

TennACADA Times

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Rayborn's Ramblings

TennACADA community,

New year, new semester, new me—am I right? I don't know about y'all but every semester I convince myself that this semester is going to be the one where I get my life together. My current goal is to approach things with a more positive mindset. I'm doing my best to set good intentions and manifest positivity, especially on days that I know will be long and/or challenging. What are some goals that you have for this new semester?

As always, thank you for all that you do, make sure you're taking care of yourself, and I hope you have an amazing semester!!

Amber Rayborn
TennACADA President



Staff Spotlight: Victoria Leidy

Academic Advisor II - College of Nursing

How did you get into the academic advising profession?
How did I get into Academic Advising is a fun question and one I love to talk about. After completing my undergraduate degree, I worked in health insurance for about 5 years before deciding that the academic environment was where I felt called to be. I had worked in my college library throughout my tenure as an undergraduate student and was able to find a role as a library administrator at my local public university in Ohio. After about a year there I was tasked with advising and mentoring at-risk students in the University and through this realized that I really wanted to continue working with students and grow more in my understanding of students and their needs. I began working on my master's degree while continuing to work in the University Libraries and mentoring the at-risk students. After completing the master's program, I moved to Tennessee and worked a few odd jobs while pursuing the right opportunity at the University of Tennessee. I started as an advisor at the College of Nursing in 2019 and four years later am so grateful for the Academic Advising community here at UTK and am thankful for all the lessons learned and students I've met.



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

The most challenging part of my job, I would say is the emotional toll that can happen when working through things with students that are struggling. As an empathetic individual it can be very taxing to hear about a students' struggles, but on the flip side, it is very rewarding when you help those students overcome those hurdles. Whether it was helping them get to resources they needed academically or ones they needed for mental health, or food insecurity or housing insecurity, just getting them connected and seeing them thrive again is so rewarding!

What is most important to you in your work with students?

The thing that is most important to me in my work with students is ensuring that students know that I am here for them and that I have their best interest at heart.

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

One fun fact about me is that I have three sisters and three brothers.

What are some of your hobbies?

My hobbies include reading, traveling, and playing with my dog Britto.

What is your favorite travel spot?

My favorite travel spot is probably Cozumel, Mexico. It was a trip for my birthday one year and just holds a special place in my heart.

Interested in being featured in a Staff Spotlight? [Fill out this form.](#)

NACADA Region 3 Conference

The NACADA Region 3 Conference is March 23-25th, 2023 and is hosted in Wilmington, North Carolina. Registration is still open!



Information about the conference can be found [here](#).

Are you presenting at the Region 3 conference? Let TennACADA know about your presentation/poster to be highlighted in the next Times! [Email TennACADA.](#)

eBoard Recs

Our recommendations for things to do in the Knoxville area:

Amber Rayborn:

1. River Rat Tubing in Townsend ([link](#))

Christopher Kelley:

1. Hike the Alum Cave Trail to Mount LeConte in the Great Smoky Mountain NP ([link](#))
2. Visit Cumberland Gap National Historic Park (see the Pinnacle viewpoint) ([link](#))

Jeremy Mobley:

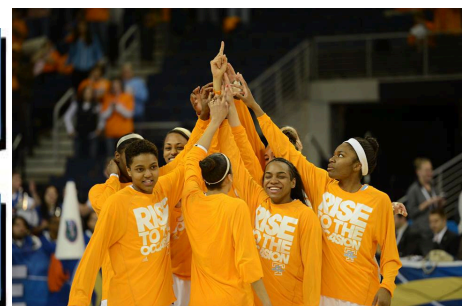
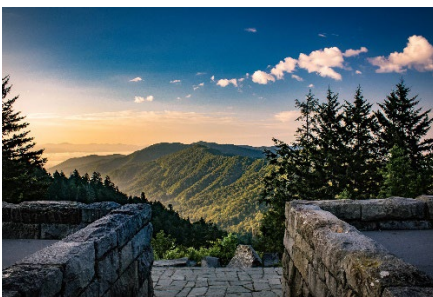
1. *Comics Exchange* ([link](#)) or *Tallman Toys* ([link](#))
2. Fanboy Expo Knoxville - July 7-9, 2023 ([link](#))

Keima Talley:

1. Be Well cooking class ([link](#))
2. Paint with a Twist ([link](#))
3. TopGolf ([link](#))
4. Vols athletic event! ([link](#))

Jake Working:

1. Bike/Walk/Run Cades Cove ([link](#)) (vehicle-free 1 day a week; typically, Wednesday)



TennACADA Award Nominations

TennACADA award nominations are approaching! We will be accepting nominations for the following awards:

- [Outstanding New Advisor](#)
- [Outstanding New Advisor - Faculty](#)
- [Outstanding Advising - Primary Role](#)
- [Outstanding Advising - Administrator Role](#)
- [Outstanding Advising - Faculty Advisor Role](#)
- [Innovative Advising Award](#)
- [Advocate in Advising: Friend to the Community Award](#)

Nominations will be open starting February 27th until March 17th.

Request for nominations will be sent from the TennACADA email address on February 27th.

TennACADA Executive Board Nominations

TennACADA will also be soon accepting nominations for the 2023-2024 Executive Board.

We will accept nominations for the following positions:

- Vice President
- Secretary
- Communications Coordinator
- Professional Development Committee Liaison

You can find descriptions and responsibilities of each position by reviewing the TennACADA Bylaws [here](#).

Nominations will be open starting March 20th until March 31st.

Request for nominations will be sent from the TennACADA email address on March 20th.

First-Generation Initiatives Awards

First-Generation Initiatives is pleased to announce the creation of several new [awards](#) that honor and recognize students, faculty, and staff at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville for their outstanding academic achievements, leadership, and advocacy.

Trailblazer Award:

The Trailblazer award recognizes two exceptional first-generation seniors for their outstanding achievements throughout their four years at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Students eligible for this award will have been actively involved in the campus community and will have made significant or noteworthy contributions to the campus and first-generation community. Recipients of the Trailblazer Award must be nominated by a current faculty and/or staff member and be graduating in either Spring, Summer, or Fall semesters of the nominating year. [Nominations](#) must be submitted by March 31 of each year.

First-Generation Advocate Award:

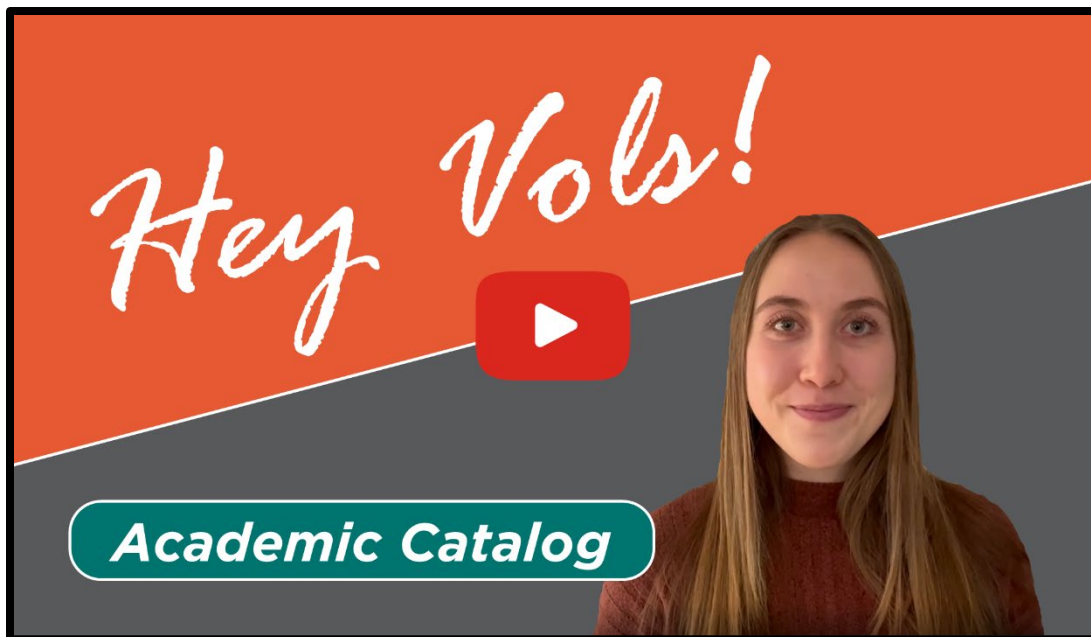
First-Generation Advocate Award will recognize two UT staff and faculty members who have made significant contributions to the success of first-generation college students through mentorship, programs and initiatives, research, or the implementation of first-generation student success strategies into their everyday work. Recipients of the First-Generation Advocate Award will have been [nominated](#) by a current student, faculty or staff member by March 31 annually and will be selected by a committee of reviewers.

Any questions can be directed to Dr. Megan King, [email](#).



Hey Vols! Video – What’s the Big Deal with the Catalog?

Mallory Marchal shows you how to access the catalog and shares a few helpful bits of information it contains.



View the full Hey Vols! playlist here: [Hey Vols! Advising Tips for Students](#)

Interested in a topic for a future Hey Vols! video? Email your ideas to Rachel Duncan or Jake Working.

Fall 2023 Academic Advising & Student Success Conference

“Our Path Forward”
September 5-6, 2023

The call for proposals is now open!

Join your colleagues by leading an engaging and thoughtful conference session to advance the field of academic advising. The conference provides an opportunity to draw from our collective knowledge and reconnect with our community.

The Advising Professional Development Committee invites members of the academic advising and student success communities to submit program proposals that resonate with the conference theme of “Our Path Forward”.

While all proposals that connect with this broad theme will be considered, the committee is particularly interested to review submissions related to the following areas:

- Collaboration
- Innovation
- Inclusion

To submit a proposal, upload a PDF version that follows the [submission criteria](#) to the following link ([Program Submission](#)) no later than 11:59 p.m. EST on May 12th, 2023.

Join the TennACADA Slack!



Upcoming Events

TennACADA E-Board Interest Meeting

Curious about the executive positions of TennACADA? Interested in being nominated for the 2023-2024 executive board? Join current TennACADA e-board members in this interest meeting.

Thursday, March 9th, 9:00am – 10:00am. Location/Zoom TBD.

Spring 2023 DEI Book Club Dates

February 16th (Intro & Part I – 48 pages) – 11:00am – Noon

March 30th (Part II – 56 pages) – 11:00am – Noon

April 30th (Parts III & IV – 54 pages) – 11:00am – Noon

*Zoom links and calendar invites are forthcoming for those who RSVP'd last semester. If you are newly interested in the book club, please let Megan King (mhoak@utk.edu) know.

2023 Academic Advising & Student Success Conference Proposal Workshops

Interested in submitting a proposal for the 2023 Academic Advising & Student Success Conference? This session will provide tips and information to make your proposal successful and stand out.

Session Dates: TBD – Be on the lookout!

Save the Date - TennACADA Talks

April 13th - 9:00am - 10:30am
Frieson Black Cultural Center 102/103

Interested in submitting an event or blub to be reviewed for the next TennACADA Times? Please fill out [this](#) form.