Let’s dare to transform education

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Tennessee’s private colleges and universities play a critical role in educating our state’s workforce while also preparing them to be engaged and productive citizens.

Since 2010, TICUA member campuses have awarded more degrees than any other higher education sector in the state—including thousands of degrees in high-need sectors like health care, STEM and education.

Through generous financial aid, TICUA’s 34 member institutions enable thousands of Tennesseans to attend the college or university that best meets their academic and social needs. Innovative completion programs and robust student support systems assist students in graduating with high-value degrees in a timely manner.

TICUA members represent a diverse set of institutions, from religiously-affiliated comprehensive universities to single-purpose professional colleges. One common thread is that all campuses strive to serve low-income, first generation college students. Adult learners will find hundreds of flexible programs available, as well.

Graduates enter a dynamic economy prepared with the essential skills that all jobs require—effective communication, critical thinking, decision-making, and the ability to collaborate. They are ready, not only for their first job, but to become the job creators and leaders of the future.

TICUA members are committed partners in Tennessee’s higher education system, which is a driving force behind economic prosperity and growth. Together, we can achieve a brighter future for our students, their families and our state.
TENNESSEE’S INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Our 34 member colleges and universities employ 37,000 staff & faculty serving nearly 81,000 students from across the state, country and around the world.

TICUA members enroll students from all 95 counties in the state of Tennessee.

Enrollment at TICUA member campuses has increased 21% over the past 10 years.

TICUA member institutions enrolled 26% of the students in Tennessee, but awarded 33% of all degrees in the state.

TICUA member campuses awarded over 20,000 degrees – more than any other higher education sector in the State.

28% of TICUA undergraduate degrees were awarded to students aged 25 and over.

Students Graduating within 6 Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TICUA</th>
<th>58%</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee’s Public Universities</td>
<td>49%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Lottery scholarship recipients at nonprofit, private colleges are MORE LIKELY to GRADUATE in 4 years than recipients at other types of institutions in Tennessee.

Serving Students from every county in Tennessee and all backgrounds.

TICUA believes all students should have the opportunity to attend a school that best fits their needs and earn a valuable degree that will serve them well in the workforce and in life.

94% of first-time freshmen receive some kind of financial aid.

Minority students compose nearly one-third of the undergraduate students attending TICUA member colleges and universities.

TICUA member institutions comprise 11 of the top 15 schools in the state with the highest percentage of Pell-eligible students enrolled.

Pell-Eligible Students by Institution

TICUA

TBR 2-Year

LGI

UT

Since 2015, the number of TN Promise students attending TICUA member institutions has grown 350%.

Over the last decade, member institutions have steadily increased the amount of institutional grant aid they provide, while controlling costs.

Financial Aid Source for Students

10% State

10% Federal

80% Private, Non-Profit Institutions

Students Graduating with Debt (2016-2017)

Public Locally Governed Institutions

TICUA

University of Tennessee

31.2%

56.1%

53.0%

Tuition

$26,572

TICUA Four-Year Institutions

$35,830

Four-Year National Average

In 2018-2019, tuition and fees at TICUA four-year member colleges and universities averaged 26% less than the national average.

State Financial Aid Helps Students Attend and Complete College

Tennessee’s lottery funded Hope Scholarship and need-based Tennessee Student Assistance Award (TSAA) serve to help students afford college and complete their degrees on-time.

12,000 students, from every county in the state, received a Hope Scholarship.

7,000 students received the TSAA.

First-to-Second Year Renewal Rate

TICUA

Overall State Recipient Population

66%

58%

Lottery scholarship recipients at nonprofit, private colleges are MORE LIKELY to GRADUATE in 4 years than recipients at other types of institutions in Tennessee.

TICUA member institutions are helping more Tennesseans access a great education and earn a high market value degree—no matter where they live or when they start college.

From dual credit opportunities, satellite and online programs to innovative transfer agreements, Tennessee’s private, nonprofit colleges and universities are stepping up to help our state equip more Tennesseans with a college degree.

Providing Educational Opportunities to Students Beyond Campus

TICUA institutions offer courses and programs at over 80 off-site or satellite locations serving over 6,000 students, earning an array of degrees including:

- Education
- Business
- Nursing
- Ministry

Through partnerships with over 100 high schools across the state, 2,500 students are enrolled in Dual Enrollment courses at TICUA institutions, earning both high school and college credit.

Nearly 13,000 students enrolled in online courses at TICUA institutions.

“The culture here on campus has fostered Christian community in a way that helps me grow spiritually, socially, and academically stronger.”

Josh Connerty
Trevecca Nazarene University

Helping Students Seamlessly Transfer and Complete Their Degree

- 23 institutions have joined Tennessee Transfer Pathways, which enables a student to transfer to a 4-year institution without loss of credit or time.
- 4 institutions have official Dual Admission agreements with seven community colleges through which a student can earn both an Associate’s degree and a Bachelor’s degree.
- 9 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.

In 2017-2018, 32% of TICUA undergraduate degrees were awarded to transfer students.*

Serving Returning and Adult Students

Key to meeting our state’s workforce needs is engaging adult learners (25 years and older). Fourteen TICUA institutions have created programs catering to returning and adult students’ schedules, and offer classes on a flexible schedule — often on nights or weekends.

Nearly 28% of TICUA undergraduate degrees were awarded to adult students aged 25 and over.

Sources: TICUA 2018 Characteristics Report, Alternative Academic Offerings at TICUA Institutions, 2018 Report

*Excludes Trevecca Nazarene and Vanderbilt Universities
Growing our Workforce

The Drive to 55 initiative to equip 55% of Tennesseans with a postsecondary degree or certificate by the year 2025 is more than a workforce development goal— it’s a call to action for every higher education institution in our state.

Tennessee’s private colleges and universities are answering the call by ensuring students receive the financial and academic support they need to graduate in a reasonable amount of time with high-value, in-demand degrees.

Graduates enter a dynamic economy prepared with the essential skills that all jobs require—effective communication, critical thinking, ability to collaborate and decision-making. They are ready, not only for their first job, but to become the job creators and leaders for their future.

Awarding the Most Degrees in the State for Nearly a Decade:

Every year for the past nine years, Tennessee’s private colleges and universities have awarded the highest percent of degrees in the state—more than institutions in the Tennessee Board of Regents system, the University of Tennessee system schools and the public locally governed institutions.

Graduating Students On-Time:

Continuing a trend that has held for more than a decade, TICUA institutions graduate a higher percentage of students in four years than the state’s public four-year universities—reliably producing qualified workers each year to fill our state’s most in-demand jobs.

Producing Workers with High-Need Degrees:

Tennessee is building its job pipeline to produce more workers for fields like science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), but our state also needs more educators, healthcare workers and business managers.

In 2017-2018, 13,300 degrees TICUA institutions awarded were for high-demand fields of healthcare, business, education and STEM—making up 67% of total degrees awarded.

In the past five years, TICUA institutions have awarded 66,700 high-demand degrees.
About TICUA

Founded in 1956, the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association engages Tennessee's private 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