

HOST OF THE 111TH MEETING: MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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Middle Tennessee State University

Founded in 1911, Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) is the oldest and largest public university in the area. The campus occupies 500 acres at the geographic center of the state in Murfreesboro. The General Education Bill of 1909 established three normal schools or teacher-training institutions in the state. Murfreesboro was named the home of the middle Tennessee institution. It opened its doors to 247 students and initially offered a two-year program for training teachers. Middle Tennessee State Normal School evolved into a four-year teachers college in 1925. In 1943, the General Assembly designated it a state college—and in 1965, with an enrollment of 5,483, the institution earned university status.

In the fall of 2001, MTSU's enrollment surpassed 20,000. A comprehensive university, MTSU offers more than 140 undergraduate majors in its five colleges—Basic and Applied Sciences, Business, Education and Behavioral Science, Liberal Arts, and Mass Communication. The College of Graduate Studies oversees more than 55 programs, including doctoral study. In 1998, the prestigious Honors Program became the state's first University Honors College.

Remaining true to its roots, MTSU still educates more teachers than any school in Tennessee, and houses the Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame. It also boasts the largest recording industry program in the nation, with more than 1,500 majors. The disciplines of business, nursing, aerospace, and mass communication enjoy national acclaim. MTSU also is committed to the highest possible quality education in the sciences and liberal arts.

The university has nine fully funded chairs of excellence,

two centers of excellence, and two endowed chairs, which provide opportunities to bring faculty of distinction to the campus. These areas of excellence enrich graduate and undergraduate instruction, research, and outreach programs.

The student body represents a wide variety of backgrounds and cultures, ranging in age from 18 to 80. Students come from 42 states, the District of Columbia, 63 foreign countries, and both rural and urban areas. The campus also offers a welcoming and accessible environment to more than 700 persons with disabilities, and those students are encouraged to participate in the full array of university groups and activities.

MTSU's annual economic impact on Rutherford and Davidson counties amounts to more than \$200 million. Throughout the 90s, capital projects on campus totaled more than \$250 million, resulting in several new buildings, including the \$32 million James E. Walker Library. With more than 70,000 alumni in the workforce, nearly two-thirds have remained in Tennessee. MTSU graduates include Dr. James Buchanan, a Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences; United States Representative Bart Gordon, Albert Gore Sr., and Terry Weeks, a current faculty member and former National Teacher of the Year.

MTSU has been the No. 1 college choice of mid-state val-edictorians and salutatorians for the last several years. The average freshman ACT score-21.9-exceeds the national average, and MTSU's admission requirements are among the highest in the state. MTSU is an institution of commitment, spirit, and substance. It is a people's university that reaches inward and outward to meet the diverse needs of all whom it serves.