



Chancellor's Spring Update

UT Knoxville Advisory Board

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

2024 James F. Patterson Land-Grant University Lecture



Donde Plowman
Chancellor
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

April 18, 2024

HE STOOD UP THERE AT THE PODIUM AND HE SAID, THANK YOU.
THANK YOU





FIFA Collaboration with MSU

UT is leading a collaborative project with Michigan State University to prepare the best possible pitches for the 2026 FIFA World Cup—the most ambitious tournament yet, with billions of people around the globe tuning in.

- There will be 16 host stadiums, dozens of base camps, and hundreds of training sites—all with variations in climate, elevation, and stadium conditions.
- Experts in the Herbert College of Agriculture are testing various turfs to create uniform pitches for the sites.
- FIFA's investment will lead to significant advancements in turfgrass science that will reverberate long past 2026.



Digital Learning

- Attended the ASU+GSV Summit in San Diego in mid-April
- Seeing 30% year-over-year growth in fully online students
- With ASU course exchange, able to remove AA/AS requirements on nine programs and bolster undergraduate enrollment beginning in fall 2024
- Adding eight to 10 undergraduate programs for fall 2025 launch





Council on Competitiveness

Vanderbilt and UT hosted a summit alongside the Council on Competitiveness on the momentum of Tennessee's innovation economy. Topics included:

- Workforce needs of evolving industries
- Public-private partnerships
- Building the entrepreneurial ecosystem
- Need for infrastructure that attracts and retains businesses

Companies and organizations represented included Nissan, Volkswagen, Bridgestone, Oracle, Google, the Tennessee Valley Authority, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the State of Tennessee, among others.

Everything School

Six athletic programs are currently ranked in the top 10, and two more are in the top 20.

- No. 3 Softball
- No. 3 Baseball
- No. 5 Rowing
- No. 5 Men's Tennis
- No. 7 Men's Golf
- No. 10 W Track & Field
- No. 11 M Track & Field
- No. 16 Women's Tennis



Campus Infrastructure

- Updates on chemistry building
- Groundbreaking for new residence halls last month
- The Agriculture and Natural Resources Building will open fall 2024 and the Croley Nursing Building slated to open fall 2025
- Changes to parking coming fall 2024





Baker School of Public Policy & Public Affairs dedication

The Baker School, which houses the Institute for American Civics, seeks to strengthen civic health, restore faith in institutions, and produce future leaders who are skilled in the art and science of public problem solving

- Degree programs
 - Master in Public Policy, Master in Public Affairs
 - BS in Public Affairs (enrolling fall 2024)
- Civic Leadership Lecture Series
 - "The Truth-Seeking Mission of the University" with Dr. Robert George
 - "Is the American Dream Dying?" A debate with Michael Strain from the American Enterprise Institute and David Leonhardt, New York Times
 - "The Myth of Left and Right: How the Political Spectrum Misleads and Harms America" with brothers Hyrum Lewis and Verlan Lewis

UT System Neutrality Policy

The principal mission of the University of Tennessee is the pursuit and the dissemination of knowledge through teaching, research, and service. To foster this mission, university administrators shall honor the principle of institutional neutrality and refrain from making statements on disputed political, moral, and religious topics. Public statements in the name of the University should be avoided, except where appropriate to address an issue that bears materially and directly on the University's core mission. The role of the University is to provide an impartial platform for scholarly debate; it is not to pronounce judgment.

A position of institutional neutrality is not intended to limit the speech of the university's community acting or speaking as individuals in their own names and not in the name of the university. Rather, institutional neutrality allows the university to be a true marketplace of ideas in which students, faculty, and staff have the broadest possible latitude to speak, write, listen, challenge, learn, and discuss any issue. However, when acting in a personal capacity as a citizen, an employee of the university speaks publicly or writes for publication, the employee shall take care to ensure that the employee's statements are not reasonably interpreted as being made on behalf of the University.