

# TennACADA Times

September 2022 | tennacada@utk.edu | tennacada.utk.edu

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## Rayborn's Ramblings

TennACADA community,

Happy Fall, y'all!

Despite the challenges faced and flexibility required during the last several semesters, you have all beautifully risen to the challenge and kept student success at the forefront of your efforts. And guess what? We made it!! Here we are, starting the Fall 2022 semester, and things are slowly returning to "normal."

I am honored to be your TennACADA President and wanted to take a moment to tell you that you matter, your work matters, and you are leaving a positive impact on students' lives. Thank you for all you do for our students, and I look forward to what we can accomplish together this year!

Amber Rayborn  
TennACADA President



## Staff Spotlight: Sonja Burk

### Student Success Advisor – Department of Biosystems Engineering

How did you get into Academic Advising?

Academic advising is my calling, and I see education as the 'Golden Apple' in life. I started out my career in Texas as a high school history teacher. I realized this wasn't what I wanted to do during my working years and moved to Washington. While living just south of Seattle, I saw a new profession emerge called "Academic Advisor". I quickly realized this is what I wanted to do professionally and earned a Master of Education at Colorado State University, and I have never regretted my decision.



What are the most challenging and rewarding parts of your job?

The most challenging part of my job is being 'fresh' with the seventh or eighth student of the day. Being excited to share in their joy and remembering it's an honor to me if they feel comfortable enough to let down their guard and cry in my office.

What is the best advice you can give to students?

Go to class, go to class, go to class.

What places have you lived?

Let's just say I have lived in five time zones and worked in four.

What is your favorite travel spot?

Asheville, NC. My husband and I go for long weekends about every 4-6 weeks.

What is your favorite quote?

Hands down it is by Maya Angelo - I love her books. "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

What are some of your hobbies?

Reading, visiting with family and friends, and traveling!

Tell us one fun fact we would not know about you!

Country singer George Strait was my high school student teacher.

## eBoard Recs

Our recommendations for binge-worthy shows:

Amber Rayborn: One Tree Hill (Hulu) // Forensic Files (Amazon Prime)

Christopher Kelley: Claim to Fame (Hulu) // Generation Gap (Hulu)

Jeremy Mobley: House of the Dragon (HBO Max) // She Hulk (Disney+)

Keima Talley: The Shop: Uninterrupted (HBO Max) // The First 48 (A&E)

Jake Working: Untold: The Girlfriend Who Didn't Exist (Netflix) // Friends (HBO Max)



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## Bylaw Update

The eBoard has made changes to the TennACADA bylaws for the members to vote on. Please use [this link](#) to view the changes.



Once you have reviewed the changes, please vote using [this link](#).

## Region3 Award Nominations

In case you missed it, the NACADA regional award nominations are now open through November 1st. If you are considering nominating yourself or someone you know for one of the award categories, please let your advising director and Amber Rayborn (TennACADA President) know so that we can provide additional letters of support for the nomination packet. More information about the awards and the link to submit nominations are below.

### 2023 Region Awards/Scholarships open!

Please apply or nominate a colleague for a 2023 NACADA Region Award!

Nominations/applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, November 1, 2022.

Several awards and scholarships are available, ranging from Excellence in Advising Awards to event scholarships. Recognize the talented advisors and advising advocates in your Region! Consult your Region's awards webpage for information or [apply now!](#) Specific information for our region's awards and submission criteria can be found at the following link: [Region 3](#).

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## Advising Community Slack

Join our Slack to socially connect with other advising community members at UTK!



Click the Slack logo to join!

## Hey Vols! Video



## Upcoming Events

### **New Advisor Pre-Conference**

September 6<sup>th</sup> | SU 270 | [Link to Website](#)

### **Academic Advising & Student Success Conference**

September 6<sup>th</sup> | UT Conference Center | [Link to Website](#)

### **Invisible Disabilities Lunch & Learn**

September 21<sup>st</sup> | I-House Great Room/Zoom | [Link to RSVP](#)

### **NACADA Webinar Lunch & Learn**

September 29<sup>th</sup> 12-1:30pm | I-House Great Room | Expect RSVP on Sept 8<sup>th</sup>

### **Inclusive Practices for Engaging People with Disabilities Lunch & Learn**

October 19<sup>th</sup> | I-House Great Room | Link to RSVP to come!

### **TennACADA Halloween Social**

October 31<sup>st</sup> Noon - 2pm (come and go as you please!) | Zoom | Flyer to Come!

### **TennACADA End-of-Semester Celebration**

December 8<sup>th</sup> 8:30-10am (come and go as you please!) | TBD | Flyer to Come!