



## TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FULLY FUNDS UT MARTIN 'TEST HUB'

The proposed Tennessee Entrepreneurial Science and Technology (TEST) Hub at the University of Tennessee at Martin took a major step forward Thursday when the Tennessee General Assembly completely funded the \$18 million facility in a budget appropriations amendment. Once completed, the TEST Hub will provide hands-on manufacturing engineering education and a regional innovation hub that will support workforce and economic development for future generations. Sen. John Stevens (R-Huntingdon), Sen. Ken Yager (R-Kingston), House Majority Leader William Lamberth (R-Portland) and Rep. Tandy Darby (R-Greenfield) filed the budget item and advocated for the project. Stevens, Yager and Darby are UT Martin graduates.

The TEST Hub will be located on the west side of the UT Martin main campus and combine educational facilities, entrepreneurial centers and manufacturing workshops

surrounding a shared industrial maker space. Through partnership with the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology and Dyersburg State Community College, the facility will offer educational opportunities at the certificate, associate and bachelor's degree levels, as well as career and technical education (CTE) opportunities for the region's high schools.

The concept for the facility was introduced in 2016 under then UT Martin interim chancellor **Dr. Bob Smith** and unveiled in a student-design project that was initially named The Garage. In a 2016 message in the university's Campus Scene alumni magazine, Smith wrote that the planned Latimer Engineering and Science Building, a \$65 million project made possible by a \$6.5 million gift from Union City's Bill Latimer now set to open in fall 2022, and the

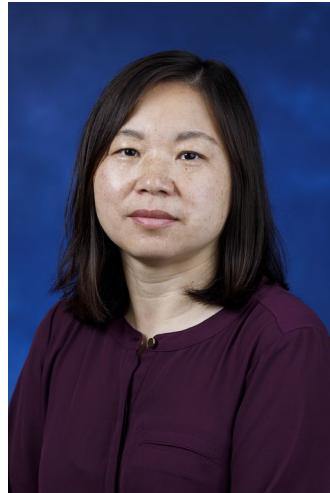
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# YoUTMs

highlighting the excellence of our faculty and staff



On April 18, the Center for Women and Gender Equality held an Everyone is Awesome banquet to celebrate UT Martin’s LGBT+ community and allies. At the event, **Sarah Haig**, associate professor of graphic design, was given the inaugural Elliot McKeel Ally Award for a faculty or staff member who exemplifies allyship and advocacy. Haig is known for supporting her students and advocating for them wherever they meet a roadblock. The award is named after Elliot McKeel, a UTM student who died in July 2021. McKeel was a fierce advocate for LGBT+ students on campus.



**Hong Li**, electronic resources and discovery librarian, and **Dr. Erik Nordberg**, dean of the Paul Meek Library, participated in a panel discussion about Open Educational Resources (OER) as part of the “Making an Impact”



UT Symposium. They were joined by librarians and teaching faculty at UTK and UTC to share what each campus has been doing to promote the use of no-cost open source textbooks and other free digital learning tools.

## UT Center for Industrial Services Certifies UT Martin Economic Developer



**Landy Fuqua (center)** is pictured with **TCED Program Manager Kim Denton** and **UT CIS Executive Director Paul Jennings**.

**Landy Fuqua**, director of the UT Martin Regional Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (REED) Center recently graduated as part of the 15th class through the University of Tennessee Center for Industrial Services’ (UT CIS) Tennessee Certified Economic Developer (TCED) Program. This cohort brings the total number of Tennessee certified

## UT Martin Commencement ceremonies set for May 6-7

UT Martin will hold spring commencement in three in-person ceremonies May 6-7 on the main campus in the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center. Commencement times are 6 p.m., May 6, and 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., May 7. Tickets are required to enter the Elam Center with social distancing requested. Doors will open 45 minutes before each ceremony begins.

Friday’s ceremony will feature students receiving graduate degrees; the 10 a.m. Saturday program will feature graduates from the colleges of education, health and behavioral sciences and humanities and fine arts; and the 2 p.m. Saturday ceremony will include graduates from the colleges of agriculture and applied sciences, business and global affairs, and engineering and natural sciences.

Each ceremony will be livestreamed at [www.facebook.com/utmartin](http://www.facebook.com/utmartin) and [www.youtube.com/utmartin](http://www.youtube.com/utmartin). The ceremonies will be archived for later viewing on YouTube and will also be broadcast live in Skyhawk Fieldhouse located adjacent to the Elam Center, which will allow additional guests to view the commencements. While tickets are required to enter the Elam Center, additional tickets will not be required to access Skyhawk Fieldhouse.

For the full commencement story visit [utm.edu/news](http://utm.edu/news).

Let the UT Martin community know about your most recent accolades by submitting a YoUTM.

Email us at [addenda@utm.edu](mailto:addenda@utm.edu).

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proposed Garage would become transformational projects for workforce development. “These new facilities will give our graduates a leg up on the competition with high-tech training and hands-on, real-world experience working with local industry leaders,” he wrote.

**Dr. Keith Carver** became UT Martin chancellor in January 2017, and along with industry representatives, donors and UT System President Randy Boyd, continued to seek support for the project that was renamed the TEST Hub in June 2021. **Dr. Shadow Robinson**, UT Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences dean, wrote

about the project’s significance in a letter to university supporters. “This project is not only a top educational priority for the University of Tennessee at Martin, but also a top priority for future economic and workforce development for the region we serve,” he wrote.

In the same letter, Robinson explained the reasoning behind the new name.

“The (TEST Hub) captures the nature of the facility as one where the future economic- and-workforce development partners with the educational offerings of a strong university,” Robinson wrote. “Our marketing contacts are excited about this change and believe it will strengthen our ability to support industry

recruitment into the region.”

Funding for the TEST Hub comes at a key time for support of the Ford Motor Company’s Blue Oval City development at the Memphis Regional Megasite. The \$5.6 billion dollar investment by Ford and SK Innovation was announced in September 2021 by Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee. The facility will produce the first all-electric F-Series trucks. The educational partnerships in the TEST Hub will be crucial in supporting the university’s existing industrial partners, such as Williams Sausage and Stanley Black & Decker, and the new Ford facility and suppliers it will bring to the region.

“The Tennessee General Assembly’s funding of the TEST

Hub adds a critical piece to UT Martin’s role in Blue Oval City’s future success. Along with the Latimer Engineering and Science Building, the university is positioned to be a major partner in a project that will change lives for the better in West Tennessee,” Carver said. “We’re grateful to members of the Senate and House across the state and to UT President Randy Boyd who share our vision for the region’s future.”

More information about the proposed TEST Hub, the Latimer Engineering and Science Building and UT Martin STEM programs is available by contacting Robinson at [srobin47@utm.edu](mailto:srobin47@utm.edu) or call 731-881-7380.

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economic developers to 86.

Graduation was held at the new IPS Training Center in Nashville. During the session, the graduates presented their capstone projects, the final requirement for certification. TCED candidates completed a week-long Basic Economic Development Course in addition to a series of six core courses pertinent to economic and community development. The TCED Program gives participants a broad-based knowledge of economic trends,

tools and core components required to compete in today’s global economy.

“All of our Tennessee certified economic developers made a serious commitment to achieve this designation,” said Kim Denton, director of the TCED Program. “They now will be able to use this in-depth knowledge to benefit their communities and regions.”

New graduates will be invited to join the TCED Alumni Group, which provides continuing education and networking opportunities several times throughout the year.

Register now for the  
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SATURDAY | MAY 7  
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**Addenda deadline is noon on Thursdays**  
Submissions can be sent to [addenda@utm.edu](mailto:addenda@utm.edu)



QUEST FOR DISCOVERY

The latest issue of Our Tennessee, the UT System’s magazine for alumni, is out, and it contains two feature stories about research work involving UT Martin students, faculty and staff. Physical copies are mailed to all departments on campus, and you can see the stories online at [our.tennessee.edu](http://our.tennessee.edu).



# I HEART UTM WEEK 2022



I Heart UTM Week was filled with activities for students, faculty and staff. Highlights included (from the top, l-r) Doughnuts for Donors, a crawfish boil, Dog Days, a Yung Gravy concert and the annual SGA Faculty/Staff vs. Students softball game.



**PAUL MEEK LIBRARY DONORS HONORED** – The Paul Meek Library dedicated a display honoring its donors April 12 just inside the library’s main entrance. The dedication closed out the library’s 25-year brick fundraising campaign by featuring donor names on the new display, which replaced a brick paver once located outside of the library. The complete story about the new display is found on page four of the April 4, 2022, edition of Addenda. Edna Davis Barnette, of Selmer, and Brad Ray, of Lexington, assist library dean Dr. Erik Nordberg (left) with the unveiling. Barnette’s late daughter, a UT Martin student (Krystal), and Ray’s brother-in-law, a UTM graduate (Lawrence Bromley), are remembered on the display. Ray is a UT Martin alum, and Nancy, his wife and Bromley’s sister, is a UTM graduate who also attended the event.

TO VIEW AND PURCHASE UT MARTIN PHOTOGRAPHY, VISIT [UTM.EDU/PHOTOS](http://UTM.EDU/PHOTOS).



**SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH** – Members of the UT Martin community joined to-gether as Chancellor Keith Carver signed a proclamation into effect designating April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Participants also signed personal declarations in support of sexual assault victims. Pictured (front, l-r) are Lt. Chad Worley, Department of Public Safety; JohnNa Webster, coordinator, UT Martin Healthy Hawks; Carrie Hollowell, domestic violence county manager for Weakley and Carroll Counties, WRAP; Katie Noles, regional sexual assault re-sponse specialist, WRAP; Morton, campus therapy dog; Dr. Renee LaFleur, director, UT Martin Center for Women and Gender Equality; Dominique Crockett, UT Martin Title IX coordinator; Katherine Shavers, rural sexual assault advocacy specialist, WRAP; (back row, l-r) Laura Kepler, hall director, Office of Housing; Carver; Chief Monte Belew, director, Department of Public Safety; Priscilla Price, assistant, UT Martin Student Conduct and Care; and Maggie Nash, intern, WRAP.

**ON THIS DATE IN 1995 THE SKYHAWK LOGO AND CARICATURE WERE INTRODUCED. HAPPY 27TH BIRTHDAY, SKYHAWKS!**

**You Tell Me**

- **Question** – What is on top of the light pole nearest the entrance to the Hall-Moody Administration Building?
- **Answer** – The object is actually a small cell tower, and the pole is owned by Crown Castle. The equipment ultimately benefits the university because the technology allows for more users in highly populated spaces that are using cellular service at the same time. The company’s website states, “Crown Castle is deploying small cells in cities and towns around the country.” You can learn more about the technology [here](#).

*Submit your questions anonymously to the Suggestion Box link at [www.utm.edu/suggestionbox](http://www.utm.edu/suggestionbox).*

**addenda**

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