a new academic unit: the College of Graduate and Continuing Studies.
- Dr. Sharon McGee, currently the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, will become the Dean of the College of Graduate and Continuing Studies.
- Dr. McGee will assume responsibility for all of the academic degree programs in SCSAO, Professional Development, and transfer articulation.
- Dr. David Linville, Executive Vice Provost for Academics and Health, will assume responsibility for administrative oversight of ETSU off-campus centers in Sevierville, Kingsport, Asheville and Abingdon.
- All current staff are being retained and reassigned to either the new College of Graduate and Continuing Studies or through reporting lines directly to the Provost's Office.

The merger becomes effective today. Dr. Osborn will continue in a dean emeritus role and assist the provost with special projects until his official retirement date later in the summer.

- This merger addresses both academic and fiscal efficiencies as well as mission alignment.

During his tenure Dr. Osborn provided innovative leadership that advanced the footprint of ETSU programming throughout the region. His community outreach provided the face of ETSU to business and academic communities across Northeast Tennessee and surrounding states. Through his efforts students gained additional access opportunities for degree attainment and career development. His career has made a lasting difference on the university and the people of our region, and we thank him for all he has done for ETSU.

Called Board of Trustees Meeting July 17

Please mark your calendar for a called ETSU Board of Trustees meeting on Friday, July 17. Additional information will be provided soon regarding the meeting. For updated information on all Board of Trustees meetings, visit the [**ETSU Board of Trustees site**](#).



Announcing the Strong BRAIN Institute

ETSU's partnership with what is now the Ballad Health system began more than 60

years ago when we joined forces with Johnson City Medical Center to offer a baccalaureate program in nursing. Many chapters in our university history are filled with other initiatives and significant advances made possible through this partnership, such as a medical school, a pharmacy school and major advances in pediatrics care.

This past Friday, I had the honor of announcing a new initiative with Ballad Health called the Strong BRAIN Institute, which will promote awareness and study of Adverse Childhood Experiences, or ACEs. You can read more about the new program at our [ETSU News Site](#).



Film, Book Discussions on Culturally Relevant Topics Begin Next Week

I hope your schedule will allow for you to take the opportunity this month to participate in some of the activities hosted by the Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement and the Center for Teaching Excellence designed to prompt dialogue among the campus community regarding culturally relevant topics. These events include virtual film and book discussions. Several cohorts are available. More information about registration and details about the discussions are available [here](#).



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