

November 2025

From the College

“There are no shortcuts to anyplace worth going.” – Beverly Sills

I can hardly believe we are so close to the end of the semester and winter break. This fall semester feels like it has lasted about five minutes, and part of that feeling comes from how much has been happening across the College, especially among our faculty and students. If you are not following our College of Education social media accounts, you should. You will see an incredible amount of research being produced and shared, as well as local, state and national organizations recognizing the people you see in our building every day.

In addition to the highlights you will see here, I wanted to share that we have nine faculty searches underway in the College, which is something I think is fantastic. We also have our Associate Dean search in progress, and I have decided to hold off on hiring our Recruiter position until the new Associate Dean is hired. The person in that role will supervise the Recruiter, so I thought it might be best to make sure there is a good chemistry in that relationship.

Over the next month we should receive our initial recommendations from the Task Force on Academic Program Alignment. I am excited to see those comments that will help us think strategically about how we move forward as a College over the next several years. The College will also be co-hosting a conference on Character Education on February 17, 2026, in the University Center. If you have any interest in working on that, please feel free to get in touch with me.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I want to thank each of you for your hard work, generosity and dedication to our students. I hope you enjoy a well-earned break surrounded by family, friends and good food.

Happenings: What's Going On This Month



November 6: Teaching Development 2 — Becoming A Thoughtful Teacher
Becoming a thoughtful college instructor involves a continuous, reflective practice that goes beyond subject matter expertise to focus on effective teaching strategies and genuine care for student learning. Jennifer Bubrig, our COE Teacher of the Year Award recipient, will discuss the approaches and strategies that she has found successful.
Ball Hall 209 | 12–1 p.m.

November 7: Weekly Writing Sessions — Dr. Alison Happel-Parkins
Bell Tower Coffee (back room) | 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Virtual option available email | aahappel@memphis.edu

November 13: Promotion and Tenure in the COE:
Ball Hall 209 | 12–1 p.m.

November 15: Life Ball for All — The University of Memphis Institute on Disability (UMID) will host the 2025 Life Ball for All on November 15 in celebration of the Institute on Disability and the TigerLIFE program.
Anfernee “Penny” Hardaway Hall of Fame Banquet Room | 5 –11 p.m.

November 20: Finding Funding Opportunities – Contracts and Foundations

The federal funding landscape has seen drastic changes recently, but there are still numerous grants, contracts, and collaborative opportunities for faculty to consider. Join us as we explore strategies for identifying opportunities in a changing landscape, the importance of understanding a funder's mission and previous awards, and how to consider contracts and collaborative opportunities as part of a funding stream. The session will be presented by Dr. Brian Evans, Assistant Director – Strategic Research Initiatives in the Division of Research and Innovation, and Janet Wiens, Pre-Award Coordinator in the College of Education.
Ball Hall 209 | 12–1 p.m.

COE Community Highlights





Congratulations to COE's own 2025 University of Memphis Homecoming King, Fedel Jones!

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The College of Education is proud to celebrate Fedel Jones, a Teaching All Learners major who was crowned the 2025 University of Memphis Homecoming King. “I am honored to be named the 2025 University of Memphis Homecoming King,” Jones said. “I look forward to continuing to inspire students and support my peers and community.” We look forward to seeing all he will accomplish as he prepares for his future career as an educator.



COE Awarded \$925K to Strengthen Vocational Rehabilitation Workforce

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The University of Memphis College of Education (COE) has been awarded a five-year, \$925,657 Rehabilitation Long-Term Training Grant by the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Rehabilitation Services Administration. The grant supports COE's graduate program in Vocational Rehabilitation, which enhances employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities by increasing the number of professionals with master's degrees in rehabilitation counseling.

[Read more here »](#)



University of Memphis Institute on Disability Returns to Dean's Office, Names Patrick Krolik Co-Director

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – As the need for inclusive higher education and disability support continues to grow nationwide, the University of Memphis Institute on Disability (UMID) is entering a new phase of growth and collaboration under the College of Education Dean's Office.

[Read more here »](#)



Carnival Memphis Names UMID and TigerLIFE a 2025 Children's Charity Partner

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The University of Memphis Institute on Disability (UMID) and its TigerLIFE program have been selected as one of the 2025 Children's Charity Initiative beneficiaries by Carnival Memphis, a philanthropic organization that has celebrated and supported the Mid-South community since 1931.

[Read more here »](#)



UMID Awarded \$1.86 Million to Expand Inclusive Higher Education

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The University of Memphis Institute on Disability (UMID) has been awarded a five-year, \$1.86 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to expand inclusive postsecondary education opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities.

[Read more here »](#)



Bullying Prevention and Student Mental Health

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Despite anti-bullying policies in schools, one in five students still report being bullied each year.

In recognition of National Bullying Prevention Month, University of Memphis College of Education faculty Dr. Michelle Brasfield and Dr. Mike Skirius, from Counseling, Educational Psychology & Research, joined WREG News Channel 3 and WMC Action News 5 to discuss how school counselors can help reduce bullying and support student mental health.

 [Watch one of the segments here.](#)

We're proud of their advocacy and continued work to promote safe, inclusive learning environments for all students.

Research Spotlight



Dr. Wesam Salem Explores Ethical Interviewing with Muslim American Students

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Dr. Wesam Salem’s recent article in *The Qualitative Report* introduces “Ziyarah,” a culturally responsive approach to interviewing that honors participants’ lived experiences and ways of knowing while challenging traditional, Western-centered research methods.

[Read more about Salem's research »](#)



Dr. Meg Evans Reimagines Alternative Breaks through Justice and Reciprocity

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Dr. Meg Evans in the Department of Leadership explores how alternative break programs, long known for fostering student growth and civic engagement, can evolve to better reflect Gen Z students' values of activism and community impact.

Their recent chapter outlines seven strategies for transforming service experiences from charity focused to justice centered, emphasizing reciprocal partnerships and ethical community engagement.

Evans' work highlights how programs built on justice and reciprocity can deepen student learning while building stronger, more sustainable relationships between universities and the communities they serve.

[Read more about Evan's Research »](#)

For more research publications, check out the @COE LinkedIn and Facebook page



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COE Alumna Melanie Landrum Reflects on a Career of Educational Leadership and Arts Integration

A lifelong educator and leader, Melanie Landrum dedicated her career to improving schools across Tennessee and Arkansas through science education, leadership, and arts integration.

[Read more about Melanie's time at UofM »](#)



Dr. Doris Battle Connects Education and Industry as Director of U.S. Partnerships for the National Center on Education and the Economy

As Director of U.S. Partnerships for the National Center on Education and the Economy, Dr. Doris Battle builds relationships with educational organizations nationwide to strengthen connections between schools and workforce development.

[Read more about Doris's time at UofM »](#)



Emily Vanderpool Leads Germantown Behavioral Solutions and Supports Future Counselors

College of Education alum Emily Vanderpool owns and operates Germantown Behavioral Solutions, a counseling practice serving the Mid-South. She also serves on the Counseling Program Advisory Board, helping prepare the next generation of mental health professionals.

[Read more about Emily's time at UofM »](#)



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