

Faculty **VO**Lume



August 2025

Welcome Back, Vols!

We at Teaching and Learning Innovation are delighted to welcome everyone back to Rocky Top. We know that each of you is doing everything possible to create a successful academic experience for yourselves and your students. We would like to offer you a quick reminder about who TLI is and how we can be a partner to you as you chart your course this semester.



[Read Full Letter](#)



AI Faculty Innovator Award

Each month, we're highlighting a 2025 AI Faculty Innovator Award winner.

This month's spotlight: **Dr. Melinda Backer** (Department of English), who uses AI in a "job application packet" assignment to help students craft tailored résumés and cover letters for real job postings.



Graduate Support

UT F.U.E.L.

Are you or do you know a graduate student or postdoctoral fellow who is seeking professional development related to teaching and learning. Enroll in *Facilitating Undergraduate Evidence-Based Learning* (F.U.E.L.), a 6-module professional development seminar offered this fall.

Choose your format:

1. **Live via Zoom** – interact with facilitators and peers in real time
2. **Self-paced on Canvas** – complete modules on your own schedule

[Learn more and register here](#)

Faculty Support

Just-in-Time (JIT) Professional Development Workshops

**Cultivating and Sustaining
Student Intrinsic Motivation**
Wednesday, September 3 | 2–4
p.m. (Eastern) | Student Union,
Room 169

Learn evidence-based strategies from Self-Determination Theory (SDT) to foster genuine curiosity and motivation in your classroom—plus leave with a ready-to-use teaching toolkit.

[Register Here](#)

The next JIT workshop will be held on Thursday,
October 9. [Register Here.](#)



“I Didn’t Ask for This!”

Listening Sessions on AI in Higher Education

If you’re skeptical about generative AI in higher education, join one of TLI’s listening sessions this September. Share your perspective with other UT faculty, staff, and graduate students.

Session Options:

- **Thursday, September 4** | 12–1:30 p.m. (Eastern) | Student Union, Room 260
[Register for September 4](#)
- **Wednesday, September 17** | 12–1:30 p.m. (Eastern) | Student Union, Room 360
[Register for September 17](#)

New AI Series, *AI in 30*



The Teaching and Learning Center at the UT Health Science is launching a new AI series this fall. Each virtual session will give participants a short overview of an AI tool and how it can be used to enhance teaching and learning. The series launches on August 27 and runs every other week until early December. You can register for any of the sessions [here](#).

View Fall Event Schedule





Summer SoTL Recap

This summer, the UT System, in partnership with teaching and learning centers at all UT campuses, hosted our first

Summer SoTL Retreat! Faculty from UT Health Science Center, Chattanooga, Martin, Southern, and Knoxville converged on Henry Horton State Park for two days of workshops, covering everything from an introduction to the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) to where to submit articles for publication. Our keynote speaker was Research Professor Laura Cruz, of Penn State University, who gave several talks and spent time workshopping ideas with UT faculty.

This summer UT faculty also dove into their **SoTL Incubator projects**, as 6 different teams or individual faculty members completed consent processes in May, and began retrieving data. And three faculty members also completed the **SoTL Finish Line** program in June, submitting manuscripts to peer-reviewed academic journals. Find out more about these faculty accomplishments on each program's webpage!

Take your SoTL study to the finish line!

TLI offers a flexible program supporting “last mile” work on studies in college-level teaching and learning. If you have already secured IRB approval, collected your data, and maybe begun your analysis, this program is for you! Application deadline: Sunday, September 7.

Learn more and apply here!





KUDOS & CONGRATULATIONS



Nominate a Colleague for the UT Faculty Spotlight!

The UT Faculty Spotlight is an opportunity to commend and recognize the outstanding contributions of our colleagues! If you know a faculty member who goes above and beyond in their role—whether through groundbreaking research, extraordinary teaching methods, or community engagement—we invite you to nominate them for this prestigious acknowledgment.

[Nominate a Faculty Member!](#)

Nominate Your Graduate Student for the UT Grad Spotlight!

Our UT Grad Spotlight is a fantastic way to celebrate the achievements and dedication of our graduate students. If you've been particularly impressed by a graduate student's research, teaching assistance, community service, or any other noteworthy endeavor, now is your chance to help their star rise.

[Nominate a Graduate Student!](#)

TLI is Here to Help!

You can request TLI support in various areas via our [Service Request form](#). We offer several services for both individual instructors, as well as departments and colleges, including:

- **Classroom Observations**

- **Course Design**
- **Document & Material Review**
- **Mid-Course Feedback**
- **End of Course Evaluation**
- **Scholarship of Teaching & Learning Support**

Contact Us

Teaching & Learning Innovation

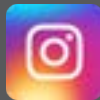
Cherokee Mills

123 N. Concord

Knoxville, TN 37996

Email: tli@utk.edu

Website: teaching.utk.edu



[View as web page](#)

This email was sent to .

Add us to your address book to continue receiving our emails.

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.