



Visit the College of
Education

Alumni and Impact

Support the College of
Education



October 2026

Education Elevated

From The College

“Put everything you’ve got into anything you do” — Bear Bryant

As the weather begins to cool, we move into the heart of the academic semester. There is so much going on, and it is truly an exciting time on campus!

We move into October celebrating an increase in enrollment in a number of our academic programs. We certainly congratulate our colleagues in Counseling, who are leading the way with enrollment growth of more than 25%! Overall, our College’s enrollment is down slightly, but our credit-hour production has increased. We continue our recruiting efforts for future semesters, and Maurice Gray is leading the way with numerous school and community visits.

We know all of you are busy, but please keep us posted so that we can celebrate your accomplishments and work. If you are presenting at a conference, let us know. Did you publish an article? Let us know! We want to recognize your successes with you. A big part of our job in the Dean's Office is providing you with the resources and opportunities to be successful, as well as celebrating your accomplishments.

This month, we are launching our undergraduate and graduate student advisory councils, and our College Faculty Council is hard at work figuring out the best ways that we can protect and enhance shared governance in the College. If you have ideas, please let Chris Mueller or me know.

We enjoyed seeing everyone who stopped by for the Grab-and-Go Breakfast last month and hope to see many of you at our Tea on Tuesday later this month on October 20. And, of course, an early Happy Homecoming!

Michael T. Miller
Dean, College of Education

What's Going On This Month

Oct. 1

Research Series

Professional Development

Granting: It's not for the Faint of Heart
Ball Hall 209 | 12:00-1:00 p.m

Oct. 7

Author Conversation | Jean Alicia Elster

UC River Room | 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Oct. 8

Measuring Success

Creating Effective Evaluation and Assessment Plans for Grants

Dr. Todd Zoblotsky, Director of the Center for Research in Education Policy (CREP)
FIT Fishbowl (203/205) and virtually via Teams | 1:00-2:00 p.m
[Register Here](#)

Oct. 10-13

Fall Break | No Classes
Enjoy Your Break

Oct. 16

Assistant to Associate Panel Discussion

UC Senate Chamber | 261

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Oct. 20

Tea on Tuesday
Join the Dean's Office for a Social Hour
Ball Hall 215 | 3:30-4:30 p.m.
RSVP | Any Wilson
lwilson10@memphis.edu

Oct. 23

Associate to Full Professor Panel
Discussion
UC Senate Chamber | 261
1:00-3:00 p.m.

Oct. 29

Communities of Research Scholars (CoRS) Kickoff
University Center Memphis Room (340) | 1:00-2:00 p.m.
[Register Here](#)

Oct. 30

Non-Tenure Track (Clinical, Research,
Teaching Professors Panel Discussion
UC Senate Chamber | 261
1:00-3:00 p.m.

Oct. 30

COE Alumni Hall of Fame Unveiling
Ball Hall | Office of Recruitment
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Research & Scholarship



Barnes and Hunter
Reimagine How Schools



New SCORE Grant
Continues UofM Work on

Recognize Black Girl Genius

Dr. Keishana L. Barnes, assistant professor of Special Education, and Dr. William Hunter, professor in the Department of Instruction and Curriculum Leadership, introduce Flow Theory for Black Girl Genius, a framework focused on how twice-exceptional Black girls learn, communicate and express creativity. Their work encourages educators to reconsider behaviors often viewed as misbehavior and recognize rhythm, creativity, cultural expression and improvisation as potential expressions of learning and intellectual strengths.

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Autism Clinic Partners with University Schools Through Behavior Support Grant

University Schools has received a Behavior Support Grant from the Tennessee Department of Education that will support a new partnership with the University of Memphis Autism Clinic. Led by Dr. Thouraya Al-Nasser, the clinic will provide direct services and support for University Schools students and teachers throughout the 2026–27 school year.

Ethical AI in K–12 Education

University High School and University of Memphis faculty are continuing their work exploring responsible uses of artificial intelligence in K–12 education through a new grant from the State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE). The project, one of nine selected for SCORE's AI Innovation Fund, will examine how AI can ethically support problem-solving and inquiry-based learning.

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Mohorn-Mintah Explores the Role of Sisterhood in Science Careers

Dr. Olayinka Mohorn-Mintah, assistant professor in the Department of Instruction and Curriculum Leadership, examines how relationships with Black women science professionals provided mentorship, affirmation and a sense of belonging throughout her journey toward a career in science education. Her research highlights the role these relationships can play in helping Black women navigate barriers in STEM and science education.

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Community Highlights



Department of Leadership Partners in Student-Athlete Development

The College of Education's Department of Leadership is collaborating with University Athletics on the Women's Athlete Leadership Lab. Meg Evans is leading the department's work on the pilot program, which gives women student-athletes opportunities to understand their strengths, navigate team dynamics, use their voices and practice leadership.

"Holistic student support reinforces our belief that every athlete is also a developing leader," Evans said. "Our goal is to prepare athletes not only to lead within their teams, but to recognize the impact they can have beyond the playing field or court."

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From Teacher Candidates to Award-Winning Educators

Just two years after graduating from the University of Memphis College of Education, Darcy Dawn Robinson and Ella Grace Decker are earning recognition for their work at Campus School. Learn how their COE preparation and mentorship helped shape them into award-winning educators.

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OTECP Residency Winners | September 2026



Morgan Roth

Student Teacher of the Month



Dr. George Falls

Supervisor of the Month



Khaelah Bass

Mentor Teacher of the Month

OTECP Announces September Residency Award Winners

The Office of Teacher Education and Clinical Practice has named Morgan Roth its Student Teacher of the Month, Khaelah Bass its Mentor Teacher of the Month and Dr. George Falls its Supervisor of the Month for September 2026.

[Read More](#)

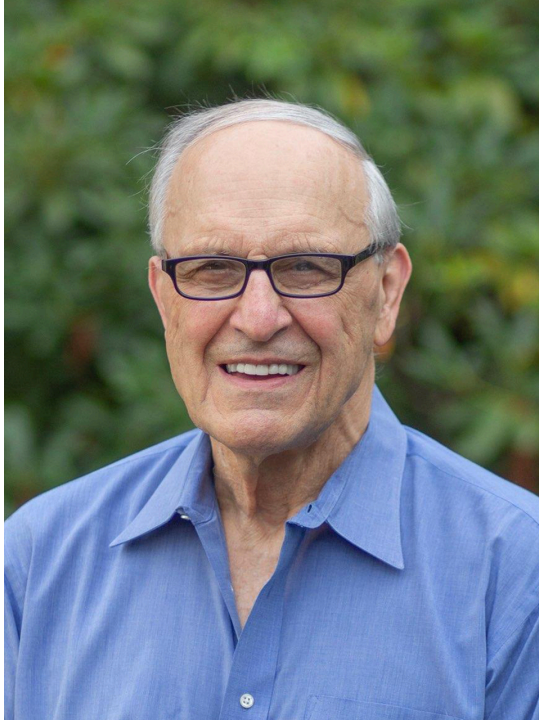


Instruction and Curriculum Leadership's Shelby Tate Receives Tiger Spotlight Award

Shelby Tate was recognized with the University of Memphis Tiger Spotlight Award for her commitment to supporting students. Tate was recognized for going above and beyond to help students, following up to ensure their needs are fully resolved and making a difference for students managing tight timelines.

Alumni Spotlight

Bob Finamore



Beyond the Football Field: Bob Finamore's 35 Years in Education

College of Education alumnus Bob Finamore came to Memphis to play football, but his experience at the University helped prepare him for a 35-year career as a teacher, coach and administrator. The 1968 graduate reflects on his time as a Tiger, the mentors who shaped him and a career dedicated to education.

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College of Education

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