



Newsletter - April 24, 2020

Mayor Justin Hanson



***You may contact your
Alderman/Alderwoman by
clicking on the email links below.***

District 1 Vice Mayor Johnetta Yarbrough
Alderwoman Minnie Bommer

1122jwyatt@gmail.com
alderwomandist1@gmail.com

District 2 Alderman Jeff Morris
Alderman Keith Phelps

aldermanjeffmorris@gmail.com
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District 3 Alderman C.H. Sullivan
Alderman Danny Wallace

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1st Tuesdays - Public Works Committee
Jeff Morris - Chairman, Minnie Bommer, Danny Wallace

2nd Tuesdays - General Welfare and Public Relations Committee
Minnie Bommer - Chairwoman, Keith Phelps, C.H. Sullivan

3rd Tuesdays - Finance and Administration Committee
C.H. Sullivan - Chairman, All Aldermen/Alderwomen attend

4th Tuesdays - Public Safety Committee
Keith Phelps - Chairman, C.H. Sullivan, Johnetta Yarbrough

All regularly scheduled committee meetings are at 4:00 pm in the Lower Level Conference Room at Covington City Hall at 200 W. Washington St. All Board of Mayor and Aldermen meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings of each month at 5:30 pm in the Board Room on the 2nd floor at Covington City Hall. ALL are open to the public. Official meeting minutes and agendas can be found by visiting www.covingtontn.com.

Finance and Administration Committee Meeting – 4/21/20 – 4:00 p.m.

Present and via virtual meeting: Chairman Alderman CH Sullivan, Alderman Keith Phelps, Alderwoman Minnie Bommer, Mayor Justin Hanson, Alderman Danny Wallace, Alderwoman Johnetta Yarbrough, Recorder Treasurer Tina Dunn, Attorney Rachel Witherington, Jennifer Nolen, Chief Larry Lindsey, Joseph Mack, Lessie Fisher, David Gwinn, , Echo Day, David Gray, Tiny Rose, Chief Richard Griggs, Rebecca Ray, City Planner Will Radford, Auditor Rick Tankersley

Alderman Sullivan nominated Mayor Hanson to chair the meeting. Approved

2020-2021 Budget Presentation – Mayor Hanson and Tina Dunn

- Budget is balanced with exception of Museum fund. Asking that Sherl Rose become a full-time employee. Contingent on approval from Tipton County Government
- This budget is lean due to this difficult time.
- Mayor Hanson discussed salary line item and salary study
- Discussed sales tax, February showed a 3.4% increase, 2.8% increase year-to-date. Difficult to anticipate what sales tax will be due to the pandemic
- Asked the Committee to spend the next month reviewing the budget.
- Discussed one time grant from the State, \$223,761
- Gave schedule of called meeting and readings.
- Alderman Wallace asked if there was a match to one-time grant dollars. No match, per Mayor Hanson
- Alderwoman Bommer stated the numbers in the salary study that are in red (below minimum) should be looked at first.

Audit Review – Rick Tankersley

- Mr. Tankersley feels like it was a “good, solid year for the City”
- Discussed summary of entire report
- Management discussion analysis, City reported net increases in all positions/assets
- Discussed schedule of findings
- Discussed summary schedule of prior findings, City management has done a good job of correcting
- There were no questions from Committee
- Mayor Hanson stated that this audit is something to be proud of

Roof Repair at Children & Family Services – Parks and Rec Director Joe Mack

- Alderwoman Bommer stated that the decision has already been made to replace roof, this Committee needs to decide how to get it done. If there is any way that we can do this, we need to do it
- Mayor Hanson stated that we do not have an extra \$25,000, Director Mack agreed
- Alderwoman Bommer felt like we need to take the amount from fund balance, made motion, 2nd by Alderman Sullivan, discussion. Director Mack discussed good price of quote and local company (Admiral Roofing). Mayor Hanson expressed concerns about what damage they may find when they start removing the decking. Hasn't been replaced in approximately 30+ years. Alderman Morris wanted to make sure quote is still good. Director Mack confirmed that estimate was still good.

Continued on next page

Mayor Hanson stated that project would have to be put out for formal bid because the expense is over \$10,000. Alderman Wallace asked Director Mack about specific language on quote. Wants to make sure it includes decking. Director Mack feels like he cannot answer that right now until they get down to the decking.

- Motion amended to proceed with putting this out to bid not to exceed \$54,000 (original quote), 2nd, discussion, roll call, motion carries

Municipal Zoning Update Discussion – Will Radford

- Improving aesthetics of Covington, especially Hwy 51 corridor
- Discussed zoning ordinance, changes are highlighted in yellow
- Discussed list of major changes to zoning ordinance
- Much of this has to do with site plan review, requirements. It is more extensive to give more oversight in design, architecture, etc.
- Attorney Witherington discussed definitions that have been added to ordinance (Chapter 2)
- One of the biggest changes is with site plans, will have the biggest impact on zoning.
- Discussed Design Review Commission
- Discussed Nonconforming Uses
- Discussed multi-family residential establishments
- The next big change is landscaping requirements, along with whatever Design Review Commission requires
- Added in mobile food units (food trucks)
- Discussed wholesale trade, moved this to use permitted upon appeal
- Will Radford clarified use permitted vs. use permitted on appeal
- Discussed increase lot size requirements along with 10 ft green space from edge of sidewalk
- Alderman Morris thanked everyone for all the work done on this ordinance
- Design Review Committee adopts their own guidelines
- Discussed guidelines of Design Review Committee

Beer Ordinance Update – Attorney Rachel Witherington

- Further outlines penalties and fines that are consistent
- Minimum training requirements were added
- Several committee members asked for clarification on penalties
- Motion made to move this to Board of Mayor and Alderman with corrections, 2nd, roll taken, so moved.

Mayor discussed current positive COVID-19 cases and expiration of stay at home order

Official meeting minutes and agendas can be found by visiting www.covingtontn.com.



On Friday Gov. Bill Lee issued his guidelines for reopening restaurants on 4/27 and retail establishments on 4/29. We are waiting further guidance regarding churches, gyms, and medical procedures. Close contact services including salons, barbershops, etc. will not reopen until Phase 2, which we will also find out more about next week. Your patience and understanding are appreciated as we all move through this together! For a complete look at the State of Tennessee’s plan to reopen our economy, click [HERE](#).

Guidelines for Opening Tennessee Businesses 

Restaurant Guidelines

It is vitally important to both the state's economy and the food supply chain that restaurants are allowed to begin some operations and put employees back to work. The State of Tennessee recommends the following best practices for restaurants at this time.

Protecting Employees

- Wear face coverings and gloves
- Report any symptoms of illness to supervisor
- Follow daily sanitation protocols

Protecting Customers

- Limit occupancy to 50% of seating capacity
- Space tables 6 feet apart
- Limit seating to 6 per table
- Use social distancing standards in waiting areas
- Keep bar areas closed
- No live music
- Screen customers with basic questions about COVID-19 symptoms

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Guidelines for Opening Tennessee Businesses 

Restaurant Guidelines

Restaurant owners and managers should take additional steps to maintain heightened sanitation standards during this time particularly as it pertains to high-touch surfaces used by multiple customers and employees.

Business Operations

- Sanitize all front-of-house contact surfaces every two hours
- Use disposable menus or sanitize menus between each use
- Use rolled silverware/napkins stored in sealed bins
- Sanitize chairs and all tabletop items after each table turn
- Do not offer self-serve buffets, shared condiments, or beverage station re-use
- Provide ServSafe COVID-19 training for all food handlers

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Guidelines for Opening Tennessee Businesses 

Retail Guidelines

Tennessee retailers are a trusted and important source of goods for our residents as well as a major employer base. The State of Tennessee recommends the following best practices for retail stores at this time.

Protecting Employees

- Wear dedicated cloth face coverings, gloves, and other personal protection items as recommended by the CDC
- Report any symptoms of illness to supervisor
- Provide training on personal protective equipment based on CDC guidelines
- Sanitize hands with soap and/or hand sanitizer
- Stagger shifts, breaks, and meals to maintain social distancing

Protecting Customers

- Limit customer occupancy to 50% of store capacity
- Customers should wear face coverings inside stores
- Consider shopping hours for the elderly, medically vulnerable, and health care workers
- Establish one-way aisles and traffic patterns for social distancing
- Increase curbside, pickup, and delivery service options
- Prompt customers regarding the importance of social distancing

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Guidelines for Opening Tennessee Businesses 

Retail Guidelines

Business Operations

- Establish enhanced cleaning protocols that follow CDC guidelines
- Designate separate entrances and exits
- Use plastic shields or barriers at checkout between the customer and clerk
- Adjust store hours to allow time for enhanced cleaning
- Prohibit the use of reusable bags
- Suspend "self-service" food stations and dining areas
- Suspend the sampling of food and personal hygiene products
- Management-level employees should monitor compliance
- Add social distancing "reminder" signage and announcements

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If you have been tested for COVID-19, follow the steps below to monitor your health and avoid spreading the disease to others:

Communicate with Public Health

- Public health will contact you with your results as soon as possible. It may be a week or longer, depending on demand.

Monitor Your Health

- ALL patients should **isolate while awaiting results** (regardless of symptoms).
- Stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home to the extent possible. Use a separate bathroom, if available. Household members can consider staying in a separate location, if available, to decrease their risk of exposure.
- Where possible, ask others such as friends or family, to get food or necessities for you.
- Get plenty of rest, stay hydrated and, if needed, take medication to reduce your fever.
- If your symptoms get worse and you need to seek healthcare, call ahead and tell the provider that you have been tested for COVID-19. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected or exposed.

Practice Healthy Habits

- Cover your cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for ≥ 20 seconds, or use alcohol-based hand rub if soap and water are not available.
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces regularly, including your phone.

Learn More

- Online: www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov or www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov

Regardless of Symptoms, Free COVID-19 Testing is Available to Tennesseans

DO YOUR PART. STAY APART.



Due to the concerns related to the Coronavirus and our efforts to keep everyone safe, the 2020 BBQ Festival has been cancelled. Mark your calendars for June 3, 4, and 5, 2021!



Tipton County Health Department has a drive-thru COVID-19 testing site on Mueller Brass Road in Covington. The National Guard has been deployed to assist with testing and supplies. The testing site will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturdays 9:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m. Anyone can drive-thru and be tested regardless of whether or not they are exhibiting any symptoms.



Photo by The Leader



In order to further protect our employees and our community, effective immediately, all City buildings will be closed to the public until further notice. Also keep in mind the following:

- All payments (utility bills, citations, fire fees, etc.) will be accepted through our two drive-through lanes, not in the lobby at City Hall.
- Many payments can be made via our website at www.covingtontn.com or by calling 844-876-2911.
- Business that requires face-to-face visits will be done by appointment only. To make an appointment, please call 901-476-9613.
- Job applications and many other forms can be obtained from our website at www.covingtontn.com

We want you to know that we are still here to serve you! Avoid crowded spaces, wash your hands, and if you are not feeling well, please stay home. We expect the number of confirmed cases to rise, but by putting these things in place, hopefully we can slow the spread.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Baptist Hospital - Tipton
Tipton County Health Department
Tennessee Department of Health

901-476-2621

901-476-0235

<https://www.tn.gov/health.html>

TN

Department of
**Labor & Workforce
Development**

Tennessee Unemployment Insurance

This video may help you understand the process:

How to Complete Certifications on Jobs4TN



In an effort to keep our employees safe, please do not drop fire fees off at the Covington Fire Department. Please use the following options:

By Mail: 101 Tennessee Ave., Covington, TN 38019

Online: Covingtontn.com

Or visit the drive-thru at City Hall, 200 W. Washington Ave.



SIDEWALK CHALK ART CONTEST

OPEN TO ALL AGES, INCLUDING THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

RULES TO ENTER THE CONTEST FOR A PRIZE:

Must include the hashtag **#4hchalkart** in the design and send pictures to brigpass@utk.edu! Deadline for submission is **April 27, 2020**.



Photo Courtesy of The Leader

Ten communities to take part in seventh round of downtown revitalization program

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bob Rolfe today announced the 10 Tennessee communities selected to participate in the seventh round of the Tennessee Downtowns program. The communities selected include Collinwood, **Covington**, Decaturville, Dunlap, Halls, Hartsville, Madisonville, Somerville, South Pittsburg and Whiteville.

“TNECD remains focused on strengthening rural Tennessee, and for many communities, that means ensuring their historic downtowns are vibrant,” Rolfe said. “The Tennessee Downtowns program is an essential part of our rural development strategy, and we look forward to working with these ten new Tennessee Downtowns as they develop sustainable renewal efforts in their commercial districts.” TNECD provides the Tennessee Downtowns program to communities that want to pursue the Main Street America approach to downtown revitalization. Fifty-eight Tennessee communities have participated in the program since 2010. The Tennessee Downtowns program helps local communities revitalize traditional commercial districts, enhance community livability, spur job creation and maintain the historic character of downtown districts. The two-year program coaches selected communities and their steering committees through the steps of launching effective renewal efforts. Tennessee Downtowns includes community training in the Main Street America program and a \$15,000 grant for a downtown improvement project.

“We are proud to welcome ten new communities into the Tennessee Downtowns program and look forward to working with them on their goals for downtown revitalization,” Main Street Program Director Nancy Williams said. The ten newly selected communities all have downtown commercial districts established at least 50 years ago and demonstrated their readiness to organize efforts for downtown revitalization according to Main Street America principles. The highly competitive selection process was based on historic commercial resources, economic and physical need, demonstrated local effort, overall presentation and probability of success. Tennessee Downtown communities that complete the program are eligible for Commercial Façade Improvement Grants as well as Main Street designation. To date, six Tennessee Downtowns have advanced to the Main Street program. Each application was supported by the community’s senator and representatives in the Tennessee General Assembly.

For more information on the TDECD Downtowns Program visit

<https://www.tn.gov/ecd/rural-development/tennessee-main-street/tennessee-downtowns.html>

Spring Snack Packs
Drive Thru at
Brighton Town Hall
Saturday April 25th
10am-12pm
Free to all children
First Come First Serve
Happy Bellies = Happy Minds

 **TENNESSEE COLLEGE
OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY**
COVINGTON

Practical Nursing 2020

September 12-month Day Program
Begins September 1, 2020.
Paperwork Deadline July 7, 2020

October 18-month Evening/Weekend Program
Begins October 26, 2020
Paperwork Deadline August 5, 2020



For additional information, visit our website
<https://tcatcovington.edu/programs/practical-nursing-day-program.com>
or email rarnold@tcatcovington.edu.

**Lost a job & health insurance?
Lost TennCare?**





The Tennessee Health Care Campaign (THCC) can provide assistance to anyone that has **lost their health insurance or TennCare** due to the coronavirus.

TennCare is available to low-income families with children under the age of 19.

The Affordable Care Act (**Obamacare**) is an option for families and individuals who do not qualify for Medicaid (**TennCare**).

Feel free to give our Insure Tennessee Line **844-644-5443**, to speak with someone about your eligibility for either **TennCare** or **Obamacare**.

Or you can check out our website at www.insure-tennessee.org.

844-644-5443

I'm challenging you to
**complete the
2020 Census
today.**

[#shapeyourfuture](https://twitter.com/shapeyourfuture)



if you
SEE
something
SAY
something™

**REPORT SUSPICIOUS
ACTIVITY** to Covington Police

Call 901-475-1261 or 901-475-4300

In an emergency dial 9-1-1

DIGITAL AGRONOMY

Location: Covington Campus | 1600 Hwy 51 S
Covington, TN 38019

NEW PROGRAM COMING FALL 2020



**Committed to
Training
Excellence for
Over 50 Years**

**Comprehensive
Training Program**

****Call us at
(901) 475-2526
to get your
name put on
the interest list****

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The Digital Agronomy program will prepare individuals for the future of Ag technology. Students will gain a foundation in both conventional and regenerative agricultural practices, with a focus on 21st century technology. Instructional methods include classroom lecture, videos, audio and video conferencing, virtual and live work projects on actual farms.

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

- Plant & Soil Science
- GIS Mapping
- Field Scouting
- Landscaping & Turf Management
- Drone Piloting
- Greenhouse & Nursery Management

COMPLETION AWARDS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Digital Agronomy Helper | CERTIFICATE (432 hrs) |
| • Digital Agronomy Junior Assist. | CERTIFICATE (864 hrs) |
| • FAA Drone Pilot License | CERTIFICATE (864 hrs) |
| • Digital Agronomy Assistant | DIPLOMA (1296 hrs) |



**TENNESSEE COLLEGE
OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY**
COVINGTON

www.tcatcovington.edu

901-475-2526

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Covington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex and disability. See <https://www.tcatcovington.edu/about/non-discrimination-statement>.



Protecting Your Mental Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic



If you're feeling anxious, overwhelmed, fearful, or depressed during this time, please know this: **You are not alone. It's OK to not feel OK.** It's important that you reach out and stay connected to relatives, coworkers, neighbors, and others. Receiving and sharing patience, understanding, and grace is critical as we all battle against the COVID-19 Pandemic.

If feelings of depression, isolation, and hopelessness are too much to bear, **there is help and there is hope. Life is precious, purposeful, and powerful.** The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services has a statewide network of community behavioral health partners who are compassionate and capable of helping, even in the current circumstances. Please reach out if you need to.

If you are experiencing a mental health emergency or thinking of taking your own life, please call or text Tennessee's Statewide Crisis Line.

Call 800-274-7471 or Text "TN" to 741-741

If you are not experiencing a mental health emergency, but you need a connection to mental health treatment, please reach out:

- If you are uninsured and unable to pay, the state of Tennessee offers the Behavioral Health Safety Net. Find a provider in your area by visiting [TN.gov/behavioral-health/bhsn](https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/bhsn) or by calling **800-560-5767**
- If you are a TennCare member, call the number for your managed care organization on your insurance card.
- If you have insurance, call the number on the back of your insurance card.

If the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened or revealed a problem with alcohol consumption or drug use, Tennessee has a network of substance abuse providers and services available for people who need treatment but have no means to pay. Our state also has dozens of people in recovery from substance abuse who are professionals at helping others get into treatment and get into recovery. If you need a referral to addiction treatment services or if you need help maintaining your recovery from substance use disorder, please **call or text the Tennessee REDLINE: 800-889-9789.**

Healthy Ways to Manage Stress

- Listen to relaxing music, draw or paint.
- Create routines with exercise.
- Watch your favorite comedy show or movie.
- Read the book you've been putting off, download educational podcasts, catch up on recorded shows on your DVR or pull out board games for family fun.
- Reconnect with yourself and loved ones.
- Spend time with people who matter most in your life — and that includes you!



 **BAPTIST**

baptistonline.org/coronavirus

{SUICIDE}

IS 100% PREVENTABLE

Reach out for **HELP.**

Reach out for **HOPE.**

Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network



CRISIS TEXT LINE |

Text "TN" to 741 741



"Saving Lives in Tennessee"

www.tspn.org

COVID-19 Essential Employee Child Care

To help Tennesseans move forward during the COVID-19 emergency, DHS is increasing access to child care at no cost for Tennessee workers who are providing “essential businesses and services.”

This child care is available through payment assistance with licensed child care agencies and a partnership with Tennessee YMCAs and Boys & Girls Clubs.



- **How do I know if I'm an essential worker who is eligible for these supports?**
For purposes of the child care payment assistance program, essential workers are: Employees of a healthcare entity, Law Enforcement, First Responders (EMS, Fire Departments), Corrections Officers, Military, Activated National Guard, Human and Social Services Workers, Postal Workers, Transportation, Restaurant and Grocery Workers. Parents seeking care at a YMCA or Boys & Girls Club temporary location should contact the facility in order to verify eligibility and to register their child.
- **Do parents of children of all age groups qualify?**
Families with children under the age of 13 are eligible for this program. Families with children older than 13 that are: **a)** under court supervision or **b)** mentally or physically incapable of self-service also qualify for this program.
- **Are there income restrictions for these programs?**
These programs do not have income restrictions.
- **How do I apply to receive COVID-19 Essential Employee Child Care Payment Assistance?**
Parents who meet the definition of essential worker as listed above can apply online at: [Tdhs.service-now.com](https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/covid-19.html)
- **How do I apply to take my child to a YMCA or Boys & Girls Club temporary care location?**
Essential employees with school-aged children who need care will be able to register at YMCA and Boys & Girls Club locations and access care at no charge, during the COVID-19 state of emergency. As they are established, you will be able to see a listing of temporary care locations here <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/humanservices/covid-19.html>.
- **How long will the application take to process?**
Typically, an application for child care payment assistance will be processed within about a week. Upon receipt of the application, a DHS team member will contact you within 2 business days if the verifications needed are not attached and request necessary verifications. If an application is received with all verifications, the eligibility process will be completed within 3 business days. *Please note: to protect the health of customers and staff, DHS offices are not open to “foot-traffic” during the COVID-19 emergency, but staff are available by phone.*
- **How will payments be distributed?**
After an essential employee enrolls in the child care payment assistance program, DHS will make arrangements to pay for child care at the DHS licensed program where the child is served. A list of licensed child care providers with capacity to enroll children is available at: <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/covid-19/child-care-services-and-covid-19.html>.
- **How long will this program be available?**
Essential Employee Child Care Payment Assistance will be valid through June 15, 2020.

Visit our website at www.tn.gov/humanservices



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 23, 2020

Contact: Amy Finch, Director of Public Information, 731-286-3347

Dyersburg State Community College

Dyersburg State to Deliver all May and Summer Courses via Distance Learning Mode

Dyersburg, Tennessee – Dyersburg State Community College (DSCC) has announced that all May session and summer semester courses will be delivered through a distance learning mode. The decision was based out of continued concern for its college community amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Students will meet with their classes through Zoom teleconferencing during the designated class times. DSCC online and TN eCampus classes will be offered as normal.

Advising and registration for May session and summer and fall semesters is taking place now for current and prospective students. Students are encouraged to register for classes early for best class selection. Current students can make an online advising appointment through their Navigate app (www.dscc.edu/navigate) or through the DSCC website. Prospective students can make an appointment by going to the DSCC website and clicking on "Future Students," and "Make an Appointment."

Current Tennessee Promise students can use Promise funding for summer 2020 enrollment and do not need to take a minimum of 12 hours as has been required in the past. If current Tennessee Promise students use this funding for summer semester, it will count as one of the five semesters allowed for the scholarship. These students are encouraged to contact their academic advisor to register for summer 2020 classes.

For more information on DSCC's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, visit dscc.edu/coronavirus.

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Dyersburg State Community College

Dyersburg State Community College is an open access, learning-centered institution that serves seven counties in West Tennessee. Founded in 1969, DSCC's vision is to elevate the region's educational attainment thereby enhancing the quality of life in West Tennessee. The home campus of DSCC is in Dyersburg, and centers are located in Covington and Trenton. DSCC offers Tennessee Transfer Pathways programs, career technical certificates and degrees; learning support courses, continuing education and public service programs. The college is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award the associate degree. Learning is enhanced by a variety of student organizations, international learning opportunities, state of the art technology and intercollegiate athletic programs.

The Tennessee Board of Regents

The Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) is Tennessee's largest higher education system, governing 40 post-secondary educational institutions with over 200 teaching locations. The TBR system includes 13 community colleges and 27 colleges of applied technology, providing programs to students across the state, country and world.