

CHATTANOOGA STATE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Zennia Nesmith

2022 College
System of Tennessee
Community College
Student of the Year
and one of eight
nationwide selected
as a 2022 DREAM
Scholar by Achieving
the Dream—and first
DREAM Scholar from
Chattanooga State!



ANNUAL REPORT
2021  2022

Our Purpose

We support and empower everyone in our community to learn without limits.



Our Values

We cultivate an inclusive environment.

We care about the well-being of each other.

We instill trust through integrity and transparency.

We encourage fearless innovation and resilience.

We collaborate to build a better future.



Our Mission

We are Chattanooga State, a dedicated team that delivers accessible, innovative learning opportunities that surpass expectations.

Together, we enrich the lives of students and their families; develop a talented workforce; and partner with our community to lead boldly into the future.



2021 ■ 2022

A Cultural Shift

In the fall of 2021, Chattanooga State embarked on a transformative journey to enhance our students' educational experience and elevate our campus culture. The most significant shift was the transition of over half of our courses to a 7-week format, a decision informed by research and data demonstrating the increased success rate for students taking fewer courses concurrently in shorter time frames. This trend was evident not only in national data but also within our own Chattanooga State courses that had already adopted the 7-week format.



Our dedication to fostering student success drove the implementation of additional support measures such as tutoring, early alerts, and relational advising. These initiatives were built upon the foundation of our new, shortened class structure.

However, even more profound changes were occurring within our campus culture. A diverse team of faculty and staff diligently worked together over several weeks to redefine our purpose, mission, and values. These intensive workshops allowed us to assess our strengths, identify areas for improvement, and understand our role within the Chattanooga community and our responsibility to cultivate the workforce that powers our economy.

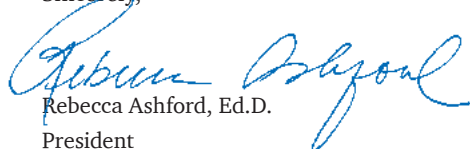
Our newly established purpose statement serves as a beacon, illuminating our path forward and defining our “why” to support and empower everyone in our community to learn without limits. Meanwhile, our values statements embody who we aspire to be and will inform our decision-making processes. Together, these guiding principles will underpin our strategic plan update.

To ensure we were truly embracing our purpose and values, the College conducted focus groups to assess our performance and identify areas of opportunity. This collaborative effort aimed to evolve Chattanooga State into an institution led by “truly human leadership.”

With the invaluable input from the focus groups, we revised our mission statement and developed a strategic plan framework centered around three key areas: holistic student support, teaching excellence, and program innovation. These objectives are reinforced by our commitment to an inclusive organizational culture and financial stewardship.

We look forward to working together as a community in shaping the future of Chattanooga State and nurturing the success of our students.

Sincerely,


Rebecca Ashford, Ed.D.
President

YEAR IN REVIEW

2021 | 2022

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DR. REBECCA ASHFORD, ED.D.
CHATTANOOGA STATE PRESIDENT

”

7,347
students

(6,575 Chattanooga State students)

32% age 24+

49% full time

♀ **37%**

♂ **63%**

1,429
Undergraduate
Degrees & Certificates Awarded

96%
Job Placement Rate
(5 year average)

618
Technical Certificates & Diplomas
Awarded

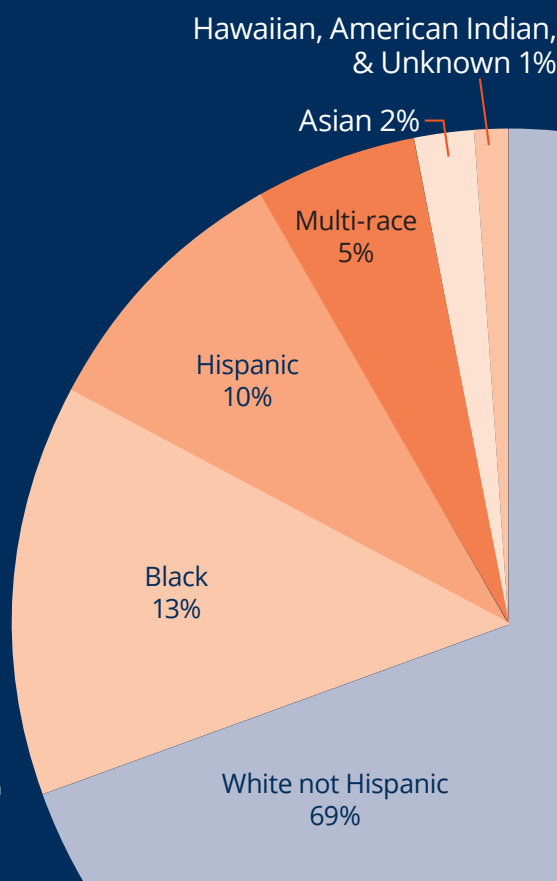
97%
Licensure Pass Rate

98% Allied Health Licensure Pass Rate

#1 in the state in
awarding associate
degrees to adult learners

#2 in the state in awarding
associate degrees to
low-income students

89,983 Workforce Training Hours provided



(6,575 Chattanooga
State students)



Unum Partnered with Chattanooga State to Expand Tutoring Support

Unum presented a check for \$225,000 to Chattanooga State on July 7, 2021 to expand tutoring services, “offered to any and every student free of charge,” shared Dr. Rebecca Ashford, Chattanooga State president.

“Evidence also shows that students who take advantage of tutoring experience higher grades and improved graduation rates,” stated Dr. Beth Norton, vice president of Academic Affairs.

Recent research underscores the significant impact of tutoring on student performance, with tutored students consistently surpassing their peers in both retention and graduation rates. Simply put, investments in tutoring lead to students’ academic success.



Chattanooga State Student Named TN Student of the Year

Chattanooga State’s Zennia Nesmith was named the Tennessee Community College Student of the Year during the College System of Tennessee’s 4th annual Statewide Outstanding Achievement Awards (SOAR) ceremony held March 30, 2022, in Nashville.

Zennia’s personal story is one of resilience and hard work. Although she did not graduate from high school, a year after her daughter was born, Zennia completed her GED and made a decent living working. Twenty years later she enrolled at ChattState at no cost thanks to the Tennessee Reconnect scholarship, a program her husband had already completed.

Zennia maintained a 4.0 GPA, joined the Honors program, was awarded the Chattanooga State Foundation Beacon Scholarship, and earned the highly competitive Dream Scholar program where she was one of eight community college students chosen nationwide.

“Zennia is an inspiration to the faculty, staff and students at Chattanooga State,” said Chattanooga State President, Rebecca Ashford. “She overcame many obstacles to enroll in college, and she is determined to succeed. She is incredibly deserving of this recognition. We at the College are so very proud of her.”



GOCARTA.ORG

Chattanooga State and CARTA Announce Rideshare Agreement

Chattanooga State and the Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA) reached a universal rideshare agreement that allows all Chattanooga State students, faculty, and staff to ride CARTA for free with a valid ChattState ID. The agreement is for all routes, not just the ChattState/Amnicola Route.

“As Chattanooga State resumed in-person instruction, addressing transportation barriers will ensure a smooth transition from virtual learning to face-to-face instruction,” stated Dr. Amanda Bennett, vice president for Student Affairs. “Providing a safe and fare-free transportation option helps to remove a barrier that may otherwise prevent students from completing their education.”

The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) estimates that the average full-time community college student spends \$1,760 per year on transportation and identifies the cost of transportation or access to reliable transportation as significant barriers to student retention and success.



Chattanooga State's Johnson & Hammond Earn CMBE Status

Chattanooga State's Massage Therapy program faculty members Renee Johnson and Tiffany Hammond recently earned Certified Massage and Body Educator (CMBE) status from the Alliance for Massage Therapy Education (AFMTE). Ms. Johnson is the senior instructor and program director for the program and Ms. Hammond serves as an associate instructor.

CMBE certification is for a period of three years, renewable upon completion of nine continuing education hours concentrated in the areas of teaching and learning.

"I feel honored to be one of the few instructors to become a Certified Massage and Bodywork Educator (CMBE) through AFMTE not only in our state but in the nation," said Ms. Johnson. "Going through their rigorous process was very validating in that I passed a very strict standards test, and that we are providing a quality education in a CTE (Career and Technical Education) venue."

Ms. Hammond agreed that achieving this certification will elevate their TCAT program. "This certification will show that we are willing to go the extra mile for our students and continually learn new aspects of teaching to bring to the program," she stated.



SkillsUSA Medals Awarded to 18 Chattanooga State TCAT Students

Thirty statewide gold medal winners representing the Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) at Chattanooga State returned with 18 medals from the 2022 National Skills USA competition in Atlanta. Chattanooga TCAT students were among the 6,600 competitors representing the best of 330,000 student members.

Chattanooga State's TCAT Dean Jessica Green says that the students who enroll in the TCAT division are a special group of students. "They have chosen to enroll in a full-time program to pursue an education with a particular job in mind, and most do this while caring for their families and working full-time," noted Ms. Green. "What they accomplish is impressive and to take on the additional work required for SkillsUSA is even more impressive. We are proud of each and every one of the students that participated in SkillsUSA and feel that the national recognition of some of them is a reflection of the great education and training our students are getting at Chattanooga State."



Chattanooga State's Registered Nursing Program Named Best in Tennessee

Nursing Schools Almanac ranks student performance on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). This is the exam that aspiring registered nurses in the U.S must pass before they commence practice. "We use several years of data to calculate each school's NCLEX pass rate among first-time test-takers, and then we rank the schools accordingly," said Christopher McMillen, editor in chief, Nursing Schools Almanac, in his congratulatory letter.

"Being recognized as the #1 Associate Degree Nursing Program in the State of Tennessee is truly an honor," remarked Dr. Martina Harris, assistant dean and nursing program director, Nursing & Allied Health division. "I am proud of our outstanding reputation and as a program we remain committed to preparing quality nursing graduates to provide safe, competent care."

Nationwide, there are 1,046 nursing schools that offer an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), also known as Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees, such as what Chattanooga State Community College offers.



7-Week Classes—Stay Focused. Stay Motivated. Stay on Track.

While Chattanooga State began offering two 7-week terms during the spring 2021 semester, during the fall 2022 semester approximately 50% of classes adopted the new format. The 7-week format allows the student to take the same number of credit hours as they would normally take during a regular 15-week semester, only they are taking fewer at a time.



The 7-week format splits in half the traditional 15-week semester. Students can take 2-to-3 courses during the first 7-week term, and 2-to-3 courses during the second 7-week term. For instance, if you normally take 5 classes in a 15-week semester, the first 7 weeks you might take 3 classes and in the second 7 weeks you might take 2 classes.

It doesn't matter how you break the data down: gender, race, income, or age. Here at ChattState we have seen an increase of 10–15% of students are more likely to finish classes during the 7-week session than they are in a 15-week session. This better completion rate can be attributed to being able to stay focused because of fewer classes, stay motivated because of a shorter term, and stay on track because of fewer classes to plan around.

Global Center for Digital Innovation Opens at ChattState

The partnership between Chattanooga State Community College, Hamilton County Schools, the STEM School, and the Public Education Foundation came full circle on October 20 as representatives from each entity, including public officials, community members, and invited guests gathered to witness the grand opening of the Global Center for Digital Innovation (GCDI). The completed Global Center for Digital Innovation is where ideation, creation, and fabrication collide with entrepreneurship in the world's first K-14 teaching and learning fabrication lab.

The GCDI, a 15,000 sq. ft. second floor addition to Chattanooga State's Center for Engineering, Technology, Arts and Sciences (CETAS) features a clean space lab with 3D printers, laser cutters, computers, and electronics. A second lab workshop will include saws, CNC routers, CNC mills, and other tools to allow students to produce prototypes. There will also be a collaboration and entrepreneurship center for large and small groups to work together on projects to plan and consider marketing concepts.





Chattanooga State Announces 2021 Excellence in Philanthropy Awards



Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy awarded to Beacon Foundation Charitable Trust

Representing the Tennessee Board of Regents, College System of Tennessee, Regent Weston Wamp announced two distinguished recipients for the 2021 Excellence in Philanthropy awards during a celebration.

The Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy was presented to the Beacon Foundation Charitable Trust. Since 2013, Beacon has contributed more than \$650,000 with a cumulative impact touching the lives of more than 540 ChattState honors students, making possible unique learning experiences, service-learning opportunities, student leadership development, and a rigorous interdisciplinary honors curriculum.

"We would like to thank Chattanooga State for providing Beacon Foundation with the opportunity to provide scholarships and other funding for your students," said Elizabeth Smith Williams, trustee, Beacon Foundation. "Hardworking scholars that I have personally met now have the experiences that we hope will help level the playing field between them and those with an easier path."

The Regents Award for Excellence in Philanthropy was presented to First Horizon–Chattanooga in recognition for their generous donation of time and resources, active promotion and support of higher education, exceptional civic responsibility, leadership in philanthropy, and community fundraising. "We have a long history of supporting local organizations in order to make the Chattanooga community a better place for all people, and we are a proud supporter and community partner to Chattanooga State," said Jay Dale, market president, First Horizon.

"When Chattanooga State students are successful, we know that lives are literally transformed, and our community grows stronger." As a donor since 1992, First Horizon and its predecessor First Tennessee, have contributed \$228,978 to Chattanooga State, including support for the Health Science Center Capital Campaign in 2009. Chattanooga State's first endowed faculty chair, the First Horizon Business Chair of Excellence award, has been presented to seven distinguished faculty members in the business division.



Regents Award for Excellence in Philanthropy was awarded to First Horizon–Chattanooga

Dinner of Firsts: 10th Anniversary a Success



The Dinner of Firsts 10th Anniversary Celebration was a resounding success! The scholarship benefit honored the president of Chattanooga State Community College, Rebecca Ashford, Ed.D. As a first-generation college student, Dr. Ashford is also a community college graduate. The evening co-hosts and top sponsors were Greg Vital, president and co-founder of Morning Pointe Senior Living, along with Jay Dale, market president of First Horizon Bank.

The event was chaired by Stacy Lightfoot who also served as one of the roasters. Additional roasters included Molly Blankenship, Miles Huff, Tom Griscom, Richard O'Neal, and David Wade. David Steele served as the Master of Ceremonies.

Net proceeds for the event totaled more than \$68,000 with \$39,000 going to the Tom Edd Wilson First in the Family Endowed Scholarship and \$29,000 to the annual First in the Family Scholarship.

AT&T Foundation Donates to Chattanooga State

As part of AT&T's continuing commitment to supporting quality education across Tennessee, the AT&T Foundation has donated \$10,000 to Chattanooga State Community College. The grant will provide scholarships for minority and underserved students who are either unemployed or underemployed.

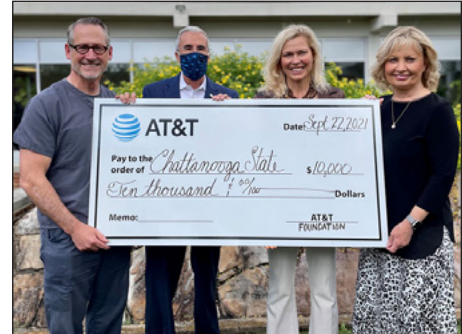
While Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect provides tuition-free access to the state's community colleges, gaps remain that can create a barrier to entry for some students pursuing a market-driven, industry-recognized credential. The AT&T-established Workforce Training Scholarship through the Chattanooga State Foundation will aid students who are pursuing career enhancing coursework offered through the college's Division of Economic and Workforce Development that leads to a nationally recognized certification or licensure not covered by other financial aid programs.

"Chattanooga State Community College does a tremendous job preparing students to enter the workforce with a strong foundation for future success," said Sen. Bo Watson. "Thanks to their commitment to quality education, Tennessee has a first-class workforce ready to meet the needs of the rapidly evolving 21st century economy."

"Higher education often creates a pathway to prosperity for those looking to quickly enter the job market and today's announcement aims to enrich that opportunity for more students," said Representative Patsy Hazelwood. "AT&T's investment in programs like this exemplifies its commitment to furthering education in Tennessee."

This donation is part of the AT&T Foundation's \$130,000 gift to the Foundation for the College System of Tennessee. Funding has been divided equally among Tennessee's 13 community colleges to support students across the state.

"AT&T is focused on developing a 21st century workforce that can promote continued prosperity and a stronger economy across Tennessee," said AT&T Tennessee President Joelle Phillips. "We are excited to continue our support of Chattanooga State Community College to help more students gain the education necessary to compete for quality job opportunities and to empower more students to reach their highest potential."



State Senator Bo Watson, Chattanooga State President Rebecca Ashford, and State Rep. Patsy Hazelwood accept check from AT&T Tennessee President Joelle Phillips.



Financial Stewardship

College and Foundation Financials

FY 22

\$1.1 million was awarded in institutional and foundation scholarships including a record number of Foundation scholarships at **\$603,000**.

Grants totaling **\$17,685,833** were awarded.

College Revenue \$56,459,560

STATE APPROPRIATIONS

Revenues from the State of Tennessee for current operations and capital appropriations.

NET TUITION AND FEES Revenues collected from students, including tuition and fees.

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS Revenues from granting entities and funds for specific purposes, largely related to training or research activities.

AUXILIARY Revenues from operation of auxiliary activities such as dining, bookstore, and athletics.

SALES AND SERVICES Revenues from sales and other services including space rental.

OTHER Revenues generated from other sources, including investment income, interest, gifts, and other revenues.

State Appropriations
\$36,690,969

Net Tuition and Fees
\$13,268,896

Grants and Contracts
\$4,395,521

Auxiliary \$857,252

Sales and Services
\$442,859

Other \$804,063

College Expenses \$83,222,032

SALARIES Staff and faculty salaries incurred in connection with credit and non-credit courses.

SCHOLARSHIPS Expenditures related to students scholarships and aid.

OPERATING Expenditures related to operations, including support services auxiliary enterprises and instruction, as well as construction, renovation and equipment.

BENEFITS Expenditures related to faculty and staff benefits.

DEPRECIATION Expenditures related to depreciation of property and equipment.

Salaries
\$36,193,935

Scholarships
\$18,050,727

Operating
\$16,985,789

Benefits
\$9,637,330

Depreciation
\$2,354,251

Total Private Giving \$1,070,652

CONTRIBUTIONS Revenues related to unrestricted, temporarily restricted, and permanently restricted gifts.

NON-CASH CONTRIBUTIONS Revenues related to in-kind, and non-cash contributions.

Contributions
\$1,004,735

Non-cash Contributions
\$65,917

Foundation Assets and Liabilities

TOTAL ASSETS Revenues related to unrestricted, temporarily restricted, and permanently restricted gifts.

ENDOWMENT NET ASSETS Assets including investment income, appreciation and return, contributions, and other changes and transfers.

LIABILITIES Liabilities including accounts payable, accrued liabilities, the current portion of long-term debt, and the remaining portion of long-term debt.

Total Assets
\$9,671,594

Endowment Net Assets of
\$3,283,486

Total Liabilities
\$18,654

Foundation Spending \$1,118,533

PROGRAM SERVICES Expenses related to scholarships, awards, and other aid awarded to students.

SUPPORTING SERVICES Expenses related to fundraising and general and administrative services.

Program Services
\$966,458

Supporting Services
\$152,076



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Chattanooga State Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to Award the Associate Degree. Chattanooga State Community College also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Chattanooga State Community College may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, or call 404.679.4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org).