

## About TICUA

Founded in 1956, the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association engages Tennessee's private higher education institutions to work collaboratively in the areas of public policy, cost containment, and professional development to serve the state and its citizens. We advocate for educational opportunity and freedom of choice in higher education at the state and federal levels to ensure students are able to attend the college or university that best fits their academic, financial, and career needs.

[www.ticua.org](http://www.ticua.org)

Thank you to our  
**TICUA Collegium Members.**



**TICUA**  
TENNESSEE INDEPENDENT COLLEGES  
AND UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION

# 2023

## CASE STATEMENT

IMPROVING **LIVES &**  
**ANCHORING COMMUNITIES**





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## IMPROVING LIVES AND ANCHORING COMMUNITIES

### Partners,

In an ever-changing world, it's clear we need problem-solvers, critical thinkers, and moral leaders now more than ever. That's why the value of a liberal arts education continues to grow.

Throughout this report, you will learn how TICUA's 34 member colleges and universities are developing the future of our state, nation, and world - **improving countless lives and anchoring dozens of Tennessee communities.**

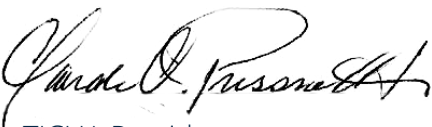
First, TICUA institutions improve tens of thousands of lives each year. Our campuses are focused on providing access to students of all backgrounds and investing heavily in student success. And the investment is paying off. TICUA institutions continue to produce more workforce-ready college graduates than any other higher education sector in our state. Not only that, but TICUA students graduate at a faster rate than their peers in public universities.

While students, families, faculty, and staff are directly impacted, members of our local and regional communities also benefit. TICUA institutions are the anchors of their communities,

providing employment and cultural centers for dozens of Tennessee cities and towns. Our campuses are often the largest employers in their communities and serve as vital economic engines. TICUA institutions save taxpayer dollars yet produce a workforce skilled in many of our high-demand industries: healthcare, education, business, and STEM. We all benefit from the research, innovation, and entrepreneurship born on our campuses, even if we don't attend one of the institutions.

We couldn't do this work without your partnership. It takes all of us working together to grow our students to handle the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Tennessee's private colleges and universities.

  
TICUA President  
**Dr. Claude Pressnell**



TICUA INSTITUTIONS ARE  
**IMPROVING LIVES**  
AROUND THE WORLD

**80+**  
LOCATIONS

**34**  
MEMBER  
INSTITUTIONS

**76,000+**  
STUDENTS

**20,000+**  
EMPLOYEES

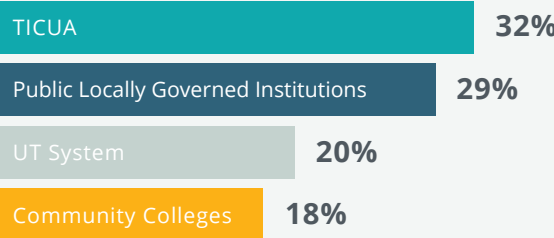


# OUR STUDENTS COMPLETE THEIR DEGREES

at Higher Rates than the State’s Public Universities.

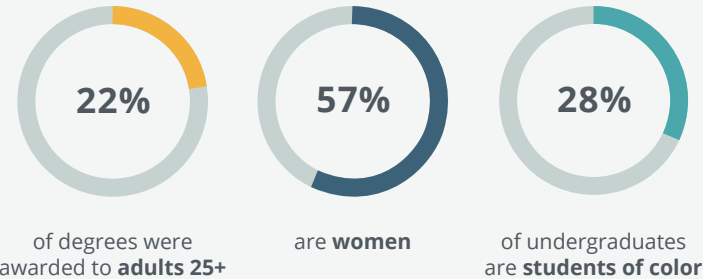
TICUA member institutions enrolled **27% of the students in Tennessee** but awarded **32% of all degrees in the state.**

## Degrees Awarded by Sector 2021-2022



63% of students at Tennessee’s independent colleges graduate within 6 years, compared to 56% at the state’s public universities.

## Our Students are Diverse



TICUA students come from every county in the state of Tennessee, every state in the nation, and 150+ nations.



“

At **Sewanee**, preparing students for in-demand jobs and careers begins before they even step on campus. We match all incoming first-year and transfer students with a student success and career readiness coach who helps them develop a plan, set goals, and enact strategies for success. Students gain real-world job experience through our strong internship and research programs and an extensive **Sewanee** alumni network. Recently, the Career Readiness Office was relocated to the center of campus where it is embedded in the Center for Student Success and Flourishing. That reflects how important we think this process is to the Sewanee student experience.”

**DR. NANCY BERNER**

Acting Vice-Chancellor and President,  
The University of the South | Sewanee

“

I am able to continue my dream and impact the world because people gave to our scholarship fund.”

**SARAH WADDELL**

Senior, Communication Studies  
Trevecca Nazarene University



# ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION = OPPORTUNITIES FOR A LIFETIME

TICUA Institutions provide **access** to students of all backgrounds - no matter their financial situation at home. The value of a liberal arts education provides a lifetime of **opportunities** for our students.

## TICUA INSTITUTIONS ARE MORE AFFORDABLE THAN THE AVERAGE COLLEGE IN THE U.S.

In 2021-2022, tuition and fees at TICUA four-year member colleges and universities averaged 29% less than the national average (\$27,877 compared to \$39,040).

## INSTITUTIONAL AID INCREASES WHILE GOVERNMENT AID STALLS

TICUA Institutions provided the largest portion of student aid. Nearly ALL first-time freshmen receive some form of aid.

Federal Government Aid

10%

State Government Aid

10%

TICUA Institutional Aid

79%



# FALL 2022 FINANCIAL AID REPORT



11,489

students attending TICUA institutions received a Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) award.



7,012

students attending TICUA member campuses received the Tennessee Student Assistance Award (TSAA)

Federal Student Aid  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

27%

of all undergraduate students (14,607) and 33% of Tennessee undergraduate students (8,589) attending TICUA member campuses received the Federal Pell Grant award.

“

The scholarships and support from **LMU Law** made it possible for me to pursue a career change and return to my hometown where I can now serve the community I grew up in. **LMU** provided me with an excellent education without a lot of student debt.”

Noah Patton

Attorney at Stanifer and Stanifer  
in New Tazewell, Tennessee

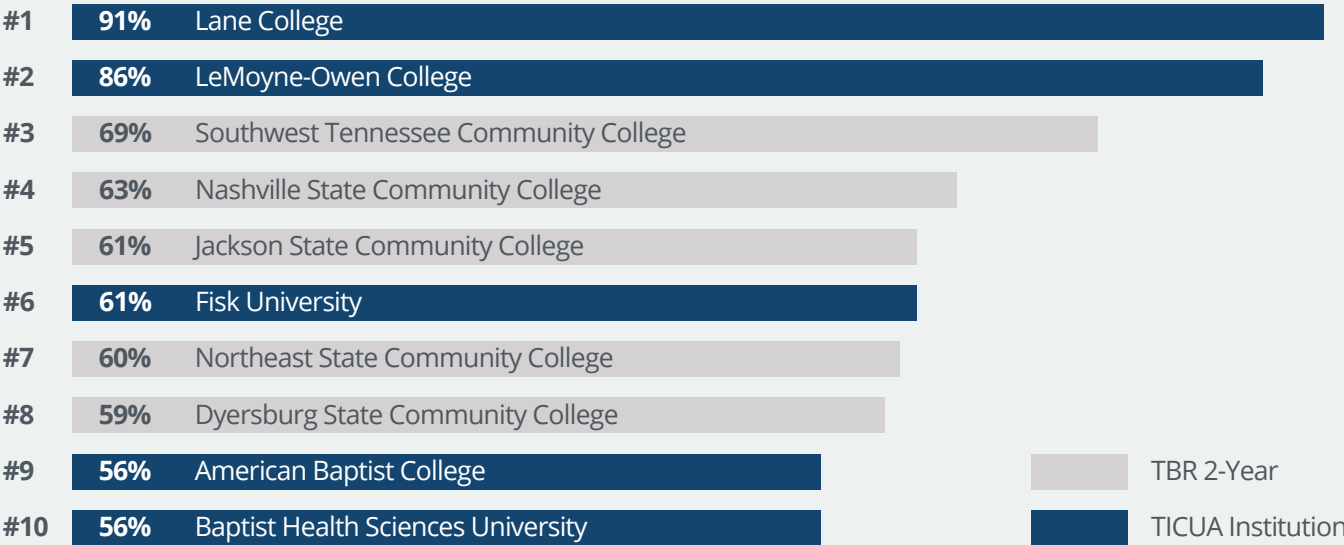




# ACCESS TO ECONOMIC MOBILITY

*Pell Eligible Students Thrive at TICUA Institutions*

TICUA member institutions make up five of the top 10 schools in Tennessee with the highest percentage of Pell-eligible, low-income students enrolled.



33% of Tennessee undergraduate students (8,589) attending TICUA member campuses received the Federal Pell Grant award. The per-student average yearly award amount totaled \$5,318.

On average, doubling the Pell Grant would cover 50% of the tuition at TICUA's 34 institutions.



# DOUBLE THE PELL

TICUA is proud to work with partners to continue the effort in Tennessee to encourage the federal government to **DOUBLE THE PELL GRANT**. While some progress has been made, there is still work to be done.

The Pell Grant is the best way to ensure **ALL** low-income students receive a college education that best fits their academic and social needs.

Use **#DoublePell** to follow the campaign on social media.

Encourage your members of Congress to Double the Pell Grant and extend the award for all students from families with a combined family income of \$125k or less. This would:

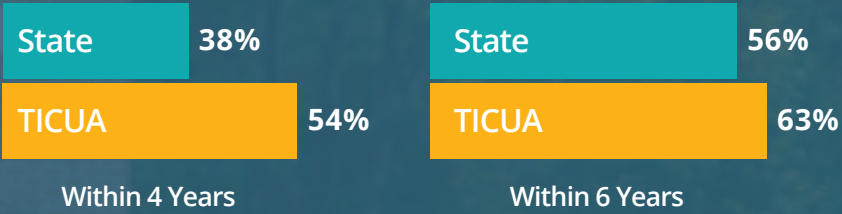
- ◆ Increase college access and affordability
- ◆ Be a vehicle for free community college while providing additional support for living expenses for low-income students
- ◆ Make the average public four-year college free
- ◆ Provide students with more options and opportunities to fit their academic and social needs
- ◆ Simplify access to federal aid for students and families
- ◆ Promote diversity and economic integration throughout our nation's higher education system
- ◆ Ensure the inclusion of all American colleges and universities
- ◆ Leverage bi-partisan support to expand the program over time

# SUCCESS=

Graduating on Time with High-Demand Degrees and Critical Thinking Skills to Solve Today's Complex Problems



More TICUA Students Graduate on Time vs. State Institutions

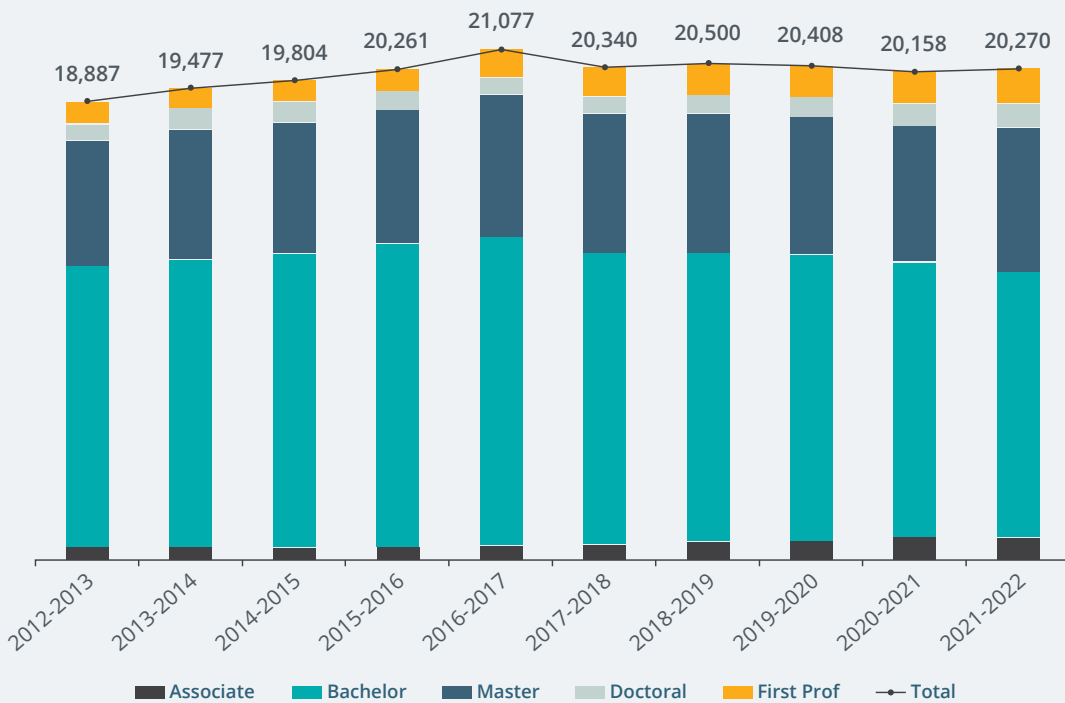


Degrees Awarded by TICUA in the Last Decade

201,182  
(Up 7.3% in the last decade)



DEGREES AWARDED BY TICUA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS, 10-YEAR TREND (2012-2022)



## High Demand Degrees Awarded in 2021-2022

TICUA institutions prepare our state's workforce to meet employer demands by instructing and awarding high-demand degrees in their curriculum.

|                                                           |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Health Professions & Related Programs                     | 4,700 |
| Business, Management, Marketing, Related Support Services | 3,600 |
| STEM                                                      | 2,979 |
| Education                                                 | 2,400 |



**Hayley Harmon** is double-majoring in Biology and Environmental Studies and double-minoring in Environmental Science and Sustainability Studies. She chose Maryville College because of its geographical setting, small class sizes, and opportunities for hands-on learning. She is volunteering with the American Chestnut Foundation via the college's Natural Sciences Division.

"I absolutely love the Environmental Studies program because the interdisciplinary focus will better enable me to solve the complex, modern environmental issues facing communities all around the world."

# SUCCESS=

A Focus on **Community, Support Services, & Life After Graduation.**

**ALVIN JORKEY, Computer Science,**  
Rhodes College, Class of 2023

"**Rhodes** has been very welcoming, and my peers come from many different walks of life. Being in this environment is conducive to my growth and development because of my exposure to all these diverse perspectives. In addition, professors are always willing to help me to grow, and many of the student organizations I've been a part of, such as the African Student Association (ASA) and the Black Student Association (BSA), have helped shape my general understanding of the world." ➡

## COMMUNITY

**TIARA HARVEY, Nursing,**  
Milligan University, Class of 2023

"The **Milligan** community not only has provided me with lasting friendships but also a second family who I can rely on in all situations no matter what."



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## SUPPORT SERVICES

**DEE HARLESTON, Political Science & Public Relations,**  
Belmont University, Class of 2015

"In my experience, personal and professional support from professors is **Belmont's** best quality. The professors in the Department of Political Science and College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences cared about my success as a student and provided invaluable guidance and opportunity throughout my time at Belmont." ➡

**JEVADIAH WINDHAM, Nursing,**  
Bethel University, Class of 2023

"There are so many resources here on campus for any student. **Bethel University** has so many options for spiritual, physical, or emotional help that any young man or woman may need. If I had never come to Bethel, I do not know where I would be today."



## LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

**SHAYNA RYAN WEBB, Digital Media Journalism & Public Relations,**  
Lee University, Class of 2022

"I received three different job offers before graduation and was blessed to be able to choose one that would allow me to look forward to going to work every day and use the skills I learned from my time as a student."



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# COLLABORATION= SAVING TAXPAYER DOLLARS

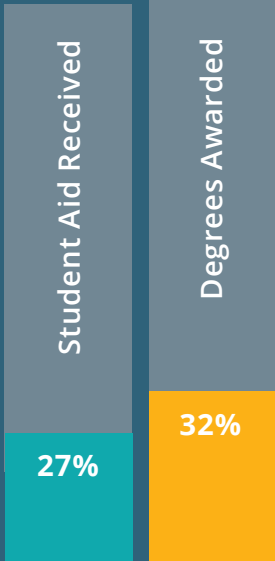
Independent colleges and universities save taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

 Tennessee taxpayers **saved \$525 million** in 2021-2022 by educating students at our nonprofit campuses.

 The state **invests less than 3 cents per dollar to assist Tennessee students to be educated on a TICUA member campus**, yet the private colleges award more degrees than any other higher education sector in the state.

 TICUA institutions do not receive any direct state appropriations.

TICUA colleges and universities award 32% of the bachelor degrees in the state but receive only 27% of state student aid.



## CREATING EARLY OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO COMPLETE THEIR DEGREES

### Dual Enrollment



**100+**  
High School  
Partners



**3,500+**  
Students received dual  
enrollment grants<sup>1</sup>

### Tennessee Transfer Pathways



**600+**  
students transfer to TICUA  
member institutions from Tennessee  
community colleges



**20 Institutions**  
participate in the TN Transfer Pathways  
program, which enables a student to transfer to  
a 4-year institution without loss of credit or time.



**32%**  
of TICUA undergraduate degrees were  
awarded to transfer students in 2021-2022  
\*Excludes Vanderbilt University



**8 Institutions**  
have developed reverse articulation agreements  
that allow students to complete work toward an  
associate's degree from a community college  
while enrolled at a four-year campus.

1. Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation

# TICUA IMPACT = ANCHORING COMMUNITIES

**80+** Locations in communities across the state of Tennessee

TICUA member institutions anchor the communities they serve. Our campuses have a direct impact on Tennessee’s economy by providing jobs and supplying a highly-qualified workforce.

## TOP STATE EMPLOYER

Many private colleges and universities are the largest employers in their counties and are tied directly to the financial health of their local communities.



**20,393**

Tennesseans are employed by TICUA Institutions

-forming one of the state’s largest employers

## IMPORTING INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL

Students come here to study. After graduation, they choose to stay in Tennessee to live, work, and raise a family.



**53%**

of students are from other states and countries.

# CAREER-READY GRADUATES

*Employers across the state rely on TICUA member institutions to provide career-ready graduates.*

## High Demand Degrees Awarded by TICUA Member Institutions 2021-2022



**13,679**

**HIGH-DEMAND** degrees in the fields of STEM, education, business, and health professions

## TICUA Institutions Help to Meet Critical Workforce Needs

From 2016-2020, all five Tennessee Teachers of the Year received bachelor’s, master’s, or doctorate degrees from TICUA Institutions.

|      |                                                                                 |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2016 | Dr. Cathy Pressnell, Chester County                                             |
| 2017 | Dr. Derek Voiles, Hamblen County, 2022 National Outstanding Assistant Principal |
| 2018 | Dr. Cicely Woodard, Metro Nashville                                             |
| 2019 | Dr. Melissa Miller, Franklin Special School District                            |
| 2020 | Brian McLaughlin, Hamblen County                                                |

“

**Lee University** is an invaluable partner in providing high quality educators to Cleveland City Schools. From our administrative offices to our classrooms, Lee University graduates are having a positive impact on the educational outcomes of Cleveland City Schools’ students. We are so thankful for their impact on our school district.”

**RUSSELL DYER**

Director of Schools, Cleveland City Schools



“

Ballad Health is an integrated community health improvement organization, comprised of 21 hospitals. We work closely with independent colleges and universities, such as **King University**, **Milligan University** and **Tusculum University**, to improve the health and well-being of close to one million people.

The engagement with students, faculty and graduates of our regional independent colleges and universities helps us to advance the clinical practice of nursing, enhance inter-professional collaboration, contribute to knowledge about nursing workflow and generate nursing scholarship and innovation.”

**LISA M. SMITHGALL**  
PhD, RNC-NIC, NEA-BC, CPNP-PC

Senior Vice President/ Chief Nursing Executive, Ballad Health





We are proud to present the third class of our TICUA Hall of Fame. Our campuses have educated some of our nation's most distinguished residents, including civil rights leader and legend, W.E.B. Du Bois; Frank Clement, the nation's first southern governor to veto a segregation bill; Dr. Mildred Stahlman, creator of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for premature infants; and many more. The TICUA Hall of Fame recognizes these distinguished alumni, their indelible contributions to our state and country, and the institutions who helped shape them.

## CLASS OF 2022

**Dr. Robert Bowers**  
Southern Adventist University

**Dr. James Cantrell**  
Bethel University

**Sherrie Claiborne**  
Lincoln Memorial University

**Governor Frank G. Clement**  
Cumberland University

**Dr. William Cochran**  
Southern College of Optometry

**David Coffey**  
King University

**Adam Dale**  
Lee University

**Dr. Judith Kofroth Domer**  
Tusculum University

**Dr. William Edward Burghardt Du Bois**  
Fisk University

**Dr. David Eubanks**  
Johnson University

**Dr. Stephen Flatt**  
Lipscomb University

**Nicholas Brody (N.B.) Hardeman**  
Freed-Hardeman University

**Beverly Jordan**  
Baptist Health Sciences University

**Frank H. Knight**  
Milligan University

**Roy Kramer**  
Maryville College

**Dr. Ryan Mire**  
Rhodes College

**Mother Anna Grace Neenan, O.P.**  
Aquinas College

**Major General (Ret.) Mastin Robeson**  
Bryan College

**Dr. Beth Rushing**  
Carson-Newman University

**Dr. Rondy Smith**  
Trevecca Nazarene University

**Dr. Mildred Stahlman**  
Vanderbilt University

**Rebecca Stevens-Hummon**  
The University of the South

**Isaac Burton Tigrett**  
Union University

**Jesse Tyson**  
Lane College

**Betty Wiseman**  
Belmont University



I am the son of the Volunteer State; I was born beneath the ambient blues of her arching skies; I was rocked in the cradle of her beauty and glory; I am proud of the priceless contribution to the building of this nation" - **Governor Frank G. Clement**



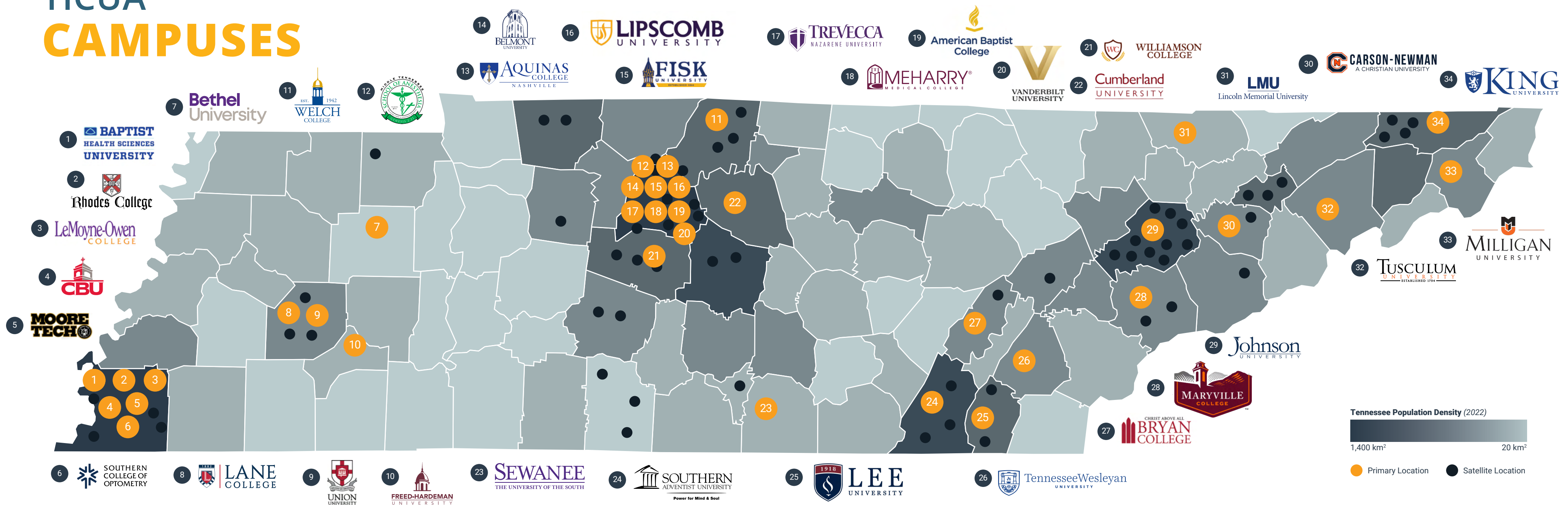
When we cultivate compassion for others, we can feel the loving kindness God offers to us." - **Becca Stevens-Hummon** President and Founder of Thistle Farms, Author, and Philanthropist



As we move through life, we should look forward with happiness and backward without regret." - **Jesse Tyson** Former Exxon Mobile Executive



# TICUA CAMPUSES



VITAL STATS

|    |                                    | Year Founded | Total Enrollment | # Of Degrees Awarded |    |                                         | Year Founded | Total Enrollment | # Of Degrees Awarded |
|----|------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------------|----|-----------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 19 | American Baptist College*          | 1924         | 53               | 6                    | 16 | Lipscomb University                     | 1891         | 4,704            | 1,390                |
| 13 | Aquinas College                    | 1961         | 60               | 7                    | 28 | Maryville College                       | 1819         | 1,069            | 165                  |
| 1  | Baptist Health Sciences University | 1912; 1994   | 797              | 203                  | 18 | Meharry Medical College                 | 1876         | 954              | 331                  |
| 14 | Belmont University                 | 1890         | 8,910            | 2,088                | 12 | Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia   | 1950         | 244              | 79                   |
| 7  | Bethel University                  | 1842         | 3,229            | 784                  | 33 | Milligan University                     | 1866         | 1,106            | 321                  |
| 27 | Bryan College                      | 1930         | 1,655            | 316                  | 2  | Rhodes College                          | 1848         | 1,978            | 478                  |
| 30 | Carson-Newman University           | 1851         | 2,586            | 777                  | 23 | Sewanee: The University of the South    | 1857         | 1,709            | 437                  |
| 4  | Christian Brothers University      | 1871         | 1,755            | 482                  | 24 | Southern Adventist University           | 1892         | 2,905            | 517                  |
| 22 | Cumberland University              | 1842         | 2,588            | 645                  | 6  | Southern College of Optometry           | 1932         | 532              | 119                  |
| 15 | Fisk University                    | 1866         | 1,053            | 109                  | 26 | Tennessee Wesleyan University           | 1857         | 1,050            | 342                  |
| 10 | Freed-Hardeman University          | 1869         | 2,275            | 389                  | 17 | Trevecca Nazarene University            | 1901         | 3,327            | 1,098                |
| 29 | Johnson University                 | 1893         | 960              | 293                  | 32 | Tusculum University                     | 1794         | 1,302            | 446                  |
| 34 | King University                    | 1867         | 1,359            | 625                  | 9  | Union University                        | 1823         | 2,730            | 929                  |
| 8  | Lane College                       | 1882         | 1,010            | 105                  | 20 | Vanderbilt University                   | 1873         | 13,710           | 4,173                |
| 25 | Lee University                     | 1918         | 3,927            | 1,071                | 11 | Welch College                           | 1942         | 377              | 41                   |
| 3  | LeMoyne-Owen College               | 1862         | 609              | 121                  | 5  | William R. Moore College of Technology* | 1939         | 368              | 40                   |
| 31 | Lincoln Memorial University        | 1897         | 5,413            | 1,324                | 21 | Williamson College*                     | 1997         | 63               | 19                   |

Numbers in yellow are in reference to previous page.

\* Associate Members