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**ETSU**

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## **East Tennessee State University Offers Unique Programs, Mountain Adventures and Top Educational Opportunities**

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn.—East Tennessee State University (ETSU) is located in Johnson City, Tennessee, and the school enrolls more than 12,000 students annually. With a medical school that was ranked number three in the nation for excellence in rural medicine education, heritage based degrees in storytelling and bluegrass/Appalachian music that can't be earned anywhere else in the world, innovative leadership and entrepreneur programs and a location in the Southern Appalachian Mountains, ETSU offers students programs and opportunities unlike any in the world.

“With unique facilities unavailable anywhere else, and an ever-evolving curriculum and student body, ETSU is not only a tremendous educational resource for our community and the region, it is a showcase of our heritage and history and a place that is preparing our future leaders,” said Brenda Whitson, executive director for the Johnson City Convention and Visitors Bureau.

ETSU opened in 1911 as East Tennessee State Normal School to prepare teachers for public schools. In 1925, the name was changed to East Tennessee State Teachers College, a reflection of the school's expanding mission and growth. Its name was then changed to State Teachers College, Johnson City, in 1930. The institution became East Tennessee State College in 1943, and achieved university status in 1963.

ETSU is a multi-faceted comprehensive university offering more than 100 degree programs in 10 colleges and schools: the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Business and Technology, the School of Continuing Studies, the Claudius G. Clemmer College of Education, the School of Graduate Studies, the Honors College, the James H. Quillen College of Medicine, the College of Nursing, the College of Pharmacy and the College of Public and Allied Health. The main campus is in Johnson City with regional centers in Kingsport, Bristol and Elizabethton; classes are also offered in Greeneville, and the university offers numerous classes and degree programs in other convenient locations, through the Regents Online Degree Program, and via the Internet.

Students can choose from programs of study leading to bachelor's and master's degrees, graduate certificates, and doctoral degrees in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy, education, audiology, environmental health sciences, clinical psychology and biomedical sciences.

In 2007, U.S. News and World Report's "America's Best Graduate Schools" issue ranked the ETSU James H. Quillen College of Medicine number three in the nation for excellence in rural medicine education. The Quillen College has held a position in the top 10 schools for rural medicine for several consecutive years.

While especially strong in the health sciences, ETSU also offers unique programs and projects, including ETSU's Innovation Laboratory, a rapidly expanding full-service business incubator, supportive of high-tech and biotech inventors and entrepreneurs. The success of the Lab led to the creation of the ETSU Research Foundation, the first of its kind for any Tennessee state school. The Research Foundation manages ETSU intellectual property and administers selected contracts and grants from private industry. The university continues to be a vital partner in Johnson City's Med-Tech economy and development.

ETSU is also home to the world's only master's degree in storytelling and reading. The storytelling program allows students to incorporate their skills in a variety of professional endeavors such as ministry or medicine. Students also have access to the Storytelling Library, providing students with 40,000 materials, specifically related to storytelling, including stories, tapes, books and CDs. And, students can join TaleTellers, traveling to various events and presenting story performances.

“Because of the storytelling curriculum at ETSU, the National Storytelling Festival, the oldest and largest venue for storytelling in the nation, is held each year in Jonesborough,” said Whitson. “This event has been around for more than 30 years and celebrates the art of storytelling. ETSU students have the opportunity to participate and experience the festival first-hand as interns.”

ETSU is the only university in America offering a comprehensive selection of courses relating to bluegrass, old time and country music, allowing them to study with a well-qualified and performance-savvy faculty. They can also choose to obtain a minor in either bluegrass or Appalachian studies, or they can take the courses as electives. Ensembles from this program play at venues around the world.

“Through this program, ETSU is not only a world leader in this type of education, but it is doing its part to preserve the heritage of the region’s extensive Appalachian music history,” said Whitson.

Other unique opportunities at ETSU include an Advanced Visualization Lab recognized around the globe, which provides education in digital media and a look at the future of animation graphics, and the Gray Fossil Site, one of the richest sources of information about the Miocene Epoch in the nation, where students have the opportunity to receive training and help uncover the distant past.

Currently the only Tennessee public institution to do so, ETSU offers an interdisciplinary leadership minor, which is designed to give students the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in business, government, education, religious organizations, communities and families leadership roles. The Leadership House, only the third of its kinds established in the nation, is based on Robert Greenleaf’s philosophy of “servant leadership,” and provides some 30 students the opportunity to live together on campus to develop leadership skills in a close-knit community environment.

While opportunities for service abound through Leadership House, service learning is an essential part of student life at ETSU and included across the curriculum. Students have more than 170 campus organizations, including 27 honor societies, which encourage involvement

within the university through social events, community outreach and career networking opportunities.

The intercollegiate athletics program, known as the ETSU Buccaneers, participate in the Atlantic Sun Conference. Fans cheer on the men's sports teams in baseball, basketball, cross-country, golf, outdoor and indoor track and tennis. Lady Buccaneers compete in basketball, cross-country, golf, outdoor and indoor track, soccer, softball, volleyball and tennis. Men's soccer comes onboard in the fall of 2007.

Part of the ETSU experience is the surrounding beauty and outdoor opportunities in the region. Located in the heart of the Southern Appalachians, near Roan Mountain, the Smoky Mountains and the forests of western North Carolina, ETSU offers students, faculty and staff a range of activities that allow them to participate in competitive or leisure activities. Members of ETSU have the opportunity to be involved in a range of seasonal activities, including snow or cross-country skiing, whitewater rafting, camping, boating, backpacking, water skiing, scuba diving or mountain biking.

Campus sports clubs are another avenue offering opportunities for participation in outdoor and competitive activities. The nationally ranked ETSU Cycling Club, founded in 1998, offers riders intense training on more than five miles of mountain bike trails and national competitions. With the mountain surroundings, the ETSU Climbing Club offers students, ranging from beginning to advanced climbers, regional training and competitions, as well as the chance to train with fellow students.

For more information about ETSU, please visit the university's website at [www.etsu.edu](http://www.etsu.edu) or call the ETSU Office of University Relations at (423) 439-4317.

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