

TENNACADA TIMES

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Trees are Blooming.. and so is Peak Advising Season!

Welcome to the April edition of the TennACADA Times, where longer days, warmer breezes, and fresh momentum meet the work we do together. We know you're in your busy season right now, and we thank you for taking the time to check in on TennACADA things!

As campus paths turn greener and the season starts to invite us back outside, remember what keeps us going: thoughtful advising, meaningful connections, and steady support for the students we help. We've got an edition packed with some end-of-the-semester events!

Whether you're reading this in between appointments, out on a lunchtime walk, or with the window cracked open for the spring air, we hope this edition leaves you feeling encouraged, informed, and ready to push through peak season!

Signed,
Your 2025-2026
TennACADA
Executive Board

In This Edition...

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Conference in October

Take a moment
to treat yourself
this month!



EXECUTIVE BOARD

It's finally here! We're accepting nominations for Executive Board office positions until the end of the day on **Monday, April 6th**. The following Executive Board positions are open for nomination and election for the 2026-2027 term:

PRESIDENT

The President is responsible for overseeing the association's activities. The President's professional job responsibilities should be at **minimum 50% academic advising** per UTK Human Resources job description. The President will attend the Advising Council and handle TennACADA finances.

**CLICK HERE TO
NOMINATE**

VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice President shall perform the duties and responsibilities of the President in their absence and when so acting shall exercise the powers of the president. The Vice President's professional job responsibilities should be at **minimum 50% academic advising** per UTK Human Resources job description.

SECRETARY

The Secretary records and posts minutes of each meeting. The Secretary will be the chair of the Nominations Committee and oversee officer forms.

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

The Communications Coordinator is responsible for maintaining the membership distribution list, the association's website, and email. The Communications Coordinator will obtain content for and create TennACADA newsletters.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

The Membership Coordinator will connect with new members, send out recruitment messaging to bring new members to TennACADA, and keep an up-to-date membership list.

PDE COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Chair of the Professional Development and Education Committee is responsible for overseeing the membership and programming of the committee. Requires job responsibilities at minimum **50% academic advising**.

CBE COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Chair of the Community Building and Engagement Committee is responsible for overseeing the membership and programming of the committee.

Executive Board Voting Schedule

Nomination for Executive Board positions will be open until the end of the day on April 6th. After nominations close, nominees will be notified and have the option to accept or decline nominations. If accepted, nominees will provide a statement of interest and biography for the voting period.

The voting period will be open from April 20th to April 24th.

Winners will be announced at the End of the Year Celebration Breakfast on May 7th.

NACADA Region 3 Conference Recap!

UTK had strong representation at the NACADA Region 3 Conference in Louisville, KY last month!

We had some UTK advisors also give presentations: **Cass Bennett**, Arts and Sciences (Skills for Empowering Student Growth for Fixers and People Pleasers), and **Raini Sizemore**, Arts and Sciences (Identifying and Empowering Interdisciplinary Students). We had many more attend and represent the wonderful work we do! We hope you all had a great time!

TennACADA Recommendations Voting Update & Commentary

Last month, the advising community voted on a number of recommended changes and updates to TennACADA's structure and by-laws. **All votes were voted in the affirmative, so all proposed changes will be implemented.** Thank you all for taking the time to vote and provide your comments on the recommendations!

Many of these changes will be up to the next Executive Board to fully implement and execute, but the current Executive Board is all we can to ensure the transition and hand-off are smooth and transparent.

Some of you left comments on the voting form about the changes. We wanted to provide responses to some of the comments for transparency. You can view the comments left and our responses to them. We welcome additional comments and questions in the TennACADA email if you have them!

[View Commentary Here!](#) 🔍



Haslam Advisors at the NACADA Region 3 Conference!

April 2026
Edition

2026 ADVISING APPRECIATION WEEK

The Division of Student Success and Advising Technology and Initiatives have scheduled a series of events to celebrate **Advising Appreciation Week**! In alignment with NACADA's **Global Advising Week**, the advising community will have opportunities to connect with colleagues and express appreciation for the meaningful relationships that make advising such a powerful force on our campus.

MONDAY, MAY 4TH

Kickoff and Appreciation

ATI will deliver gifts around campus to advising and advising-adjacent offices!

TUESDAY, MAY 5TH

Crafting Creativity and Innovation

Step into our makerspace and explore hands-on activities that spark creativity and problem-solving—the same qualities advisors bring to every interaction with our scholars. Each participant will receive a Starbucks coffee voucher.

Medberry Makerspace (Hodges Library, Room 211) from **2:30 to 4:30pm**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6TH

Sweet Connections and Bingo

Scoop up some fun! Gather for light conversation and a moment to celebrate the joy and impact of advising with our famous ice cream. Play a round of Human Bingo to get to know colleagues—prizes available for the winners.

UT Creamery (2712 Neyland Drive) from **3:30pm to 5pm**

THURSDAY, MAY 7TH

Recognizing Excellence in Advising

Join us for the annual Advisor Appreciation breakfast and TennACADA Awards! Enjoy a breakfast with your colleagues from around the institution and celebrate the great work we all do.

At the breakfast, we will also announce our **2025-2026 TennACADA award winners** along with our upcoming **2026-2027 TennACADA Executive Board**.

Neyland Stadium, **Wolf-Kaplan Hospitality Suite** from **8:15am to 10am**

[RSVP Here!](#) 🔍



You really fly above the rest! Thank you for the work you do!

Last Call!: Thoughtful Thursdays Final Session in April!

The **Division of Access & Engagement** continues to offer incredibly informative and interactive sessions that provide UT faculty and staff with accessible, practical learning opportunities about our campus ecosystem. Staff are encouraged to register early to secure their spot. There are three remaining sessions this spring!

Courageous Dialogue (March 19th)

Confident and Impactful Presentations (April 16th)

[RSVP Here!](#) 🔍

Staff Appreciation Week This Month!

Human Resources is hosting **Staff Appreciation Week** from **April 13th through April 17th!** Get ready for a week of fun festivities!

Throughout the week, a series of engaging events and activities are planned to honor and uplift the amazing individuals who make the university thrive. Let's honor our achievements, connect with colleagues, and make memories. Your contribution is what makes Rocky Top extraordinary - let's celebrate together!

[Events List Here!](#) 🔍

Last Call!: Final NACADA Webinar Soon!

Advising Technology and Initiatives (ATI) continues to host **NACADA Webinars** for the advising community! One more session for the spring term!

AI and Advising (April 22nd)

[RSVP Here!](#) 🔍

TennACADA Tip: Consider Heading to the NACADA Annual Conference in October!

NACADA is hosting their **2026 Annual Conference in Oklahoma City** this year from **October 4th through October 7th!**

The annual conference is a great space to learn from leading scholars and practitioners in advising, explore research and evidence-based practices, connect with advisors from around the world, discover new tools and technologies, and strengthen leadership and advising practices.

Registration for the annual conference opens on **April 1st**. Chat with your supervisor about attending!

Whether you're new to the profession or leading advising strategy at your institution, the NACADA Annual Conference offers valuable professional development designed to support every stage of your career.

[Conference Info](#) 🔍

