

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS AT PSCC UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DR. L. ANTHONY WISE, JR.

I. EXPANSION OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

As President of the largest community college in the State of Tennessee, Dr. Wise has spearheaded the fundraising efforts and the expansion of numerous PSCC educational facilities:

- **The Magnolia Avenue Campus** opened in 2000 in the former Knoxville Catholic High School in east Knoxville. This campus serves approximately 600 students each semester, which includes programs including Audio Production Engineering and Nursing. The Magnolia Avenue Campus is easily accessible by car or public transportation – or even by foot for residents of downtown Knoxville and surrounding areas;
- **The Strawberry Plains Campus** opened in 2012 and shares more than 220,000 square feet of space with Knox County Schools' Career Magnet Academy, TCAT-Knoxville and state offices. The Jenny and Randy Boyd Building houses state-of-the-art Nursing and Cyber Defense labs plus the Mega Lab, an enormous space devoted to Engineering Technology, Welding Technology and Computer Information Technology;
- **Blount County Workforce Development Center** is located in Friendsville opened in 2010 and was designed to help fill the areas need for highly skilled employees. This 51,000 square foot facility was a response to the growing demand for academic and manufacturing services in Blount County. The Ruth & Steve West Workforce Development Center offers five important Pellissippi State Community College programs:

Computer Information Technology, Cyber Defense and Networking Concentrations
Culinary Arts, including Baking and Pastry Arts
Business, Management and Hospitality Management
Electrical Engineering Technology
Nursing Program

The Ruth & Steve West Workforce Development Center also includes three TCAT Knoxville programs:

Industrial Maintenance/Mechatronics
Machine Tool Technology
Welding Technology

The Bill Haslam Math & Science Building is an 81,500 square foot facility located on the 144-acre Hardin Valley main campus. This building opened in 2021 remedied severe classroom overcrowding and scheduling classes in mobile homes. In addition, this building includes 18 classrooms, six computer labs and nine science labs, as well as a teacher education center for the college's Early Childhood Development and Teacher Education programs.

II. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- In 2014, PSCC worked with the Knox County School System to establish a Career Magnet Academy at the Strawberry Plains campus. The objective is to provide students the opportunity to make significant progress towards an associate degree while they are still in high school. CMA allows equal access to dual enrollment courses at PSCC to students who may not have access to as many dual enrollment courses at

their zoned schools and at no cost to their families other than a small portion of the Hope scholarship. Some of our more ambitious students even graduate high schools with a full Associates Degree from PSCC.

- The Chemical Radiation Technology pathway at Pellissippi State, launched in 2024 is already showing success with its first three graduates preparing for December commencement. The program, designed to address a national shortage of skilled technicians in the radiochemistry industry, combines specialized coursework with hands-on laboratory experience. "
- Pellissippi State awarded \$2M for new Aviation Technology degree
In October 2024, Pellissippi State Community College has been awarded nearly \$2 million through the third round of the Governor's Investment in Vocational Education (GIVE) Grants, to support the creation of a two-year associate degree in Aviation Technology, with a focus on Aviation Maintenance Technician Training.

Earlier this year Dr. Wise launched a groundbreaking partnership between Pellissippi State Community College and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), which exemplifies how the Tennessee's 13 community colleges are meeting critical workforce needs through innovative industry collaborations.

Area partnerships provide students with real world experience that can be applied to whatever path they choose. And if you're an employer, you have first access to a highly skilled workforce right in your own backyard. Our graduates go on to work at top companies, start their own businesses, or transfer to four-year universities with confidence. The possibilities for success are endless.

III. COMMITMENT TO STUDENT SUCCESS & STUDENT AWARDS

In the opening paragraph Dr. Wise stated *"that student success is an important part of his job"* as President of Pellissippi State Community College. However, this is not just a flattering statement as there is ample evidence to support his assertion. Examples are the invaluable student assistance programs launched under his leadership:

Academic Preparation & Support:

- **Corequisite Learning Support**
Pellissippi State provides embedded learning support in corequisite courses for English, reading, and math, helping students develop foundational skills for college-level coursework.
- **Academic Tutoring Center**
Free tutoring is available to all Pellissippi State students through Microsoft Teams, offering support in various subjects.
- **Accuplacer Challenge**
Students can challenge placement into corequisite courses by taking the Accuplacer exam.
- **"Boxcar Housing" Research** PSCC is conducting an experimental project on converting old railroad boxcars into permanent, temporary housing on campus for emergency student needs.

Test Prep Services:

- **SAT Prep Course** Pellissippi State offers both in-person and live online classes for SAT preparation.
- **GMAT Prep** They provide in-home GMAT prep services.
- **Other Test Prep** They offer preparation for DAT, PSAT, ACT, LSAT, and MCAT exams.

- **Student Care and Advocacy Center** whose mission is to provide holistic student support by connecting students to internal and external resources that address nonacademic barriers to success. Its primary focus is economic stability, housing, food access and health care.
- **Student Opportunity Fund** we are dedicated to supporting our students during times of crisis. Whether it's financial difficulties or other emergencies, life happens, and it can disrupt a student's pursuit of higher education. The Pellissippi State Community College Foundation established several reliable go-to funds for addressing student emergencies, such as the Student Opportunity Fund which provides direct funds for a myriad of life emergencies, such as paying a utility bill, child care, automotive repairs, temporary housing, tuition fees and textbooks.
- **Hardin Valley Campus Garden** is a supplier of fresh produce to the Pellissippi Pantry as well as a community service hub. The Hardin Valley Garden began in 2016 with 803 square feet and yielded approximately 1,190 lbs. of produce.
- **Pellissippi Food Pantry** has provided a 3-5 day supply of emergency food, including fresh produce from our Hardin Valley Campus Garden, to participants and their household members on all four campuses. The "Walk-In" pantry concept will allow participants to shop for their items, rather than have their food pre-packed.
- **PSCC students win most medals at SkillsUSA of any Tennessee college**
 Pellissippi State Community College students put their technical and academic prowess to the test at the SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference in April, ultimately returning home with 22 individual medals – more than any other team in Tennessee – and with many students prepared to advance to the national competition the summer of 2025.
 - **Pellissippi State students earn bronze medal in first showing at prestigious culinary competition** A team of students from Pellissippi State Community College's Culinary Arts program earned a bronze medal at the American Culinary Federation Southeast Regional Culinary Competition in April 2025– finishing just six points behind the leader in their first time ever participating in the contest.
 - **Pellissippi State among top 5 community colleges for study abroad**
 In December 2024, Pellissippi State Community College once again placed among the top five community colleges for study-abroad in the U.S., according to the Institute of International Education's annual Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange.

Pellissippi State Community College has been designated a Leader College by the national nonprofit Achieving the Dream – an organization dedicated to advancing community colleges throughout the country. The organization recognizes colleges that have pursued and met challenging student success goals. Pellissippi State's success in students' increased course pass rate overall and in English composition in particular were key in bringing this distinction to the college.

"This honor speaks to the role our faculty and staff are playing in our students' achievements," said Pellissippi State President L. Anthony Wise, Jr. "Increasing student success in our highest enrollment courses was a major goal of our 2020-2025 strategic plan, and this award recognizes a truly collective, whole-College achievement." Achieving the Dream's 15 Leader Colleges are those that excel in adopting effective practices across higher education. They are among the best at developing innovative ways to work with other colleges to share knowledge and facilitate an exchange of ideas about evidence-based reform strategies. Pellissippi State is one of more than 300 colleges in the Achieving the Dream Network and has been a member since 2018.

