

# CHATTANOOGA STATE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2022|2023



# Charting Excellence

A Strategic  
Commitment to the Future

# Welcome to Chattanooga State Community College.

Here, noble ideals take shape to advance the future of the College's students and community, and values rooted in inclusivity, care, trust, collaboration, and innovation support limitless learning. ChattState's commitment to excellence echoes through every life touched by the transformative influence of an education.

## Our Vision

5,000 Chattanooga State students of every race and income-level will earn a credential that creates a pathway to family-sustaining wages.



## Our Purpose

We support and empower everyone in our community to learn without limits.



## Our Values

We cultivate an inclusive environment.

We care about the well-being of each other.

We instill trust through integrity and transparency.

We encourage fearless innovation and resilience.

We collaborate to build a better future.



## Our Mission

We are Chattanooga State, a dedicated team that delivers accessible, innovative learning opportunities that surpass expectations.

Together, we enrich the lives of students and their families; develop a talented workforce; and partner with our community to lead boldly into the future.



# 2022 | 2023

## A Vision for the Future



Building on the work of the previous year based in our new Mission, Purpose, and Values, Chattanooga State set forth a new vision for the future: “5,000 Chattanooga State students of every race and income-level will earn a credential that creates a pathway to family-sustaining wages.” This vision has not only guided our actions but has also served as a beacon, illuminating the remarkable strides we have taken together.

ChattState has continued to innovate and adapt, ensuring that our students’ educational experiences are not just effective but transformative. Our commitment to this vision is reflected here. From academic excellence and student success to community engagement and workforce development, every initiative has been a step toward realizing our shared vision for the future.

Our journey is fueled by the collective effort of our faculty and staff’s dedication to our students. As we navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, our newly articulated vision statement will remain at the heart of our endeavors. It is a promise to our students, a commitment to our community, and a testament to the transformative power of education.

I invite you to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of the past year and to continue working together toward a future where every student has the opportunity to achieve their dreams. Let us move forward with intention, guided by our vision, and united in our purpose to empower every member of our Chattanooga State family.

With gratitude and anticipation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca Ashford".

Rebecca Ashford, Ed.D.  
President

# CHATTSTATE

## 2022 | 2023

# 7,252

students

(6,432 Chattanooga State students)

**30%** age 24+

**48%** full time

 **37%**

 **63%**

Hawaiian,  
American  
Indian, and  
Unknown 1%

Asian 2%  
Multi-race  
6%

Hispanic  
10%

Black  
14%

White  
not Hispanic  
67%



Academically  
Underprepared

**44%**



Low Income

**38%**



Dual Enrolled

**24%**



1st Generation

**21%**

TN Promise

**20%**

TN Reconnect

**13%**



Have Child(ren)

**12%**

**1,406**

Undergraduate  
Degrees & Certificates Awarded

**97%**

Job Placement Rate  
(5 year average)

**594**

Technical Certificates &  
Diplomas Awarded

**97%**

Licensure Pass Rate

**91%** Allied Health Licensure Pass Rate

**#1** in the state in  
awarding associate  
degrees to adult learners

**#2** in the state in awarding  
associate degrees to  
low-income students

**107,977** Workforce Training Hours provided





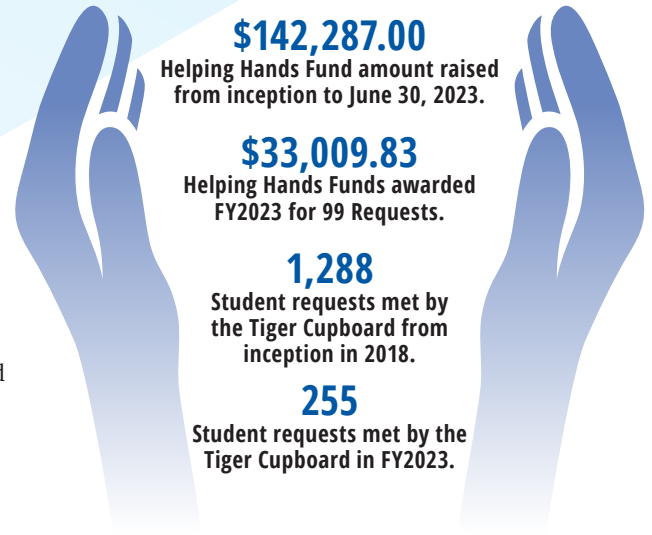
# Holistic Student Support

**Holistic Student Support** is a driving force at Chattanooga State. To empower everyone in the college community to learn without limits, the college refined its purpose to center its students and their physical and emotional needs as one of its primary priorities.

## Committed to Student Support

Chattanooga State's Student Support Center works to meet the needs of students including food insecurity, emergency financial assistance, and transportation.

At the College, caring about the well-being of each other and providing holistic student support is at the core of our values. ChattState students in need can access the Tiger Cupboard food pantry and the Helping Hands Fund for financial emergencies, and CARTA offers students free transportation.



## Note-Worthy Triumph

While academics and teaching excellence are among ChattState's core tenets, success and support come in many forms — including cheering on the success of vocal performance students.

In November 2022, five voice students placed during virtual competitions through the Tennessee State National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) student auditions. ChattState students participated in musical theatre and classic genres. While five students placed, one topped out both the classical and musical theatre categories.



**ChattState Voice Students at NATS Student Auditions, Nov. 2022**

The college's musical performance program prepares students for careers as pianists, guitarists, vocal performers, wind instrument players, and percussionists. The Associate of Fine Arts degree enables students to transfer to a 4-year

university to complete a bachelor's degree in music.

## ChattState Champs: Skills USA

Chattanooga State students graduate with real career skills — that's a fact. In June 2023, a selection of Tennessee College of Applied Technology at ChattState students attended the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta, where they won 27 medals.

SkillsUSA participants compete in 110 technical, trades, artistic, and leadership fields, where they demonstrate skills in everything from advertising design to welding. Winners were eligible to receive prizes, including tools of their trade and scholarships.



**TCAT-Chattanooga students at the SkillsUSA National Conference**

This achievement highlights the value of technical education in shaping the future workforce, and ChattState is committed to providing high-quality technical programs to its students.



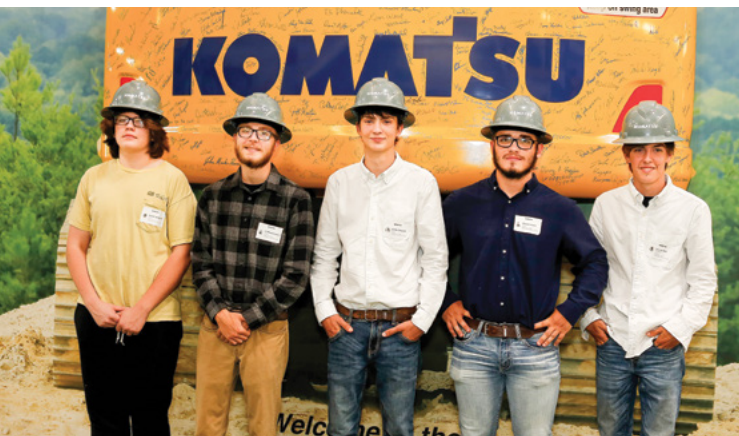
# Work-Based Learning

**Chattanooga State is committed to transforming education into a dynamic journey that integrates hands-on learning with academic rigor. Program Innovation isn't just a goal—it's a tactical journey that prepares our students for careers.**

## Tools of the Trade ▶

In June 2023, seven local automotive groups joined forces to launch the Automotive Toolkit Initiative, which donated \$81,000 to supply 15 fully stocked toolkits for TCAT at ChattState students. The automotive partners behind the award-winning initiative announced a goal to provide mentorship and job search support for graduates.

The automotive partners included Bowers Automotive Group, Mountain View Auto Group, Crown Automotive, Integrity Motors, Sonic Automotive, Acura of Chattanooga, and Lexus of Chattanooga/Capital Toyota.



## ▲ Komatsu Catalyst

A new paid pre-apprenticeship program that launched in September 2022 aims to prepare Chattanooga-area high school students for manufacturing careers. A year-long collaborative effort by ChattState, Komatsu, and other local partners, the program equips students to begin full-time apprenticeships at the College in industrial maintenance or welding after high school graduation.

## ▼ Futures in Freight

In July 2022, ChattState announced a Workforce Development Program designed to provide students with new job skills in the world of freight. The College's Chattanooga Freight Broker Academy aimed to prime students for lucrative careers as freight brokers, allowing them to find success without leaving Chattanooga.





# APPRENTICESHIPS



## Careers in Care

A partnership between ChattState and CHI Memorial Hospital allows students the unique opportunity to gain Medical Assistant training while working full-time and being paid. The one-year program offers on-the-job learning to prepare participants for a career with CHI. The apprenticeship prepares students to take the National Health Career Association's Certified Clinical Medical Assistant exam.



## Preparing Paralegals

Chambliss Law and Chattanooga State partnered to establish Tennessee's first college-sponsored registered program in the legal field to prepare students for careers as paralegals. In the full-time, industry-led apprenticeship program, Chambliss provides coursework and allows a flexible working schedule so students can complete on-the-job training.

## Construction Career Center Opens

To address the labor shortage and prepare students for important and impactful careers, The Construction Career Center opened in October 2022 with the ambitious goal of preparing some 200 students for careers in construction.

A collaborative project between the Associated General Contractors of East Tennessee, the City of Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Hamilton County Schools, and Chattanooga State Community College, the CCC is in the Avondale neighborhood on Roanoke Avenue.

The 28,000-square-foot facility supports both high school and adult learners.



*The Construction Career Center opens, Oct. 2022*



## Faculty Chairs & Fellows

With support from its partners, First Horizon Bank and Erlanger Health System, Chattanooga State each year recognizes faculty members who go above and beyond for their students.

Clomeisha Tumlin, department head and associate professor of business, was named the 2022 **First Horizon Business Chair of Excellence** for the second year in a row. In 2023, that distinction was given to Michael Largent, associate professor of graphic arts technology. “This is what work ethic will get you,” Largent said.



**Heather Akers**



**Lindsey O'Hagan**

Nursing instructors Heather Akers and Lindsey O'Hagan were named **Erlanger Nursing Chairs of Excellence** for the 2022-2023 school year. For the 2023-2024 year, ChattState and Erlanger recognized Kristi Argenbright and Lauren Fox.

“Success happens because you work hard and you prepare yourself for when those opportunities arise,” said Jim Coleman, Erlanger President and CEO.



**Clomeisha Tumlin with First Horizon Market President Jay Dale**

In January 2023, four faculty members were recognized for their outstanding commitment to teaching and learning. Drs. Stanley “Buck” Weiss and Matthew Guzman were named **Amanda Wynn Humanities & Fine Arts Fellows** for their proposal to develop a course titled The Graphic Novel in American Culture. Dr. Eric Neimi was also named an Amanda Wynn Humanities & Fine Arts Fellow for a proposal titled Appreciation of Popular Culture.



**Dr. Stanley Weiss**



**Dr. Matthew Guzman**



**Dr. Eric Neimi**

Dr. Skylar Davidson was named The **Bea Lyons Social & Behavioral Sciences Fellow** for a proposal for a research article on the role of open-source technologies in shaping adaption to increased automation in employment.

Faculty Fellows receive \$2,000 to support their work and \$1,000 in travel funds to a professional conference or event where they can present their work or gain inspiration.

## VW Gift Drives Dreams

In June 2023, Volkswagen of America, Audi of America, and the Collision Repair Education Foundation joined forces to donate 12 vehicles to ChattState's TCAT Collision Repair and Automotive Training programs.

Aimed at enhancing the education of aspiring automotive professionals, the collaboration has been instrumental in shaping the future of the automotive workforce in Tennessee and beyond.

“On this campus, real workforce development changes people's lives and builds the workforce for the future and fuels the economy,” said Weston Wamp, Hamilton County Mayor.



**A donated Volkswagen electric vehicle is displayed at Chattanooga State**





## Campus Beautification Day '23

In the wake of a cybersecurity attack that briefly halted operations at Chattanooga State, faculty and staff joined forces for a campus beautification day, exemplifying the resilience of the ChattState community. Now a semiannual tradition, Campus Beautification Day mirrors the unity forged in the face of unforeseen challenges.

## Two ChattState Employees Named 2023 Statewide Award Winners

In July, Janaria McIntosh and Dale Grisso were recognized with Statewide Outstanding Achievement Recognition (SOAR) awards.



*Janaria McIntosh is congratulated by State Rep. Greg Vital*

Beyond her work in the classroom, barber instructor McIntosh provides free haircuts to low-income individuals in the community.



*Dale Grisso receives a House Joint Resolution*

Grisso, the Financial Literacy Coordinator at the college, equips students with essential financial skills so students can navigate their futures in college and beyond.

Dr. Rebecca Ashford, college president, voiced her pride at the recognition of McIntosh and Grisso: "This recognition is a testament to their outstanding work and the profound impact they have on our students' lives."

## Chattanooga State Recognized as a 2023 Leader College of Distinction

Chattanooga State this year was designated as one of three Leader Colleges of Distinction in the nation by Achieving the Dream, a nonprofit dedicated to advancing community colleges.

From 2019 to 2023, ChattState's evidence-based best practices increased the success rates of students completing Gateway English and Math Courses while decreasing equity gaps. Meanwhile, overall success rates of credits completed rose, and the introduction of 7-week courses increased low-income student success by 14 percent.

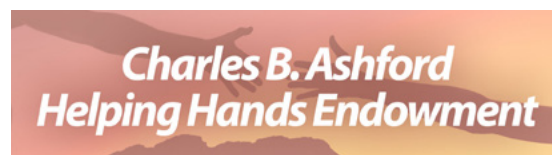


"This recognition from Achieving the Dream is a testament to our commitment to our mission to deliver accessible, innovative learning opportunities that surpass expectations to empower everyone in our community to learn without limits," said Dr. Rebecca Ashford, Chattanooga State President.



## College Advancement

**\$982,256** was awarded in institutional and foundation scholarships, including foundation scholarships at **\$470,092**. Grants totaling **\$4,932,950** were awarded. **ChattState's commitment to students is only possible thanks to grants and donations like those listed below.**



champion of the underdog and anyone who had fallen on hard times," said Dr. Ashford. "So, your gift [to this fund] is a real tribute to his life."

This fund is a safety net, meant to break down the barriers that prevent Chattanooga State students from continuing with their education. It is designed to keep them in school. Studies confirm that basic necessities are a real problem for our students: housing, utilities, transportation, and everyday facts of existence.

The connection between student finances and student success is real. The Chattanooga State Foundation is helping address financial emergencies with the new Charles B. Ashford Helping Hands Endowment, established by Dr. Rebecca Ashford in honor of her dad, who passed away in July 2022. "My dad was a very generous person. He was a

## '29 Days of Thanks and Giving' a Success

In November 2022, Chattanooga State spent 29 days raising funds for first-generation college students during a social media campaign titled "29 Days of Thanks & Giving." All told, \$54,560 was raised for the Tom Edd Wilson First in the Family Endowed Scholarship. The campaign was sponsored by First Horizon Foundation and Morning Pointe Senior Living, along with other donors and sponsors.

This scholarship provides financial assistance to Chattanooga State's first-generation college students. Chattanooga State welcomes thousands of students to its campus each semester, and approximately one out of every four students identify as first-generation college students.



## ChattState Wins 1 of 5 Tennessee Believes Grants for New Inclusive Higher Ed Initiative

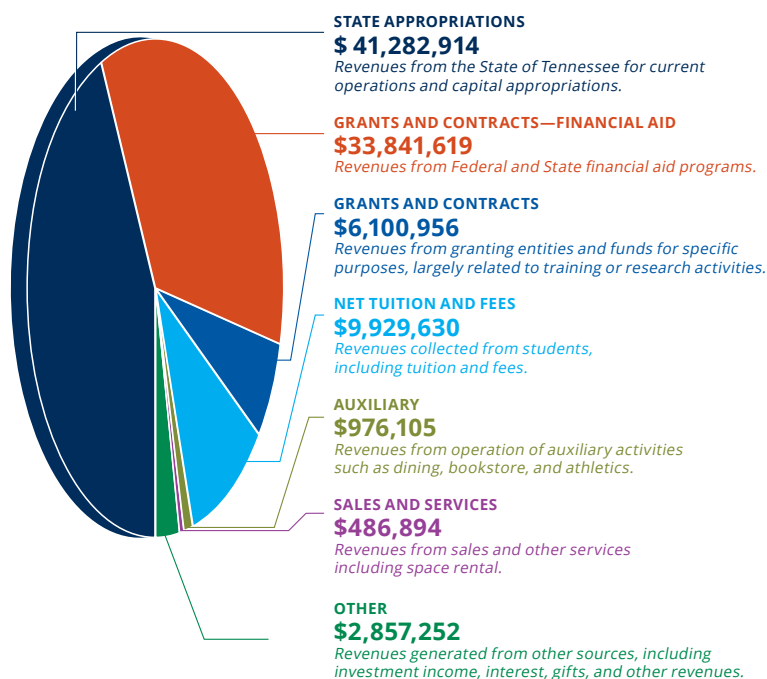


The Tennessee Believes Grant will help fund "Tiger Access," a student support program for learners with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Students who complete the two-year Tiger Access program will receive a certificate of completion and will graduate with job readiness training.

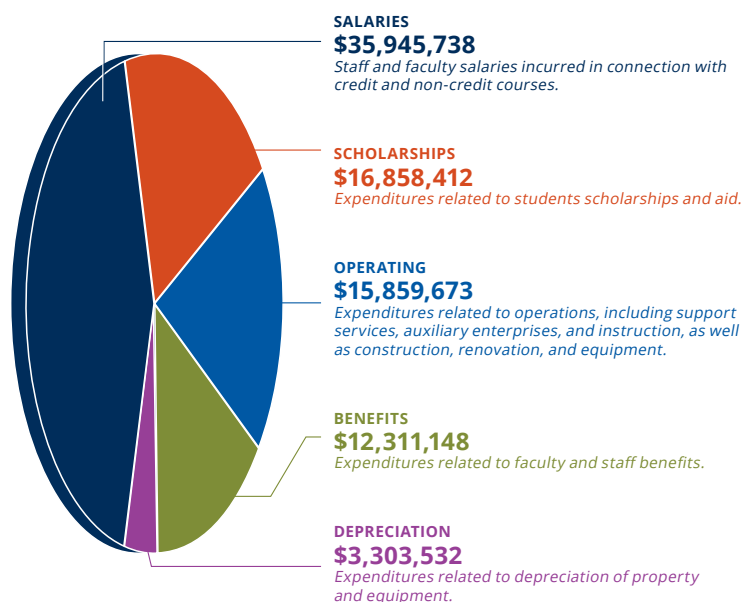
The College will receive \$411,917 over three years to create the Tiger Access Program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The two-year program will focus on life skills, career exploration, and job readiness for up to nine students in its first year.

# College and Foundation Financials

## College Revenue ..... \$95,475,369.23



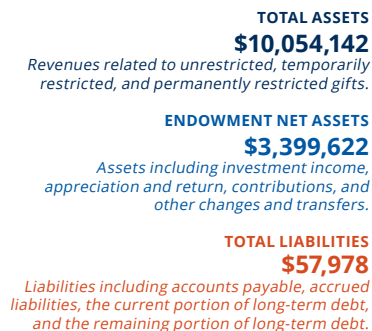
## College Expenses ..... \$84,278,504



## Total Private Giving ..... \$1,427,535



## Foundation Assets and Liabilities



## Foundation Spending ..... \$1,092,868







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Chattanooga State Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to Award the Associate Degree. Chattanooga State Community College also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Chattanooga State Community College may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, or call 404.679.4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website ([www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org)).