

# IMPACT

A monthly newsletter from the Office of Community Engagement & Outreach, a unit of the [Office of Research and Engagement](#)



**Samara Madrid Akpovo**, associate professor in the Department of Child and Family Studies (CFS), teaches in the early childhood teacher preparation program. Akpovo's research is classroom-based and utilizes ethnographic methods, discourse analysis, and interpretivist paradigms. She publishes in peer-reviewed journals focused on reconceptualist theories that employ critical, poststructuralist, postmodern, and feminist qualitative research methodologies. The central goal of these theories and methods is to challenge and deconstruct normative ways of researching and conceptualizing children, childhood, and teaching.

[Learn more about Akpovo's research](#)



During August 1-2, UT and its partners engaged over 700 stakeholders at the Summit for Opioid Addiction and Response (SOAR). Attendees learned about current trends, the stigma of opioids, and funding available to tackle the issues of opioid-driven addiction. [Presentations and materials from the summit have been made available online.](#)



Michael Camponovo, GIS outreach coordinator in the Geography Department, has used his expertise in GIS technology to [map an extensive dataset of the opioid crisis in Tennessee](#). The dataset was collected by the Washington Post, from 2006-2012, and focuses on the distribution of hydrocodone and oxycodone.



[WLVLT spent a day at the UT Space Institute](#) (UTSI) to give their viewers a glimpse into the facility that has sent nine astronauts into space. The institute was established in 1964 during the race to the moon, in partnership with the US Air Force and NASA. Fifty five years later, it is engaged in rocket testing for the mission back to the moon, dubbed Artemis.



The UT College of Law is home to [two professors working on the national level to benefit the citizens of the state of Tennessee](#). Professors Brian Krumm and Valorie Vojdik are working with the U.S. Commission for Civil Rights to determine if Tennessee residents are getting equitable treatment in the assessment of legal fees and asset forfeiture.



Mary Ann Blank, a retired professor for the department of Theory and Practice in Teacher Education, [is encouraging an interest in reading through the Ruff Readers Program](#). The program provides students the ability to comfortably enhance their reading skills by reading to Human-Animal Bond in Tennessee dogs, or HABIT.



Thanks to a unique collaboration between Blüten Botanicals and the UT Institute of Agriculture, graduate students will be able to research hemp production in Tennessee. [This partnership includes a four year commitment and grant in excess of \\$350,000.](#) The 2018 USDA Farm Bill has opened the door for research partnerships.



Throughout June and July, the UT Institute of Agriculture hosted students with [an interest in STEM during its second REACH Summer Research Fellowship](#). REACH is an annual agro-industrial research experience targeted specifically to enhance the experience of community college students.

## Funding

### [William T. Grant Foundation – Institutional Challenge Grants](#)

The Institutional Challenge Grant encourages university-based research institutes, schools, and centers to build sustained research-practice partnerships with public agencies or nonprofit organizations in order to reduce inequality in youth outcomes. If you plan to apply please inform Jill Passano in Corporate and Foundation Engagement at [jpassano@utfi.org](mailto:jpassano@utfi.org).

### [Pew Charitable Trusts: Community Opioid Response and Evaluation \(CORE\) Project](#)

In collaboration with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the CORE project is an effort to enable communities on the front lines of the opioid crisis conduct evaluations of existing programs. CORE will help communities learn with and from one another as they work to address the opioid epidemic and inequities facing diverse populations across this nation.

### [National Science Foundation Seeks to Advance Informal STEM Learning](#)

This call seeks to (a) advance new approaches to and evidence-based understanding of the design and development of STEM learning in informal environments; (b) provide multiple pathways for broadening access to and engagement in STEM learning experiences; (c) advance innovative research on and assessment of STEM learning in informal environments; and (d) engage the public of all ages in learning STEM in informal environments.

## Opportunities

### UT Engagement and Outreach Conference

Save the Date!

The UT Engagement and Outreach Conference is October 29 in the Student Union from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. It will showcase UT projects and initiatives that help improve lives in the greater Knoxville area. Faculty will present on topics such as health, housing, homelessness, substance abuse, K-12 programs, and evaluation. The event is open to faculty, staff, students, and nonprofits. It is free but registration is required.

[Early registration is now open!](#)

### Engagement Scholarship Consortium

Early bird registration [open through August 17.](#)

### Afterschool Alliance Mentoring VISTA

The Afterschool Alliance is seeking graduates for a paid national service opportunity. This AmeriCorps VISTA position is with the Tennessee Afterschool Network based in Knoxville. The [Tennessee Young Men of Color Mentoring VISTA](#) position is a one-year professional development opportunity.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Asian Festival

August 25 from 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. [free to the public.](#)

## Applications Being Accepted for Alternative Break

The Jones Center for Leadership and Service's [Alternative Break Program](#) helps students engage in affordable, meaningful and collaborative community service in an effort to increase awareness of social issues and strengthen communities. Faculty, staff or graduate assistants can apply to be an Alternative Break Learning Partner. These important members of the trips do not plan the trips, but serve in an advisory capacity during the duration of the trips.

[Learn more and submit an application here.](#)

[Read more stories like this at engagement.utk.edu](#)

## Contact Us

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