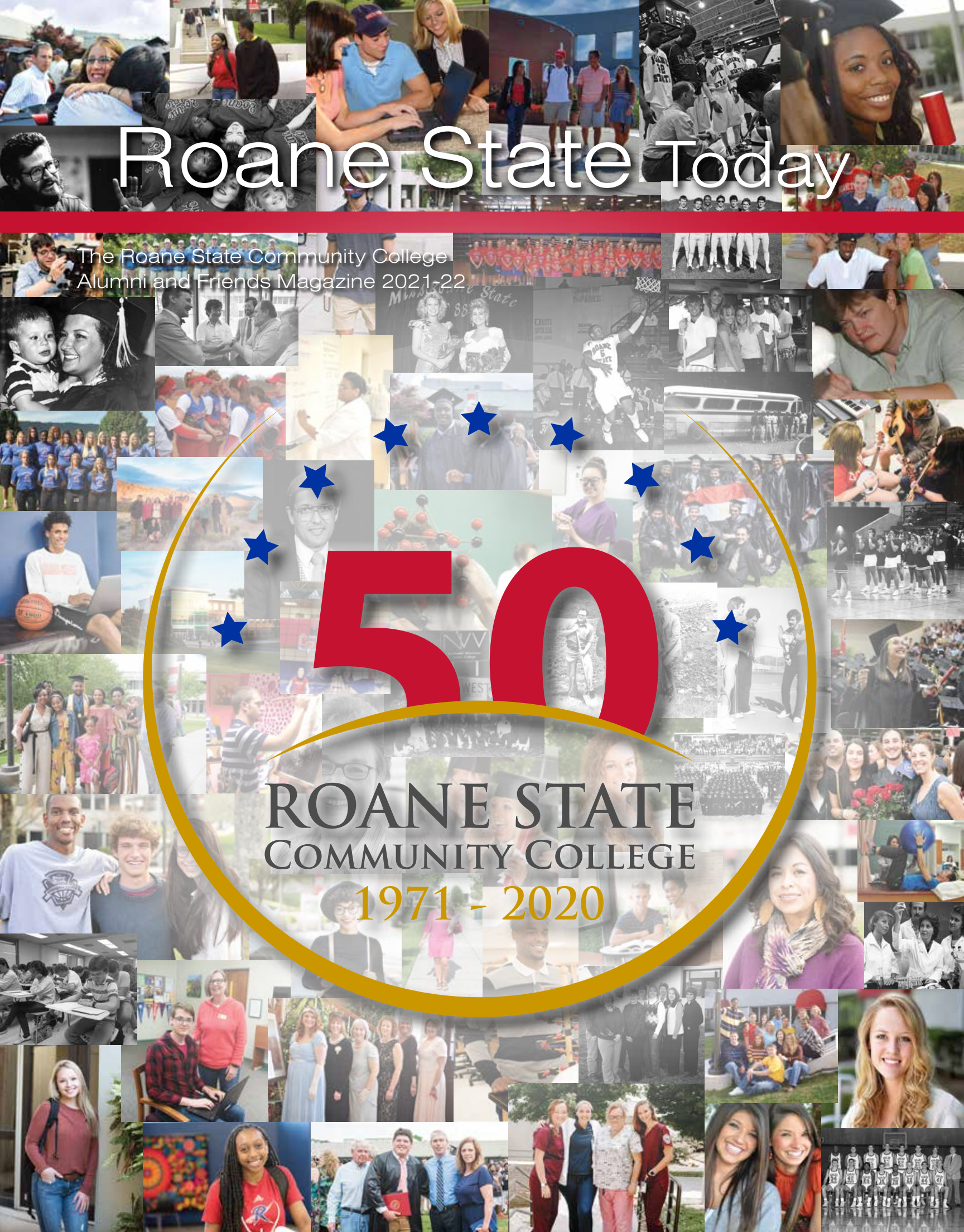


Roane State Today

The Roane State Community College
Alumni and Friends Magazine 2021-22

50

ROANE STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
1971 - 2020





Summing up the last three years in a single page seems almost impossible. Unimaginable challenges were faced by our students, our faculty and staff, and the communities we serve during the pandemic.

But through it all, Roane State's commitment to excellence was truly on display.

We were named Community College of the Year for 2020 by the Tennessee Board of Regents and earned Leader College of Distinction status that same year, all while innovating new ways to work, teach and learn remotely.

Looking back on 2020, it began like any other year. We prepared to celebrate the college's 50th anniversary and were looking forward to welcoming new and returning students to campus for the spring semester.

By the end of February, things were changing quickly. Concerns about COVID-19's impact on the United States were on the rise. The Tennessee Board of Regents and colleges within the system, including Roane State, were getting ready for a variety of scenarios.

Roane State pulled together a leadership team to review and respond to the rapidly evolving situation. During the first week of March 2020, an informational website (roanestate.edu/coronavirus) was created which would become the hub for all the latest updates from the college as well as important news from the Tennessee Department of Health and the CDC.



Dr. Chris Whaley
President

Shortly after this, the college announced its plan to extend spring break and move all classes temporarily online. In late June 2020, Roane State outlined its phased reopening plan for the remainder of the summer term and leading into fall so that students could return to the classroom. RSCC offered a mix of in-person and online classes for the Fall 2020 semester and continued those offerings in 2021 and 2022.

What we were able to accomplish in such a short amount of time is still staggering. Ensuring that learning never stopped at Roane State, even when faced with such seemingly insurmountable challenges, is one of the greatest achievements we will ever know.

I'd like to personally thank each and every student, faculty member, staff member, volunteer, community partner and Roane State supporter for helping us reach new heights. We could not have done it without you. We are excited to see what a new academic year will bring.

Dr. Chris Whaley Scott Niermann
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We want to hear from you. Tell us what you think about the alumni magazine and what you would like to see in future editions.

The Alumni Relations website (roanestate.edu/alumni) allows you to email the Alumni Relations staff. Are you receiving duplicate copies of Roane State Today? Email us at alumni@roanestate.edu.

Roane State Community College is designated by the State of Tennessee to serve Anderson, Campbell, Cumberland, Fentress, Loudon, Morgan, Roane and Scott counties. The college also provides health-science education to Blount and Knox counties.

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We saw "absolute joy in the form of laughter, smiles and tears of happiness."

- Teresa Duncan, RSCC Vice President of Workforce and Community Development

Plans for graduation ceremonies, one of the most important moments of the year at Roane State, were altered in 2020 due to concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic. A graduate recognition event was held in the spring, followed later by a drive-up graduation. In 2021, that tradition continued thanks to the overwhelmingly positive feedback received from graduates and their families. The brief outdoor ceremony allowed grads to walk the red carpet and receive their degree or certificate with a more personalized experience. Thanks to everyone who helped put these events together, creating memories our graduates will cherish for a lifetime.

4

Feature

Roane State racks up recognition

16

Featured Graduates

From being accepted to medical school at 19 to attending Yale, learn how RSCC grads are making their dreams come true

18

Spotlight

Roane State earns prestigious designation in cybersecurity

Roane State Racks Up Recognition

The Tennessee Board of Regents, which supervises all public community colleges and technical colleges in the state, named Roane State as the Community College of the Year for 2020.

The large silver cup given to the college in recognition of the honor was on prominent display during ceremonies held in March of 2021, a belated celebration due to the pandemic. It's called the Statewide Outstanding Achievement Recognition (SOAR) award.

State Senator Ken Yager, Regent Danni Varlan and State Representative Dennis Powers made in-person remarks. Other pre-recorded comments came from Lt. Gov. Randy McNally and TBR Chancellor Flora Tydings during the event, which was broadcast live and may be viewed on Roane State's YouTube channel at youtube.com/roanestatecc.

"Having such a focus on student access and success does not happen by accident," said Roane State President Dr. Chris Whaley. "I would like to thank Chancellor Tydings as well as members and staff of the Tennessee Board of Regents, under the leadership of Governor Bill Lee and Vice-Chair Emily Reynolds, for their passionate vision to see more and more Tennesseans benefit from higher education. They insist that TBR institutions are constantly moving forward to help students reach their educational and professional goals."

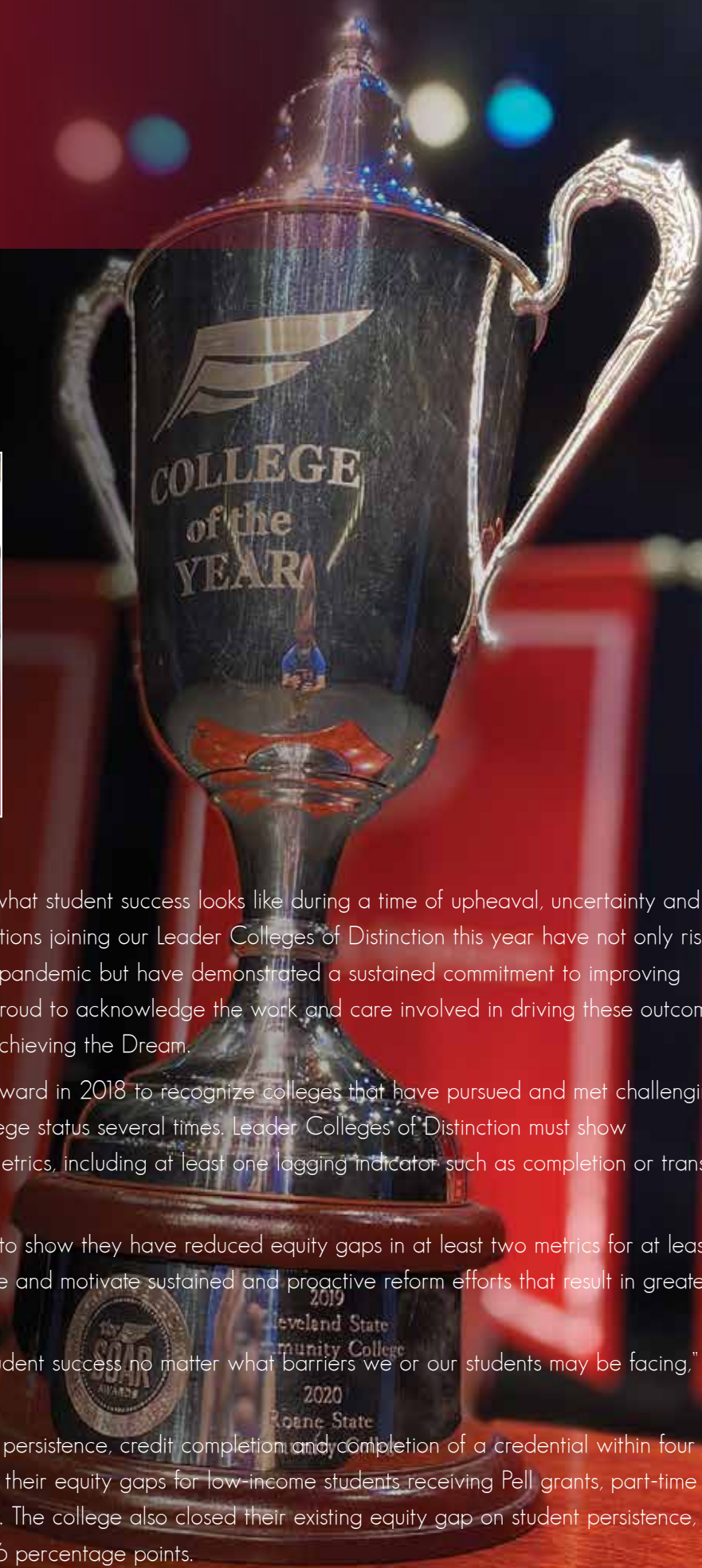
Sen. Yager said three events played key roles in Roane County's history: the creation of TVA, the Manhattan Project to build the first atomic bomb and the startup 50 years ago of Roane State. He called the community college a "life-changing institution."

Rep. Powers said Roane State's Campbell County campus "transformed the area where I live," and there are now 450 students attending classes there.

Chancellor Tydings, in her videoed remarks, praised some of the college's cutting-edge innovations, from the Success Coach program for first-year students to Middle College, where high school students can attend Roane State and receive high school diplomas and associate degrees at the same time.

She also praised the college's expanding programs to serve students with food insecurity issues, noting that three campuses now have full-service food pantries.

Roane State was also one of just four institutions from across the country to earn Leader College of Distinction status in 2020, the highest designation offered to institutions in the Achieving the Dream (ATD) Network.



"In 2020, community colleges had to reimagine what student success looks like during a time of upheaval, uncertainty and unprecedented distance learning. The ATD institutions joining our Leader Colleges of Distinction this year have not only risen to the challenge of supporting students during a pandemic but have demonstrated a sustained commitment to improving student outcomes for many years prior. We are proud to acknowledge the work and care involved in driving these outcomes," said Dr. Karen A. Stout, president and CEO of Achieving the Dream.

ATD created the Leader College of Distinction award in 2018 to recognize colleges that have pursued and met challenging student success goals, often earning Leader College status several times. Leader Colleges of Distinction must show improvement in three or more student outcome metrics, including at least one lagging indicator such as completion or transfer with an earned baccalaureate.

Leader Colleges of Distinction also are required to show they have reduced equity gaps in at least two metrics for at least two student groups. These requirements recognize and motivate sustained and proactive reform efforts that result in greater improvements in student success and equity.

"Roane State has been steadfastly devoted to student success no matter what barriers we or our students may be facing," RSCC President Dr. Chris Whaley said.

Roane State had substantive increases in student persistence, credit completion and completion of a credential within four years of initial enrollment. Roane State narrowed their equity gaps for low-income students receiving Pell grants, part-time students, and between male and female students. The college also closed their existing equity gap on student persistence, increasing persistence for part-time students by 16 percentage points.



Roane County Campus

Roane State's flagship campus in Roane County is situated on more than 130 acres near the intersection of Patton Lane and U.S. Highway 70. This location houses all of the college's central administration offices, including the non-profit fundraising arm of the college, Roane State Foundation, and features a variety of resources for students.

With One Stop and academic advising offices centrally located, students can find help with any issue. The campus also features a large library, a learning center for tutoring, study spaces, student lounge, theatre, art gallery, cafeteria and gymnasium.

Facilities at this multi-building campus have continued to grow over the years. The Vann Student Center, named for Jake and Rubye Vann, sits on the Roane County campus, as does the Yager Building, which was named for Tennessee Senator Ken Yager, a former adjunct professor at Roane State and an all-around champion for Roane State students and programs. In 1997, the college opened the O'Brien Humanities Building, named for Anna Belle Clement O'Brien, a former state senator who passed away in 2009. The building houses a theatre and art gallery, giving students an opportunity to explore visual and performing arts. A new athletics complex for baseball and softball was recently completed nearby. The Raider Pantry is also located on this campus, providing everything from snacks, school supplies and personal care items, to the makings of nutritious meals for Roane State students and their families. The pantry is part of an effort by the community college to address food insecurity, which affects a staggering number of college students.

Also located on this campus is the Henry/Stafford East Tennessee Agricultural Exposition Center, which plays host to a wide variety of livestock and agricultural-related events every year. The 72,000-square-foot main arena building houses a heated indoor show ring, a climate-controlled show office and conference room, a concession stand and a large mezzanine. When combined with the covered outdoor arena, 300-stall barn, campground and lighted outdoor warm-up pen, the Expo Center can host just about any event, and often hosts multiple events simultaneously.



Campbell County Center

In the heart of the Appalachian Mountains, this center is located off I-75 in LaFollette and offers more than 100 college credit courses per term. The facility sits on prime real estate donated in 2002 by Ed and Carol Wheeler. That gift combined with the continued fundraising efforts of the Wheelers, a generous bequest from Lillian Michaelis and donations from local citizens supporting the campus have made the Campbell County Center a permanent fixture for students in the area. A variety of credit and non-credit courses are available during morning, afternoon and evening hours.

Students planning to transfer to a university can settle in for their first two years at the Campbell County site, learning closer to home and in smaller classrooms where they can receive one-on-one attention.

Those seeking to enter the workforce sooner, or maybe advance skills they already possess, can explore dozens of programs in health sciences, technology, business and other fields or take advantage of specialized workforce training opportunities.

For residents of Campbell County, the added convenience of a 4,400-square-foot science lab at the campus means they no longer need to travel to another location to complete courses with a laboratory component, such as anatomy and physiology, biology or chemistry. This facility was added in 2018 thanks to a \$1.1 million grant from the State of Tennessee.



Campbell County Center





Cumberland County Center

The Cumberland County Center, first occupied in the fall of 1998, now serves over 1,000 students annually. The 30,000-square-foot facility is located off I-40 at exit 320 in Crossville, gateway to the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Conveniently, it's also right across the street from Stone Memorial High School, a bonus for dual enrollment students there. The location is no accident, however, as Roy and Joanne Stone and their family provided both the land and substantial gifts in the mid-1990s to ensure Cumberland County had its own Roane State campus. Cosby Stone and Diane Brown spearheaded the efforts to raise over \$2.5 million to build and furnish the facility.

Classes here are offered in many formats: face-to-face, hybrid, online and interactive classrooms. In addition, the Cumberland County Center offers learning support and free tutoring through the Learning Resource Center.

Also located here is the Cumberland Business Incubator (CBI), an innovative facility providing a variety of services to help entrepreneurs and small businesses grow and prosper. Workshops are held regularly, and office space and support are available for start-up businesses.

The CBI's unique Maker Space provides the community with access to tools, software and mentors to make virtually anything. Available items include things like wood routers, 3D printers, laser cutters, vinyl cutters, a heat press and tools for fabric arts and embroidery. For a low monthly membership fee, along with successful completion of safety and basic use classes, members can share the use of tools during open hours. Volunteers are available to help develop ideas and improve technical skills.





Fentress County Center

In 2004, it was Guy and Claudine Pinckley who led the charge to establish the first RSCC facility in Fentress County. More than 15 years later, in 2020, Roane State’s Fentress County Campus moved into a new location to accommodate growing student enrollment.

Previously in Jamestown, the new campus is located in a much larger facility on South York Highway in the Clarkrange community. Extensive remodeling and upgrading of the 8,000-square-foot building began in November 2019, and the new campus opened for its first day of classes in August 2020.

The facility features a large computer lab, study spaces and several offices, along with four classrooms that are all “Zoom Rooms,” where students can use technology to view professors’ lectures at other Roane State sites in a distance-learning format.

The Fentress County campus now offers numerous general classes and several elective courses, and it’s expected more classes will be made available as the site continues to grow.

First-time students, dual enrollment students and students taking classes to advance their career are all welcome in Fentress County. Visitors often note that the campus has a warm hometown feel, something many students are looking for. We are thankful to be part of this close-knit community.





Knox County Center for Health Sciences

The Knox County Center for Health Sciences is unique among all of Roane State's campuses: it is a single-purpose campus, specifically serving students in selected health science programs and extending Roane State's service area to Blount and Knox counties.

The Center, located in the Cedar Bluff area of West Knoxville, provides state-of-the-art labs and modern classrooms for students to develop their skills.

In one of the classrooms, a fully equipped ambulance simulator helps students learn how to respond to various emergency situations in a controlled environment. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) programs utilize the simulator to better train students for treating patients at the scene of an emergency or during transport to a hospital. Advanced technology allows instructors to put students through a number of scenarios they may experience in the real world.

The Center for Health Sciences opened in 1998 and now serves over 300 credit students in health sciences programs and over 600 non-credit continuing healthcare education students annually. Students at this location have met very specific admission criteria in order to be selected for their chosen program.

In the future, Roane State hopes to expand this Center through community partnerships and fundraising so that the college can better respond to the ever-increasing need for highly trained healthcare workers in our region. More news on that effort is just around the corner, so stay tuned.





Loudon County Center

Roane State's Loudon County Center is right in the heart of Lenoir City, sharing a building on West Broadway with the city's public library and the Loudon County Career Center.

The campus is perfect for students of all ages to advance their education and enjoy the convenience of going to class in a downtown setting.

The campus moved from Loudon to Lenoir City in 1995 and later opened in its permanent location in 2001, which was secured and furnished in part thanks to the support of Harvey Sproul and the family of Lee Ledbetter Aikens. The site features IDEA (interactive) classrooms, computer labs, general-purpose classrooms, faculty offices, a conference room and a student lounge.

In 2020, Roane State received a \$49,990 Student Engagement, Retention and Success Grant from the Tennessee Board of Regents for a project titled "Bienvenidos a Roane State," which is Spanish for "Welcome to Roane State." The grant is intended to both increase the enrollment and boost the success rate of Latinx students.

Its efforts are directed toward present and prospective Latinx students throughout Roane State's nine-county service area, but with a particular emphasis on Loudon County, where nine percent of the residents (nearly 4,000 people) are Latinx. Community events at the Loudon County location have already increased outreach in the area for those hoping to learn more about Roane State.





Morgan County Higher Education Center

With an initial gift of land by Lawrence and Eva Hines, the Morgan County Higher Education Center opened for classes in the summer of 2008. The site, located just off Highway 62 in Wartburg, helped Roane State achieve its goal of having a permanent location in each of the communities it serves.

The site includes general lecture classrooms, IDEA (interactive) classrooms, a computer lab, offices for faculty and administration, and a student lounge.

The campus celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2018, noting the remarkable growth in enrollment and course offerings seen during that time and honoring those who made the expansion possible.

Most recently, the campus also celebrated a generous endowment created by James Frank and Patricia Ann Wilson, which will provide additional scholarship opportunities to Morgan County students. A room just off the building's main lobby was also named after the Wilsons in honor of their tremendous support, having given more than \$1 million since the campus first opened its doors.

Many community partners have been recognized over the years for their efforts. In fact, the road leading to the center is named Solomon Drive in honor of Margaret and Wayne Solomon, whose early financial support was integral to the establishment of the campus.





Oak Ridge Branch Campus

Thanks to the generosity of friends and donors like David and Pat Coffey, Roane State has been in Oak Ridge for more than 20 years. Located in the middle of the city, near the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Operations Building, the Oak Ridge Branch Campus has a library, a bookstore, an art lab with a working kiln, a music lab with five practice areas and much more.

The campus has two main buildings: the Coffey-McNally Building, which opened in 1999, and the Goff Building, which opened in 2014. These locations house over 80 faculty and administrative offices, multiple conference rooms and large lecture halls as well as computer labs, IDEA (interactive) classrooms and over 60 other classrooms.

Thanks to ample lab space and equipment, numerous career preparation programs in health science are offered here. Clients from the surrounding community are treated at the dental hygiene clinic on campus as well as the massage therapy lab.

Oak Ridge's campus also boasts a Flex Lab, allowing instructors to change up the space and make it into whatever they need to support a variety of programs. Built with flexibility in mind, the lab can easily be modified to simulate a medical facility, a commercial kitchen, a retail business, or a manufacturing or logistics facility. In recent years, it has been home to a welding certificate program and a chemical engineering technology degree.

Additionally, Oak Ridge offers a wide variety of non-credit classes for enjoyment and personal enrichment thanks to the Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning (ORICL).





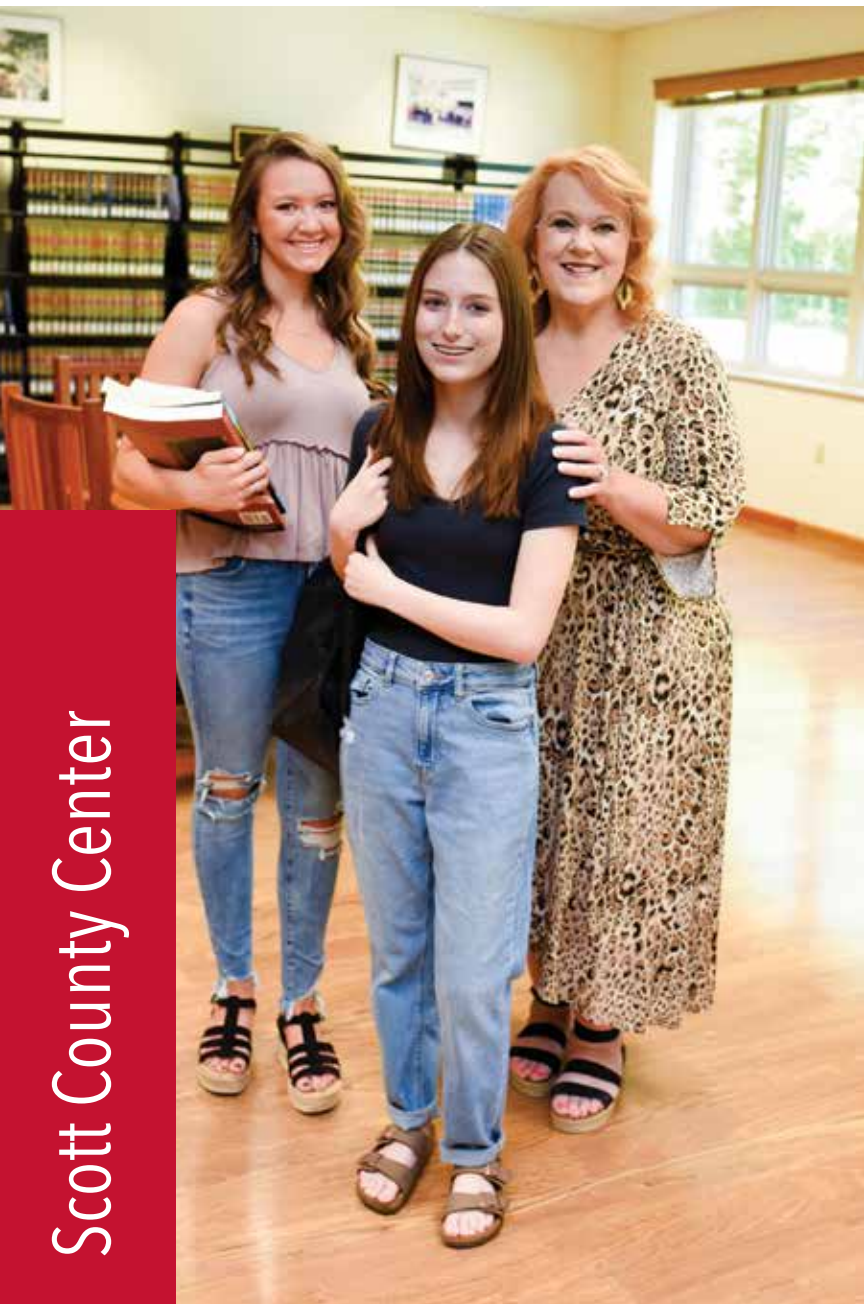
W.H. Swain Scott County Center for Higher Education

Established in 1994, Roane State's Scott County campus was named in honor of W.H. (Bill) Swain in 2016. Swain and his family donated the land for the campus and raised over a quarter of a million dollars to equip the site's Howard H. Baker Jr. Library.

Swain also led a massive fundraising effort to build and equip the multipurpose science lab, a campaign to expand the student center and efforts to make bachelor's degrees available through a partnership with Tennessee Tech. In addition to the Swain family's incredible support, the ongoing generosity of Roane State friends and donors like Earl McDonald have helped to provide additional scholarship opportunities to students attending Roane State in Scott County.

Located near the junction of Highways 27 and 63 (near the city of Oneida), the campus is one of Roane State's most scenic. The grounds include a walking trail, lake and well-kept athletic fields.

Indoor amenities such as general-use classrooms, IDEA (interactive) classrooms, computer labs, a community/conference room, an EMT clinical lab and science lab, offices for faculty and administration and a student lounge mean students have the tools they need to succeed close to home.



Scott County Center



Cash named as RSCC Outstanding Alumni for 2019

“I always knew I wanted to teach,” said Dr. Michelle Cash, winner of Roane State’s prestigious Outstanding Alumni Award for 2019.

At the time of her award, Dr. Cash served as the RN-BSN Program Coordinator at King University’s Knoxville campus while also working as a staff nurse in Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center’s newborn nursery. She had also served as an adjunct OB clinical instructor for Roane State. We’re now proud to say that Dr. Cash is the director of Roane State’s nursing program and an assistant professor.

Cash joins a distinguished group of Roane State alumni honored each year since 2004 for their accomplishments and their widely recognized leadership abilities.

“It’s a great honor to be selected,” the Kingston native said. “I’ve always treasured the education I received at Roane State.”

Cash was nominated for the honor by Dr. Rhonda Morgan, coordinator of King University’s Doctor of Nursing Practice program. Morgan praised Cash for her “commitment to lifelong learning,” her contributions to the nursing profession, and her perseverance and innovations in nursing education.

For Cash, Roane State is a family tradition spanning three generations. Her father, the late Hobert Barnett Jr., graduated from Roane State in the 1970s, while her daughter, Emily, graduated in May 2020. She went on to attend King University and plans to become a veterinarian.

Cash entered Roane State after graduating from Roane County High School and received her associate of science degree in pre-nursing in 1993, followed two years later by her associate of applied science.

Cash said while attending Roane State, she took classes in what’s nicknamed the “horseshoe classroom” on the third floor of the Technology Building, recently renamed the Yager Building. “I dreamed that I wanted to teach there,” she recalled of the classroom, where desks are arranged in a horseshoe shape.

Then, years later, while teaching King University students in the horseshoe classroom, Cash suddenly realized that her dream from long ago had come true. “God gave me that,” she said of that moment.

Dr. Patricia Jenkins, dean of Roane State’s Health Sciences Division, said the classroom still bears the horseshoe nickname. Jenkins worked with Cash in her role as a part-time instructor at Roane State and in her role at King University before she came on board with the community college as director of the nursing program. “She is absolutely a delight,” Jenkins said.

Cash fondly recalls her Roane State days. “All of the instructors were very good,” she said. “Roane State is known for really preparing nurses for the field.” Attending Roane State “just felt right. With its small classes, it was a very easy transition from high school to college.”

Cash earned a bachelor’s and master’s degree in nursing from Kaplan University’s online program and her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from King University.

She’s been active in her community with local sports programs for youth and serves in various church activities. She has served with Lost Sheep Ministry for the homeless populations in Knoxville and has also provided services through Knoxville’s Harm Reduction Coalition for those affected by substance misuse.

Her husband, Jay Cash, is a supervisor for the state’s Department of Children’s Services. In addition to their daughter Emily, the couple also has a son, Noah, who is employed as a licensed insurance agent. He is a King University graduate as well.



Michelle Cash (with President Whaley)

Blake Ivey

A tragic event and a determined mother forged **Blake Ivey's** character and his drive to become a doctor. He's achieved numerous top academic awards, graduated from college at age 19 and was accepted into medical school.

The heart-rending event happened when Blake was nine. He and his mom were with his grandfather, Vance Irwin. They had stopped at a gas station in Campbell County after Irwin, 59, said he couldn't breathe.

"I'd seen symptoms of a heart attack, and I was trying to comfort him while an ambulance was on the way," Ivey recalled. "It never seemed like words were enough. I was feeling helpless, and I wanted to know how to solve the problem. He was a father figure to me."

Vance Irwin died of cardiac arrest an hour later. Ivey would carry that experience with him as he pursued his education, eventually hoping to become a physician.

The other key to Ivey's exceptional record of achievement: his mother, Melissa Ivey. "I've seen her drive and determination and perseverance. I look at her as a role model. As a single mom, she's had to work numerous jobs, but she was always there when I needed her."

Ivey joined Middle College when he was 16 and a Campbell County High School junior. In that program, high school students who are accepted take Roane State classes in the mornings and return to their high schools in the afternoons. Those who complete the rigorous regimen graduate from both high school and the community college at the same time.

"It went great for me," he said. He made all A's in high school, where he was the valedictorian and class president for all four years, and at Roane State, where he was named the community college's top Middle College student.

Ivey's academic record continued at the University of Tennessee and its pre-med program where he graduated summa cum laude and was named a top college scholar. He was later accepted at the Lincoln Memorial University Medical School in Harrogate.

"I would love to become a family doctor and come back to rural Campbell County and help people," Ivey said. "There aren't that many doctors in Campbell County, and I want people to have adequate healthcare."



Blake Ivey
(with former Governor of Tennessee Bill Haslam)



Learn more about opportunities available through Middle College and how you can help support this program at roanestate.edu/middlecollege.

Katelyn Laughon

Katelyn Laughon went from a year of remedial courses at Roane State to an academic triumph she attributes largely to the community college. Recently accepted to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at the prestigious Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, Laughon says her dream has come true.

She'll be studying theoretical and computational chemistry with a full scholarship. She'll also receive a stipend as a teaching assistant.

"I could not have gotten in without the foundation I received from Roane State," she said in an email to Associate Professor Phillip Hyun, her Roane State instructor in physics. "I received a very valuable education and was well prepared to pursue higher-level engineering and science courses."

While Laughon's academic prowess is mainly in math and science – she won the Anne P. Minter Chemistry Award – she also received the Beulah Davis Outstanding Freshman Writer Award.

In her final year at Roane State, she received the Organic Chemistry Award, the Calculus-Based Physics Award, the Sophomore Math Award, an Academic Achievement Award and was a President's Award nominee. She was also recognized as the first student in Roane State history to earn more than three times the required honors credits to earn an honors diploma.

After graduating from Roane State, Laughon enrolled as a junior at the University of Tennessee and graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering.

"My experience at Roane State gave me the drive to reach as high as I could," Laughon said.



Katelyn Laughon

Cybersecurity leads students into the careers of the future

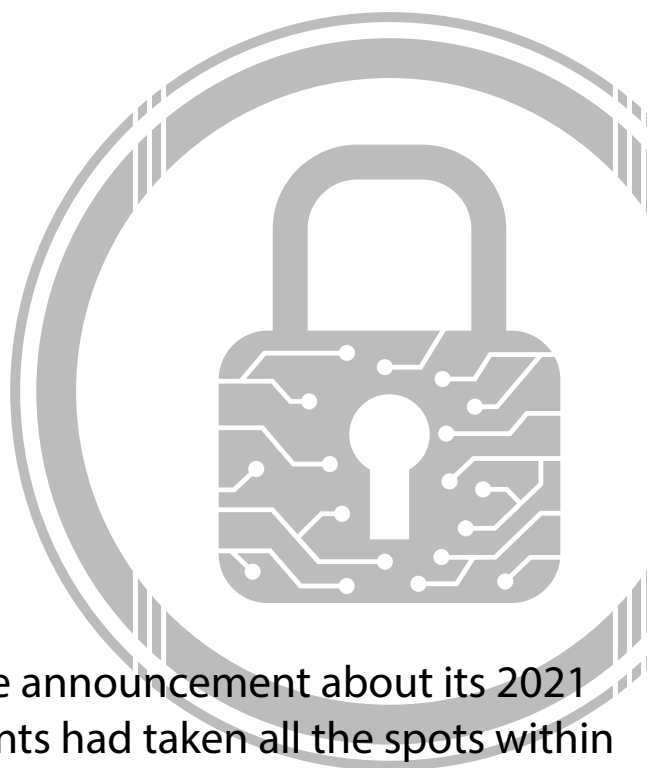
When Roane State sent out an online announcement about its 2021 cybersecurity summer camps, students had taken all the spots within four hours.

Not only did students in area middle schools and high schools sign up for the virtual sessions, but three campers from out of state joined in.

Once again, the community college partnered with the educational outreach program at Oak Ridge's Y-12 National Security Complex to offer the camps.

Roane State has developed a national reputation for its growing cybersecurity curriculum, which was first offered in 2017. Just two years later, a team of cybersecurity students won a gold medal at the Tennessee SkillsUSA competition and went on to take the bronze medal in the national event. In 2022, students won SkillsUSA gold medals in computer programming and cybersecurity, advancing them to the national competition. This latest cyber defense award marks the fourth consecutive year that Roane State teams have won the statewide gold medal.

The college joined a select group in 2020 when it was named a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education. Roane State is the only community college in East Tennessee to





Students from the first two cybersecurity summer camps at Roane State learn to sharpen their computer skills from home due to the pandemic. Because of the nature of the lessons and the added convenience for families, the popular camp has remained virtual.



Above: Dr. George Meghabghab, director of the Roane State Computer Information Technology program.

receive the designation so far, which has been bestowed on just five other higher education institutions statewide.

For graduates seeking jobs in cyber defense, the designation “opens the federal government to them as never before,” said Dr. George Meghabghab, director of Roane State’s Computer Information Technology program. “It’s a really big deal as far as students are concerned.”

“We built a culture of cybersecurity at Roane State,” Meghabghab added. “That keeps us doing what we are doing and increases our outreach.” Meghabghab is also the instructor for the cybersecurity summer camps.

Professor Meghabghab said special seals from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the National Security Agency designating the academic excellence status are now being affixed to students’ diplomas. The designation will remain active through at least 2025, when the college will need to reapply.

Given the success of the program and increased interest in the summer camps offered to students who hope to pursue cybersecurity, Roane State continues to work on ways to expand its offerings even further in these areas.

Additional details about the camp can be found online at roanestate.edu/cybercamp.



Roane State Community College and its Office of Veterans Services recently launched a collaborative project called **“The Veteran Wave.”** As part of this effort, sponsored American flags will periodically be on display at RSCC campuses across our area, each one representing a local veteran.

Each flag sponsorship will be active for a period of two years and will be displayed on the designated campus for the following holidays:

- Veterans Day (for approximately one week)
- Memorial Day through July 4

The Veteran Wave package includes a flag, display pole and dog tag-style marker to identify the veteran and sponsor. Sponsors may select the campus where they wish to have their flag displayed. For complete details, visit roanestate.edu/VeteranWave.

The **Street Painting Festival**, hosted by the Noon Rotary Club of Oak Ridge, raised a combined total of more than \$34,000 over the last two years to help fund scholarships for Roane State students in Anderson County.

Held in Oak Ridge’s Historic Jackson Square each October, the festival blends art, history and community for a fun event in support of local students. Nearly \$300,000 in scholarships issued by Roane State Foundation have been provided to students since the start of the festival in 1999.

The theme for the 2021 event, “Honoring Scarboro 85,” recognized the first Black students from the former Scarboro School who integrated Oak Ridge High School and Robertsville Junior High on September 6, 1955. More information is available at roanestate.edu/streetpainting.

A new program designed to provide a smooth transition from **Roane State to Tennessee Tech University** launched last fall. The program, dubbed “Roane to Tech,” ensures that all Roane State graduates have guaranteed admission to Tennessee Tech.

“The strong relationship we’ve built with our friends at Tennessee Tech has allowed us to provide yet another path for our students to receive a world-class education,” Roane State President Chris Whaley said. “The goal of this program is to remove the misconception of difficult transfers and reduce anxieties for transfer students.”

Roane to Tech students will be known as “Golden Raiders,” a combination of Roane State Raiders and Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles. Those in accounting, agriculture, biology, business, psychology or sociology programs will be considered students at both institutions, receiving predefined degree plans, advising services from both schools, special access to events and waived application fees.

Students in elementary education and interdisciplinary studies can also join 2+2 programs to earn their bachelor’s degree entirely on a Roane State campus. As Roane to Tech continues, the number of accepted academic programs is expected to grow. Additional information is available at roanestate.edu/goldenraider.



The **Roane State Raiders volleyball team** won the 2021 NJCAA Region VII tournament over Walters State. In just their second year of competition, the Raiders advanced to the Southeast District A championship.

“In two years, what we’ve done is unreal,” Raiders Volleyball Head Coach Steve Dallman said. “I have a hard time believing it sometimes.” Dallman added that the program’s rapid success is due to the immense support of the college, “...including every coach in every program, and from the president on down.”

Former Roane State Athletic Director and Men’s Basketball **Coach Randy Nesbit has been elected into the Tennessee Community College Athletic Association Hall of Fame.**

As a coach for 29 seasons at Roane State, Nesbit led his Raiders teams onto the floor more than 800 times, winning 413 of those contests. Nesbit retired from athletics in April 2021. He’s now teaching in the classroom full time.

The **Roane State Raiders men’s basketball team** saw their historic season come to a close in March 2022 with their first-ever appearance in the NJCAA National Tournament.

The Raiders earned a number 24 overall seed and faced off in the first round against ninth-seeded Shelton State. The Raiders lost the hard-fought contest 91-74, but still came home winners.

Having clinched the TCCAA / NJCAA Region VII tournament earlier that month with a nail-biting overtime win against Dyersburg State, the team had much to celebrate. The achievements also happened to coincide with the team’s 50th season.

Lady Raiders Head Basketball Coach **David Harnish** clinched his 800th career win in January 2022. Following his third season at the helm of the program, Harnish became the seventh-winningest coach in women’s NJCAA basketball history and the fourth-winningest active coach. Coach Harnish was inducted into the NJCAA Women’s Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame this past summer.

Roane State Athletic Director David Lane announced the addition of **men’s and women’s cross country and half marathon teams** to the school’s lineup of competitive sports.

Lane said, “This is an excellent opportunity for Roane State to expand our athletic program for both men and women.”

The Raiders and Lady Raiders programs will be part of the NJCAA Division II and will compete against familiar, in-state rivals such as Cleveland State and Walters State, as well as many other collegiate cross country programs from around the region. Seasons take place in the autumn and winter.

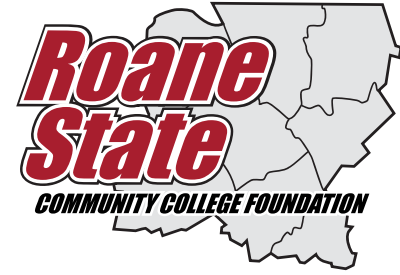


Keep up with what's happening at Roane State.

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“With the support of donors and friends, we executed our shared vision of transforming lives...”

Foundation
Executive Director
Scott Niermann



Early in its history, Roane State Community College knew that sustaining its growth and impact into the future would require a dedicated spirit of giving and service. By establishing a foundation that could fund college programs and institutional expansion, facilitate student scholarships and support community initiatives across the district, the Raider community could dream big about what kind of future might be possible for its students, its educators and its East Tennessee neighborhoods. Roane State Foundation got straight to work after its founding in 1979. With the help of alumni and friends, it has been funding and fueling those Raider dreams ever since.

Fast-forward to today, and in a continued spirit of philanthropy and community, generous friends and alumni of Roane State have endowed the Raider Fund: a new general scholarship fund to help any student of any county attending RSCC. Adding to the Foundation’s nearly \$20 million in endowment and other investments, the Raider Fund provides new opportunities for Roane State students of all ages, backgrounds, majors and campuses to secure the tools and resources they need to graduate on time and pursue their post-grad goals.

“I am a single mother with a one-year-old son. This scholarship from the Foundation has made it possible for me to show my son that he can do anything he puts his mind to,” Raider Fund scholarship recipient, Madison, wrote to the



Foundation in 2020. The educational expenses for a typical student at Roane State can add up to an average of \$1,500 per year even with TN Promise or TN Reconnect. For some, the financial burden of tuition, textbooks and other education-related costs can mean the difference between graduating or pressing pause on their education to support themselves and their families in the face of other critical financial needs.

In continued efforts to help bridge that gap, Roane State Foundation awarded more scholarships than ever before this past fiscal year, exceeding \$500,000 in student aid to traditional and adult students, dual enrollment students and Middle College students.

With the support of donors and friends, we executed our shared vision of transforming lives, strengthening community and inspiring excellence across the RSCC region. Will you join us this year and be part of the story? Visit roanestate.edu/foundation and make your gift today.

Every contribution makes a difference in the lives of students.

To support Roane State Foundation student scholarships and other programs, please visit roanestate.edu/donate or contact the Foundation office.

Roane State Foundation, 276 Patton Lane, Harriman, TN 37748
(865) 882-4507 • foundationdept@roanestate.edu • roanestate.edu/foundation

Outstanding Alumni Sought

Roane State Community College is seeking nominations for the 2023 Outstanding Alumni Award to be given to an RSCC alumna and alumnus in recognition of outstanding service to their profession, to RSCC and to the community.

Nominations can be made by anyone and must include:

1. the Nominee Information Form
2. a letter of recommendation
3. a resume of the candidate

To be eligible, nominees must have attended Roane State for at least 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours.

To nominate someone, print the Nominee Information Form directly from roanestate.edu/alumni or call (865) 882-4640 to have an application mailed to you.

Deadline for submission of nomination: August 31, 2023

Update your contact information anytime by emailing us at alumni@roanestate.edu.

Request a copy of our alumni magazine online at roanestate.edu/RSTrequest.

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Roane State Community College
Office of Alumni Relations
276 Patton Lane
Harriman, TN 37748

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