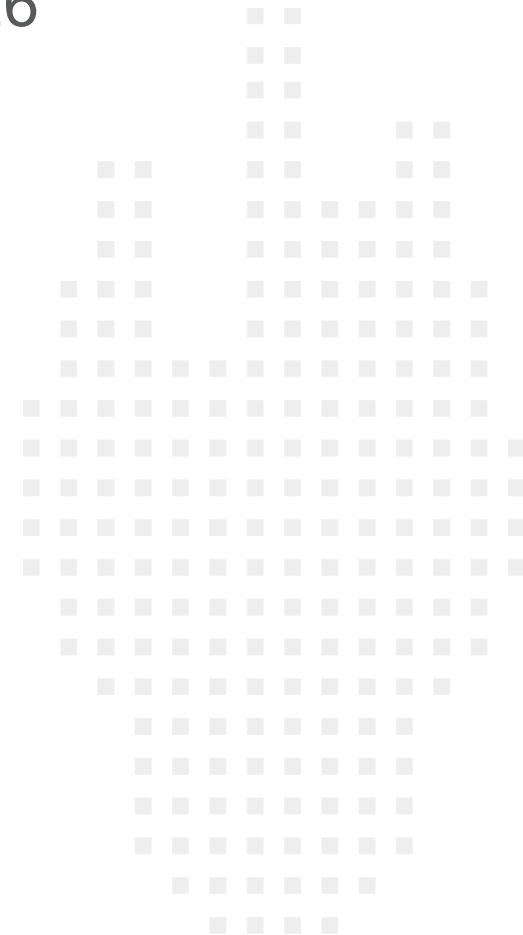


Chancellor's Update

Advisory Board | March 2026



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE





Good News

- Was named a top producer of Fulbright Scholars for the 8th straight year
- Received a \$3 million investment from TVA to endow the Nuclear Engineering Department chair
- Celebrated sophomore Kevin Ho, who was named national student veteran of the year by Military Friendly
- Dedicated the Jenny Boyd Theatre
- Honored by APLU with its top award for Innovation and Economic Prosperity; named a finalist in national awards for community engagement and student success

Rankings & Accolades

- Online bachelor's degree ranked **No. 10 nationally** by U.S. News & World Report
 - **No. 10** online BS in business administration
 - **No. 11** online MS in supply chain management
 - **No. 15** online MS in business cybersecurity
- Honors program ranked **No. 8 nationally** by College Transitions
- Received a Best Place for Working Parents designation
- Named a Forbes Dream Employer



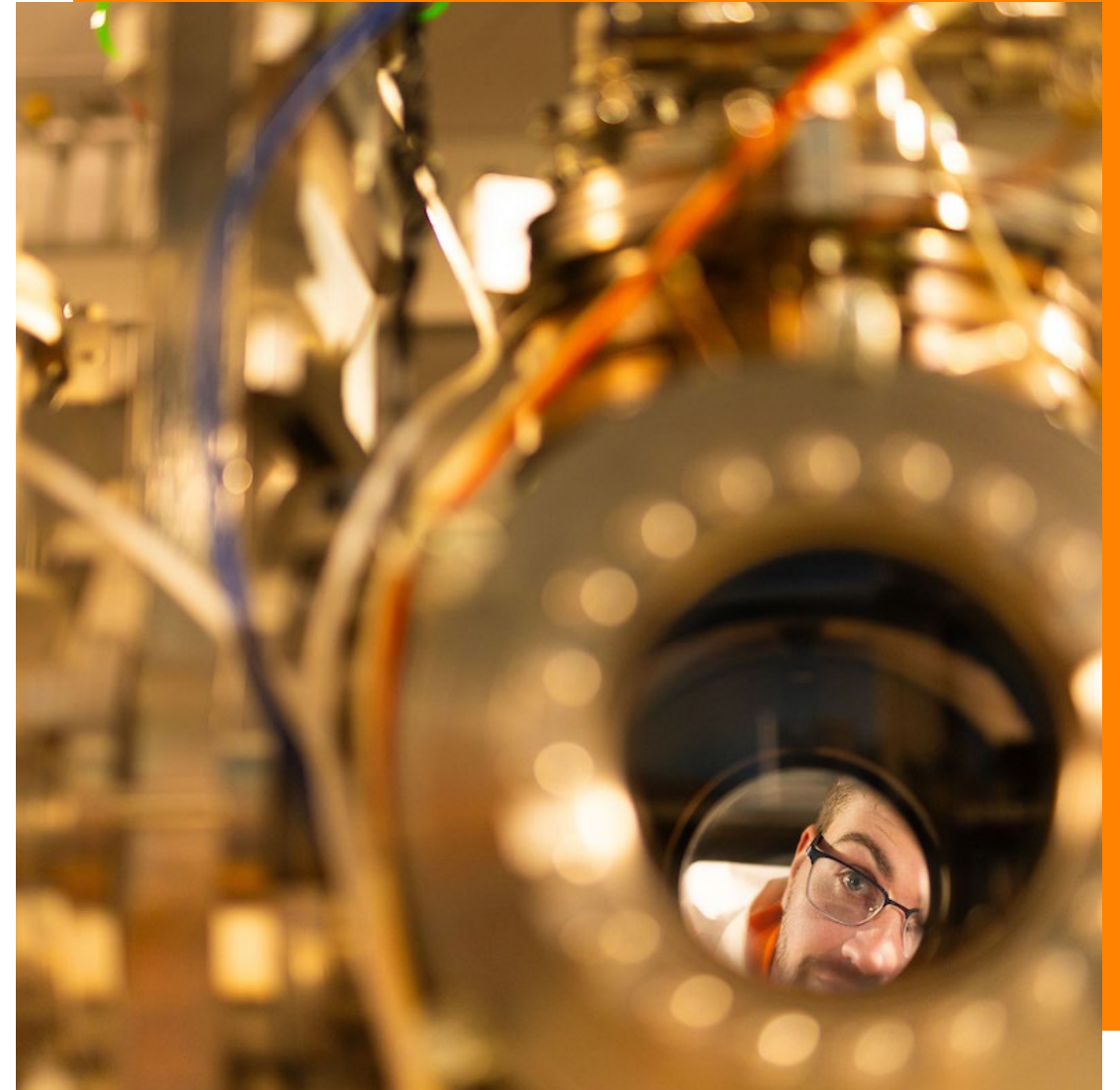


Research Updates

- Two faculty named National Academy of Inventors fellows
- Six faculty listed among the world's most highly cited researchers
- Three faculty named recipients of NSF Early Career Awards
- Partnership established with ORNL and Type One Energy to establish a world-class facility to advance fusion energy at TVA's Bull Run Energy Complex

Research Goals

- Top 10 research institution among public universities without medical school
- Research KPIs in line with AAU public institutions
- Tennessee economic prosperity through research and innovation



Research Metrics vs. AAU

	UT Knoxville	UT 2030 Goal	AAU Publics, no medical schools (Avg.)
Total Research Expenditures	\$386.9M	\$550M	\$750.6M
Federal Research Expenditures	\$180.0M	\$250M	\$442.6M
Industry Research Expenditures	\$8.6M	\$15M	\$29.1M
Non-Ag R&D Facilities (in SF)	572K	1M	1.4M
Science & Engineering Researchers	1,893	2,500	3,638
Average Citations	86,866	110,000	134,988
Faculty w/ Highly Prestigious Award	2.5%	7%	9.1%

Source: 2024 NSF Higher Education Research & Development (HERD) report; 2023 NSF Science & Engineering Research Facilities Survey

Faculty Prospects Pipeline

54

total prospects currently
in the pipeline

Prospects By Discipline

Bio/Health Innovation	16
Computing/AI/Quantum	12
Materials & Manufacturing	9
Next-Gen Energy	6
Cross-Cutting	7
Total	54

Research Infrastructure

We have plans to add **495,000 square feet** of R&D facilities between 2027-2030.

- High-bay labs
- Wet labs
- Experimental labs
- Computational labs



Innovation Districts

Approximately 495,000 square feet of research space currently in the pipeline.

- **National Security Prototype Center**
60,000 SF | 2027 | Oak Ridge Corridor
- **Next Gen Computing Building**
90,000 SF | 2029 | Maplehurst
- **Quantum Foundry & BioSciences and Engineering Buildings**
140,000 SF each | 2030 | Peninsula
- **UTMC Cancer Center**
65,000 SF | 2030 | Peninsula





Student Success Update

After a historic fall, student success metrics continue to trend upward this spring:

- Fall-to-spring persistence is at **97.8%**, up 0.2 points over last spring, with enrollment also at a record high.*
- More than **17,000 students** have engaged with Vol Edge; **93% of participants** said the program has helped them reach their goals.
- VOLinterns was launched with **74 interns** hired across **53 sites**.
- More than **17,400 students** attended **207 student life events** in fall 2025.

**preliminary as of February 1*

CliftonStrengths

More than **48,000 students, faculty, and staff** have taken a strengths assessment.

- 87.5% of all undergraduates
- 92.3% of fall 2025 first-year cohort

Top CliftonStrengths: First-Year Students

Relator, Empathy, Developer, Achiever, Positivity

Undergraduate Students

Relator, Achiever, Empathy, Developer, Competition

Graduate Students

Relator, Achiever, Developer, Learner, Empathy



UT's Student Success Trends

	2019	2025	2030 Goal
Retention Rate	86.5%	92.4%	93%
6-Year Graduation Rate	72.2%	74.5%	80%
6-Year Pell Graduation Rate	62.1%	62.8%	72%
6-Year Grad Rate Gap Between Pell & Non-Pell	-14.1	-15.4	
4-Year Graduation Rate	53.8%	66.8%	70%

Source: Data gathered from IPEDS and US News websites

Student Success Metrics vs. AAU

	UT Knoxville	AAU Public Institutions	2023 AAU Inductees
Retention Rate	92.4%	92%	89%
6-Year Graduation Rate	74.5%	82%	74%
6-Year Pell Graduation Rate	62.8%	77%	71%
6-Year Grad Rate Gap Between Pell & Non-Pell	-15.4	-7	-4
4-Year Graduation Rate	66.8%	n/a	n/a

Source: U.S. News & World Report's 2026 Best Colleges rankings.
Note: UT data is from Fall 2025; AAU data is latest available, mostly collected Fall 2024, submitted in Fall 2025 and published as 2026 rankings



Conversation