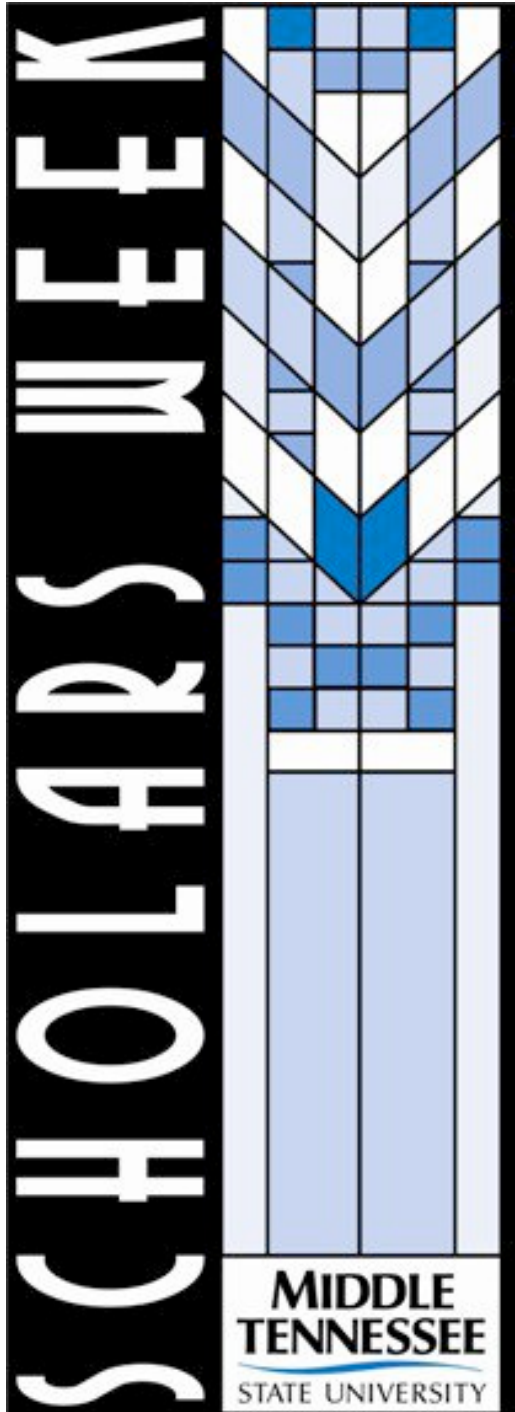


Centers, Institutes &

Programs



2011

Centers, Institutes, & Programs

April 8, 2011

- C1. College of Graduate Studies
- C2. Master of Science in Professional Science and Interdisciplinary Science Ph.D. Programs
- C3. Association of Pre-Professional Life Scientists (APLS)
- C4. Center for Historic Preservation
- C5. Center for Popular Music
- C6. Center for Health and Human Services (CHHS)
- C7. Women in STEM Center (WISTEM)
- C8. Center for Cedar Glade Studies and Center for Environmental Education (CEE)
- C9. MTSU Interdisciplinary Microanalysis and Imaging Center (MIMIC)
- C10. The Forensic Institute for Research and Education (FIRE)
- C11. Aerospace Programs (UAS, ATC)
- C12. TN Lead Elimination Project (LEAP)
- C13. Honors College

MTSU MSPS GRADUATE PROGRAM CONTINUES TO GROW IN EXCELLENCE

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With the financial support of the Sloan Foundation, MTSU launched the Master's of Science in Professional Science program in 2005 with only three students. Since then, the MSPS program has become the fastest-growing graduate program at MTSU, with an enrollment of more than 70 students in Fall 2010. Blending math, science, and business, it is the first and only Professional Science Master's (PSM) program in the state of Tennessee and boasts student retention and graduation rates of 90%. Currently, there are three MSPS concentrations in the fields of Biostatistics, Biotechnology, and Health Care Informatics. New concentrations have been applied for approval, including Actuarial Science, Forensic Science, and Engineering Management. Limited assistantships are available to students who have an exemplary academic background. The motto of the MSPS program is to graduate students who have the heart of a scientist with a mind for business. The MSPS program is unique in that it requires completion of a 250-hour internship in the students' field of study. This component has been so successful that students often receive job offers from their internship employers. Both the duality of the degree and the internship experience produces well-rounded graduates who can succeed in the global economy and MSPS graduates can expect a higher starting salary compared to those who don't have this type of degree. Recently, the program was awarded the Academic Excellence Award by the TBR. The MSPS program received the highest scores in all categories during a recent THEC review. In addition, the Council of Graduate Schools recognized the MSPS program at a national level and uses MTSU as a model for traditional PSM programs.

C3

ASSOCIATION OF PRE-PROFESSIONAL LIFE SCIENTISTS: INCORPORATING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INTO THE LIFE SCIENCES

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Association of Pre-Professional Life Scientists (APLS) is a multi-disciplinary organization formed to assemble individuals with an interest in the development and expansion of cutting-edge life sciences and technologies. It is our mission to promote public awareness, encourage student involvement and further industry recruitment of qualified young scientists. Through community outreach, public events and other organized activities, APLS intends to support the advocacy of agricultural, biotechnological, biochemical, medical and environmental research. APLS is organizing students and professionals from varying disciplines with either casual or vested interests in Life Science, educating the public in the areas of the Life Sciences and expanding opportunities for students involved in the natural, basic and applied sciences.

CENTER FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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The Center for Health and Human Services, under the auspices of the Adams Chair of Excellence in Health Care Services, initiates and strengthens academic programs in health and human services to support workforce development and promote healthy communities. Through collaborative affiliations and partnerships, the Center disseminates research and health-related information, and conducts education and outreach projects designed to improve population health. The Center endeavors to enhance the health and human services educational programs at MTSU through the efforts of an interdisciplinary community of scholars. The Center's projects are annually funded through outside funds between \$350-500,000. The Center also collaborates with public agencies and private not-for-profit organizations to develop and implement programs to improve the health of the middle Tennessee community and to develop partnerships throughout the community, the state, and beyond. The Center's many initiatives include: Development of a state-wide training program for investigating sudden unexpected infant death syndrome; folic acid education for Girl Scouts and other adolescent girls; promote smoking cessation in pregnant women; cessation of tobacco products among youth and adults; public and allied health workforce assessment; development of a health care "Career Map" guide (printed and website); development and implementation of the state's first Tennessee Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan and supported efforts of the newly released second edition of the state plan, as well as hands-on activities to implement five annual Cancer Summits throughout the state; development of the Tennessee Institute of Public Health (TNIPH) and subsequent County Health rankings; diabetes Self Management workshops and training in the community; development and distribution of the annual Rutherford County Health Watch.

WOMEN IN STEM CENTER

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Recruitment, retention, and graduation of women with science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) training are critical needs in Tennessee and in our nation. The low rate at which women are entering the STEM pipeline in high school and in college is troubling, especially since even low-paying jobs require a fundamental knowledge of STEM subjects. The continuing success of the American workforce requires the full participation of women in STEM. There are four distinct junctures in the STEM pipeline where girls and women lose interest and drop out of STEM. These are at the start of middle school, late in high school, in undergraduate and graduate school, and in their professional career. After examining the data concerning the status of women in STEM education and in STEM jobs, both nationally and in the State of Tennessee, the Tennessee Women in STEM Center at Middle Tennessee State University was formed. MTSU already plays a strategic role across Tennessee in encouraging girls and young women in STEM education and careers through several successful K-16 programs such as the MTSU Expanding Your Horizons Conference, GRITS (Girls Raised In Tennessee Science), GRITS collaborative Project, and WISE (Women In Science and Engineering). The WISTEM Center at MTSU provides a “home” for these outstanding established programs and for future STEM programs and thus plays a major role in the STEM education for girls and women in Tennessee today and in the future.

**OUTREACH PROGRAMS & PARTNERS: CENTER FOR CEDAR GLADE STUDIES AND
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

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The MTSU Center for Cedar Glade Studies and Environmental Education has a long history in teacher/youth training in quality environmental and life science education. Partnering with a multitude of organizations since 1991, nearly half a million people have participated in programs (during and after school), training sessions, teleconferences, and seminars. Funding support has been provided through agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, National Science Foundation, and Tennessee state and local government agencies. Center success would not be possible without external/internal funding support but another key to success has been a strong partner network developed from community resources such as regional school systems, Murfreesboro City Parks Department, Discovery Center Museum, the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, and environmental resource agencies. A number of unique outreach programs and opportunities are housed under the umbrella of the Center such as the Earth, Energy, and Civilization after-school program, the Tennessee Amphibian Monitoring Program, WaterWorks! / Oil Disposal Program, Tools for Schools, GLOBE, professional development through the Business Education Partnership, Whale of a Tail marine education, and workshops for Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, and Project WET.