The Office of Community Engagement and Outreach supports faculty, staff, students, and external stakeholders and their ideas to create or enhance sustainable community engagement initiatives that make a difference. To spark the imagination of those who aspire to engage, we are highlighting six of these university-community partnerships that build on the principles of collaboration, participation, empowerment, reciprocity, and improving the quality of life for all Tennesseans.

**Samara Akpovo**
Samara Akpovo conducted an 8-month collaborative ethnography on preschool children’s peer culture play in a Knoxville Head Start Classroom.

**Travis Griffin**
Through creative and strategic modalities, Travis Griffin has led the Tickle College of Engineering’s outreach efforts to a successful 40 years, with TCE graduating over 1000 underrepresented students.

**Lyndsey Hornbuckle-Lampkin**
Lyndsey Hornbuckle formed a community advisory board to develop an exercise intervention that examines the effects of exercise on adherence, partner support and receptivity to partner health influence and cardiometabolic risk in older African-American couples.

**Thura Mack**
Thura Mack enhanced the Big Orange STEM Saturday (BOSS) program with UT Libraries. Through game-based learning, BOSS has used technology as a fun and easily accessible tool for STEM learning and engagement.

**Mikayla Prince**
Mikayla Prince (‘21) leads a student service-learning project designed to increase visibility and transparency of the university’s food system and sustainability efforts.

**Sreedhar Upendram**
Sreedhar Upendram is expanding an initiative that brings broadband internet to underserved rural communities across Tennessee with the help of seed funding from OCEO, an Engagement and Outreach Grant, and a subsequent One UT Collaboration Grant.

Develop your ideas into an engagement or outreach project by utilizing our resources such as Imagine Tennessee, the Community Engagement Seminar Series, the Community Engagement Academy, funding opportunities, and an annual engagement and outreach conference that will take place October 7. These partnerships are just a few ways that OCEO supports UT’s commitment to enhancing the communities we serve.

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