OUR PERSISTENCE IS OUR SUPERPOWER
MISSION

HT nurtures a legacy of leadership and excellence in education, connecting knowledge, power, passion, and values.

VISION

A connected world where diversity of thought matters.

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Our persistence is our superpower.

As I write this message and reflect upon my six-year tenure as president and CEO of Huston-Tillotson University, five words reverberate throughout my mind to describe East Austin’s intellectual heartbeat—our persistence is our superpower.

First established in 1875, Austin’s oldest institution of higher learning and only HBCU has survived Reconstruction, Jim Crow laws, the Great Depression, two world wars, recessions, and a myriad of civil rights challenges. Persistence is how we came to be Austin’s oldest institution of higher learning and only HBCU, educating and transforming student lives for 146 years. Persistence is how we have formed and nurtured relationships with local and global community partners to elevate the hard work and the heart work of HT.

With persistence, we don’t just graduate students; we graduate families. With persistence, we lifted an entire brick-and-mortar institution online in only two weeks, ensuring our students received exemplary classroom instruction and vital academic support services virtually. With persistence, our students reached the degree finish line during an unprecedented global pandemic. With persistence, we continue to embody our core values—IDEAL (integrity, diversity, excellence, accountability, leadership).

I am a firm adherent of the oft-cited African proverb, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” The unparalleled and extraordinary successes that the university has experienced throughout the past five years can be attributed only to our students’ collective efforts and the persistence of HT faculty and staff, alumni, friends, and community partners.

This “Five-Year Report (2015–2020)” is our persistence personified, illustrating our unified triumphs, groundbreaking initiatives, and effervescent moments of joy. May every page exemplify the university’s progression: launching our superlative MBA program, our designation as the only All-Steinway School in Central Texas, our African American Male Teacher Initiative with Apple, and so much more. May every story inspire you, encourage you, and unequivocally demonstrate that our persistence is our superpower.

As I look to the future, I am confident that HT will continue to propel to even greater heights with excellence. We have persistence fully on our side.

In Union we find our Strength,
Colette Pierce Burnette, EdD
President and CEO
Huston-Tillotson University
1875 | Rev. G. J. Tillotson establishes Tillotson College

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1877 | Tillotson Collegiate and Normal Institute is chartered

1878 | Samuel Huston College is moved to Austin

1879 | Allen Hall, first building on the Tillotson campus, is constructed

1913 | Students produce exterior cement blocks for the Old Administration Building, now Anthony and Louise Viaer-Alumni Hall

1930 | Mary E. Branch named Tillotson College’s first woman president

1944 | Jackie Robinson appointed as men’s basketball coach of Samuel Huston College and also serves as athletic director

1952 | Huston-Tillotson College created by the merger of Samuel Huston College and Tillotson College

1965 | John G. Taylor King Sr. becomes president, serving until 1988

1966 | Jackie Robinson appointed as men’s basketball coach of Samuel Huston College and also serves as athletic director

1977 | Huston-Tillotson University becomes a university

1980 | Record growth pushes HT enrollment toward 1,000 students

1985 | The first cohort of students are enrolled in the Master’s in Educational Leadership program with students graduating in 2016

1990 | Larry L. Earvin installed as president

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2005 | The first cohort of students are enrolled in the Master’s in Educational Leadership program with students graduating in 2016

2009 | Record growth pushes HT enrollment toward 1,000 students

2015 | 736 solar panels are installed to support sustainability efforts, giving HT the most on-site solar power generation of any private historically Black institution, and providing 8-10% of the University’s total power needs.

2015 | Seventeen students enrolled in the Adult Degree Program are the first to receive an associate degree

2017 | Huston-Tillotson University joins the elite number of universities as an All-Steinway School

2019 | Huston-Tillotson University joins the elite number of universities as an All-Steinway School

2020 | The first cohort of students enrolled in the Master’s in Business Administration program earn their diplomas

2020 | Huston-Tillotson University moves to online classes due to the worldwide coronavirus pandemic

2021 | University celebrates combined Class of 2020 and 2021 commencement.

2015 | Colette Pierce Burnette named the fifth president and the first woman president of the merged Huston-Tillotson University

2016 | The Sandra Joy Anderson Community Health and Wellness Center opens on the campus to provide both medical and behavioral health care services in a primary care setting, making HT unique by housing a Federally Qualified Health Center on the campus

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HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY, the oldest institution of higher learning in Austin, Texas, has roots dating back to 1875. HT is an independent, church-related, historically black, four-year liberal arts institution located on a 23-acre tree-lined campus near downtown in East Austin. Huston-Tillotson University’s mission is to nurture a legacy of leadership and excellence in education, connecting knowledge, power, passion, and values. The University offers associate and master’s degrees in addition to Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in more than 19 areas of study.

“IF YOU WANT TO GO FAST, GO ALONE. IF YOU WANT TO GO FAR, GO TOGETHER.”
–AFRICAN PROVERB
Huston-Tillotson University Completed the Installation of Sixth President Colette Pierce Burnette with Four Days of Events

THE HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY Board of Trustees announced Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette as the institution’s sixth President and Chief Executive Officer, effective July 1, 2015. Burnette becomes the first female president of the merged Huston-Tillotson University and only the second female president in the institutions’ 146-year history.

"Wheels Up" Huston-Tillotson University were the words conveyed by Burnette throughout her series of installation events that included the investiture, reception, a community-service project, fine arts performance, musical concert, gala, and a worship service. Burnette, a United States Air Force retired Lieutenant Colonel military spouse, shared the airplane hyperbole with the crowd gathered in King-Seabrook Chapel as a way to express that Huston-Tillotson University was about to "take off."

With Texas Senator Kirk Watson to her right, City of Austin Mayor Steve Adler on the left, representatives from the higher education community, The United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, as well as faculty, staff, and students who witnessed the historical ceremony, Burnette delivered a keynote speech during the investiture that addressed the institution’s challenges while sharing the vision. "The challenges may seem daunting, but they are not insurmountable. This is a noble cause," Burnette said.

"HT is a jewel in the violet crown of Austin and the great state of Texas," Burnette concluded.

In 2012, Burnette served as interim President at Pierce College in Puyallup, Washington, leading the college within a district environment and working collaboratively with executive leadership to serve more than 30,000 students each year. Burnette had an extensive career at Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, from 1999 - 2012 that scaled to Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer, providing financial, analytical, physical plant, auxiliary services, capital construction, and human resources leadership to achieve mission-based goals. In addition, at Central State University Burnette served as Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer.

Her educational accomplishments include earning an Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration at the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia, PA, a Master of Science Degree in Administration with honors from Georgia College in Milledgeville, GA in 1983 after completing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering from Ohio State University in Columbus, OH in 1980. In 2003, Burnette was accepted and completed the Harvard Graduate School’s Education Management Development Program.

The Gala also highlighted faculty and staff with 20 or more years of service that Burnette referred to as the "jewels" of the institution. The Gala also highlighted faculty and staff with 20 or more years of service that Burnette referred to as the "jewels" of the institution.

Burnette brought her experienced leadership in higher education with a deep commitment to student success to HT. In 2012, Burnette served as interim President at Pierce College in Puyallup, Washington, leading the college within a district environment and working collaboratively with executive leadership to serve more than 30,000 students each year. Burnette had an extensive career at Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, from 1999 - 2012 that scaled to Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer, providing financial, analytical, physical plant, auxiliary services, capital construction, and human resources leadership to achieve mission-based goals. In addition, at Central State University Burnette served as Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer.

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The 11th street beautification between Chicon Street and Chalmers Avenue, Step Africa performance, musical concert, investiture, gala, and worship service held affirmations of the President’s choice to guide HT.

Rousing HT concert choir performances included some of the president’s favorite selections and appearances by Jenny Cruz, Donnie Ray Albert, and Roland Carter. Carter directed the HT concert choir with his arrangement of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" that ended with perfect pitch high notes by the choir that left the audience applauding and cheering.

"HT is a jewel in the violet crown of Austin and the great state of Texas," Burnette concluded.
The Honorable Steve Adler
Mayor, City of Austin

Theme: Your Diploma Is a License to Fail
Make Lemonade Out of Lemons

The 2016 graduation ceremony represents the first HT Commencement Convocation for President Burnette, the first ceremony conferring the master’s degree, and the largest graduating class to date.

Reverend Zan Wesley Holmes Jr., ’56

Theme: Are We Working on the Right Assignment? God Who Has Brought Us from a Mighty Long Way

Holmes, Class of 1956, is pastor emeritus of the 6,000-member St. Luke “Community” United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas, where he served for 28 years. He was adjunct professor of preaching at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University for 26 years.

2018
Michael Gibson

Theme: Legacy and Impact: The Education You’ve Received from this Great University is Your Launching Pad to Do Something Great

Gibson has more than 25 years of experience creating, developing, and running successful corporations. He served as chair of Ebony Media. He is currently the co-founder and chair of CVG Group, with offices in Austin and Houston. CVG is the parent company of Transportation Demand Management, a motorcoach and transportation services company; Offiset, a professional staffing services company; and EBONY Media Operations, a full-service media company and home to the EBONY and JET brands, as well as their digital and print publications.

2019
Michele Thornton Ghee

Theme: Truths That I Have Learned

Ghee serves as co-founder and managing partner of the Stratechic Alliance, a consultancy that helps clients embrace, leverage, cultivate, and nurture their uniqueness in a way that drives and delivers results. She has managed more than a billion dollar in revenue for some of the world’s largest media companies, including CNN, A&E, the History Channel, the Weather Channel, and BET Networks/BET Her. Ghee is a strategic force inside and outside the bounds of corporate America. This commencement ceremony was heartfelt for President Burnette, since it was the class that arrived when she came in 2015.

COMMENCEMENT: CELEBRATING THE GENIUS GENERATION
practice, ensuring that students and staff feel connected, included, validated, and empowered.

He earned his master’s degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, upon graduation from HT with a bachelor’s degree in history.

Nancy P. Crayton-Jones, Class of 1953, is the 2019 recipient of the I.D.E.A.L. Alumni Award. She has advice for those connected to HT. “Stay focused, don’t forget where you came from, and give back to help other students accomplish their goals in life.”

In 1995, Crayton-Jones established the Adams/Williams/Jones Endowed Scholarship at HT. The scholarship, established in memory of former HT choir director Bert Adams, music director Nathaniel Williams, and her late husband, Vernal Orlando Jones Jr., provides Alumni scholarships to students majoring in music.

Crayton-Jones graduated from the originally segregated L. C. (Laurine Cecil) Anderson High School in Austin in 1949, where she played in the high school band. She remembers Nathaniel “Nat” Williams’s 1949 arrival at then Tillotson College, where he established the college’s band program. Crayton-Jones, like her sister before her, was awarded a music scholarship because she had played in the Anderson High School band. The college’s band started with 14 students, but by 1953 there was a symphony orchestra, the Hawk’s Jazz Band, a concert band, and a choir.

Crayton-Jones remembers her decision making at the time. It was a choice between getting a job at fifty cents an hour plus bus fare or going to college. Crayton-Jones chose HT. She remembers how the campus impressed her: the old halls, such as the five-story Allen Hall that housed freshmen and sophomore women, the clay basketball court, the two-story cottage that was home to most of the athletics, the Even Hall science building, and the college library that was originally located in the administration building—now the renovated Anthony and Loue Viaer-Alumni Hall. But what Jones remembers most is her education and her abiding relationship with former classmates and their families.

Among her proudest moments were her election as the 1994 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Outstanding Alumna, her service as secretary to the HT International Alumni Association, and her representing the alumni association on HT’s Board of Trustees for nine years. Crayton-Jones is also HT’s 1994 honorary recipient of the doctor of humane letters degree for her continuing support and perseverance.

Crayton-Jones knows about “doors of opportunity.” Her music scholarship to HT in 1949 changed her world. Her pride in HT extends to the accomplishments of fellow classmates and HT alumni who range from serving in advanced governmental positions to inventors and noted scientists. “I’ll never stop giving back,” she says.


Leonard previously served as the chief of staff to the senior advisor (Beverly Perry) for the mayors of Washington, D.C. He also served as assistant secretary for civil rights at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). He was nominated by Former President Barack Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on April 2, 2009.

Under Leonard’s leadership, the USDA achieved several historic accomplishments. To address longstanding allegations of past discrimination, Leonard spearheaded an effort to settle class-action lawsuits with Native American and African American farmers and ranchers. He also established a voluntary claims process for women and Latinx farmers and ranchers, which provided payments of more than $2.5 billion combined and more than $118 million in debt forgiveness. Notably, during Leonard’s tenure, there was an increase in civil rights trainings within USDA nationwide and a 25% decrease in farmer complaints nationwide.

Before joining USDA, Leonard served as executive director of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC). While at the CBC, Leonard managed the daily activities of the caucus and helped guide the legislative policy for its 43 congressional members.

Prior to his role at the CBC, Leonard served as executive director of the Black Leadership Caucus (CLBC). While at the CBC, Leonard spearheaded an effort to settle class-action lawsuits with Native American and African American farmers and ranchers. He also established a voluntary claims process for women and Latinx farmers and ranchers, which provided payments of more than $2.5 billion combined and more than $118 million in debt forgiveness. Notably, during Leonard’s tenure, there was an increase in civil rights trainings within USDA nationwide and a 25% decrease in farmer complaints nationwide.

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Mr. Harris was HT’s honoree for the United Negro College Fund in 2010 in New Orleans and New York. The service and support of Mr. and Mrs. Harris to HT was recognized in 1994 when each received an honorary degree. With their special focus on faith, community, and service, the Harrises are servant-leaders in society, in the church, and at HT. They are leaders who are theologically grounded, community minded, and committed.

The 2019 Charter Day Convocation honored the following alumni for their contributions:

ALICE FAYE HARRIS, CLASS OF 1962, AND ALVIN B. HARRIS, CLASS OF 1963

CELEBRATING MORE THAN 55 YEARS of love and devotion, the Harrises also share a passion for community, church, and their alma mater, HT. Mrs. Harris, as a result of her HT education, enjoyed a 41-year career as an educator in the Houston Independent School District, teaching grades four through six and music education.

Mr. Harris, the first in his family to complete a higher education degree, left HT and pursued a managerial career at Sears, Roebuck and Company for 35 years, where he blazed the trail to open the doors of employment for African Americans, while the department under his supervision earned meritorious awards for outstanding service.

Mr. and Mrs. Harris established the Alvin Burnett Harris and Alice Faye Harris Endowed Scholarship at HT and continue to serve their alma mater through their involvement in the Houston Chapter of the HT International Alumni Association. Mr. Harris was HT’s honoree for the United Negro College Fund in 2010 in New Orleans and New York. The service and support of Mr. and Mrs. Harris to HT was recognized in 1994 when each received an honorary degree.
A DREAM BECAME A REALITY in 2017 when HT received an $800,000 donation to purchase Steinway pianos. The purchase made HT the only institution of higher learning in Central Texas, the fourth HBCU in the country, and the 196th college/university in the world to earn the coveted title of an All-Steinway School.

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The pianos were unveiled during the Charter Day Convocation, featuring Steinway artists Marcus Roberts and the Marcus Roberts Trio and Estivan Alvaro. Roberts also conducted a master class for the music students and the community.

The reputation of the Steinway pianos is known around the world, with 98% of all pianists performing with orchestras worldwide choosing the Steinway piano exclusively. For more than 160 years, Steinway & Sons has been dedicated to making the finest pianos in the world, setting the uncompromising standard for sound, touch, beauty, and investment value.

"Huston-Tillotson University has made a firm commitment to providing new opportunities for students and we are tremendously proud to welcome them to our family of All-Steinway Schools," says Rom Louby, CEO of Steinway Musical Instruments.

The music program got its start when Samuel Huston College and Tillotson College originated in the early 1860s. The colleges' two departments combined when Huston-Tillotson College was formed by the merger of Samuel Huston College and Tillotson College in 1952.

The addition of 15 Steinway pianos is an unprecedented commitment to Austin’s oldest institution of higher learning and only HBCU. This places the University’s music program among the very best in the country and worldwide that choose the Steinway piano exclusively. The Steinway pianos come in a variety of models to meet the needs of the students and faculty.

Music is a force of good and well-being in the culture of the HT community. Through concerts and other performances, the benefit of the program has expanded around the globe. The university’s music program brings together students, faculty, alumni, and others to enjoy, experience, reflect, participate, and learn. It is a critical component of the institution’s mission to nurture a legacy of leadership and excellence in education.

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THE DOWNS-JONES LIBRARY is the central study space on campus and the source of literary programming, ranging from the launch of the President’s Book Club, the longstanding Poetry on the Patio, and the book club of selected works available to download. Whether a reader is ready for a psychological thriller such as *The Good Sister*, a dark fantasy such as *The Prison Healer*, or a romance such as *Open Water*, the library is a go-to for a good read.

The library houses original documents such as the “Doctrines of Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church,” full collections of magazines, and albums of past programs and meetings as part of the archives.

Located between the Davage-Durden Student Union, Evans Industrial Hall, and across from the Jackson-Moody Humanities and Fine Arts building, Downs-Jones Library is one of the campus wi-fi (“AirRam”) hotspots with reliable high-speed internet. It is also a popular area for students to relax between classes, do research, read a magazine, check out a novel or work on projects. The library is open to all students, faculty, staff, and to the general public for research, tours, and gatherings.

The split-level library was completed in 1960 and is named for Karl Everett Downs, president of Samuel Huston College from 1943 to 1948, and William H. Jones, president of Tillotson College from 1944 to 1952. Located on the main floor are general reading rooms, the computer laboratory, main stacks, and the circulation desk. The lower level includes media services, a classroom, and additional reading rooms. The library is ADA-compliant and now equipped with an elevator, energy-efficient lighting with sensors, new heating and air-conditioning units, upgraded window units, advanced technological enhancements, and a new roof with solar panels.

Three professional librarians assist students with exploring, using, and citing the library’s print and online resources, as well as providing media equipment and technology to the campus community. The University archives contain University documents, artwork, photographs, articles, proclamations, and other artifacts of HT’s history.

Specifically, the library has evolved in the following ways:
• Enhanced its print book collection offerings
• Upgraded the library catalog to OCLC Worldshare Management Services (a cloud-based library management platform)
• Facilitated library programs for students, faculty, staff, and community
• Sponsored noted author visits
• Provided usage of study rooms for independent study and collaborative meetings
• Launched digital archival collections

During the pandemic the Downs-Jones Library provided virtual services to meet student academic needs. Library staff remained available online to support HT’s students, faculty, and staff via virtual chat services. We added academic video streaming services, digital magazines, and e-book/audiobook collections. We provided library orientations, information literacy, Juneteenth, and book club virtual programs. Additionally, the library created and provided tutorial videos that faculty could embed in their canvas courses to assist students in learning how to access library resources.”
Dr. Jennifer Miles, Director, Center for Academic Innovation & Transformation, leads the Center for Academic Innovation and Technology (CAIT). HT’s CAIT2 Coding Academy is a collaborative project supported by the Apple Community Education Initiative. The Academy encompasses components to help prepare faculty to bring coding, creativity, and community connected learning experiences to Huston-Tillotson University’s CAIT2 Coding Academy is a collaborative project supported by the Apple Community Education Initiative. The goal of the initiative is to help prepare faculty to bring coding, creativity, and community connected learning experiences to Huston-Tillotson University. Through training academies, selected educators receive support to guide a small student-group to develop and implement a plan to integrate coding into their programs using Everyone Can Create and Everyone Can Code, and build curriculum based on iOS Intro to App Development and iOS App development with SWIFT.
Meet Our Inaugural Apple Pre-Ed Scholars 2020

IN CELEBRATION OF COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK, Huston-Tillotson University announced it will become a community center for Coding and Creativity as part of Apple’s Community Education Initiative and Tennessee State University's HBCU C2 initiative designed to bring coding and creativity experiences to historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and their communities.

"HBCU C2 (which stands for Coding and Creativity), affords HT the opportunity to empower both our students and community with a 21st Century technological-based vision to experiential learning," said Dr. Burnette, "Powerful initiatives, such as our HBCU C2 Coding Center, help remove barriers, common amongst underserved communities, and create pipelines of educational equity and sustainable futures. HT is the intellectual heartbeat of East Austin. Having the opportunity to teach Apple’s SWIFT programming language in a manner that promotes our community’s rich history, will not only contribute to a strong in-demand workforce, but cultivate a perpetual legacy of student and community leaders, as well."

Faculty leaders from HT will participate in Apple’s ongoing Community Education Initiative Learning Series to learn about coding and app development. As part of that ongoing professional development, educators will explore innovative ways to engage with learners using Apple’s comprehensive curriculum, which utilizes its easy-to-learn Swift programming language.

As part of its Community Education Initiative, Apple is supporting HT with equipment and professional development to help the University become the pre-eminent HBCU C2 community center to bring coding and creativity to Central Texas. ▲

HT and Apple Launch Groundbreaking African American Male Teacher Initiative

THE APPLE PRE-ED SCHOLARS PROGRAM, housed within HT’s 100 African American Male Teacher Initiative funded by Apple, provides one year of scholarship support to high-achieving HT freshmen who intend to pursue a career in education. The African American Male Teacher Initiative is one of the many programs supported within HT’s Apple Community Education Initiative partnership.

Currently African American males make up less than 2% of all educators. The initiative supports teaching careers in the following fields: English, history, kinesiology, mathematics, as well as music and science with an education minor. Scholars are selected on the basis of financial need, academic performance, demonstration of leadership, commitment to service, and dedication to pursuing a career in the education field. The award covers all tuition, fees, room and board for an academic year with a three-year renewal scholarship, dependent on meeting scholarship requirements, persistence toward graduation, demonstrated financial need, and availability of funding.

HT was awarded a Certificate of Commendation from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for raising the percentage of prepared teachers who identify as teachers of color for the 2018-2019 academic year. This commendation from the TEA highlights the work of the University preparing African American teacher candidates. ▲
With a goal of diversifying the K-12 teaching pipeline, HT has collaborated with Apple as part of the African American Male Teacher initiative to offer one-year scholarships—which covers tuition, room and board—to eligible first-year students planning to pursue an education career.

The Center also raises consciousness to address environmental issues, acknowledging the disproportionate impact that environmental degradation has historically had on marginalized communities and seeking to reform the systems that perpetuate that inequitable pattern.

Programs are in place that empower students to contribute to the construction of sustainable societies via:

- **Environmental Justice Major**—The new bachelor’s degree in environmental justice makes HT one of the only institutions in the country to offer this field of study at an undergraduate level. Students apply an interdisciplinary approach to address environmental issues with an equity perspective.

- **Building Green Justice Forum**—HT’s annual environmental justice symposium brings together students, community members, activists, and researchers to enrich the intellectual life, and opportunity for shared action, for both campus and community.

The award-winning student group Green Is the New Black® engages students and their peers in education and outreach initiatives that link HT’s sustainability efforts to environmental groups and schools throughout Austin. Students participate globally in events such as the Conference of the Parties with a HT student attending COP-21 held in Paris, France. Students are at the table at the HBCU Student Climate Collaborative run by the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice.

The Dumpster Project attracted worldwide attention, being an innovative program that turned a dumpster into a sustainable home. More broadly, the Dumpster Project is a way to engage and educate about sustainability and environmental awareness. More than 12,000 learners have interacted with the Dumpster Project program, which includes reservations for a night’s stay.

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With a goal of diversifying the K-12 teaching pipeline, HT has collaborated with Apple as part of the African American Male Teacher initiative to offer one-year scholarships—which covers tuition, room and board—to eligible first-year students planning to pursue an education career.

**HT’S CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (CSEJ) was created in 2014 to centralize and amplify efforts to improve the environmental sustainability of the campus. The Center also coordinates and supports academic and community-facing programs.**

Innovative efforts include the installation of a 246-kilowatt rooftop solar array across three buildings and a solar charging station, helping to build student engagement. Elevating the University’s sustainability efforts attracted support from entities such as the Texas Parks and Wildlife partnership to fund faculty/student research on Austin urban wildlife in tandem with creation of an urban wildlife concentration within the biology program.

HT is also host for Earth Day Austin. The festival was the largest gathering on campus during its 2018 debut with more than 200 vendors. The long-lasting effects included transforming spaces for greening projects such as an organic food garden, rain garden, and bluebonnet restoration.

The Center also raises consciousness to address environmental issues, acknowledging the disproportionate impact that environmental degradation has historically had on marginalized communities and seeking to reform the systems that perpetuate that inequitable pattern.

Programs are in place that empower students to contribute to the construction of sustainable societies via:

- **Environmental Justice Major**—The new bachelor’s degree in environmental justice makes HT one of the only institutions in the country to offer this field of study at an undergraduate level. Students apply an interdisciplinary approach to address environmental issues with an equity perspective.

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Our STEM Research Scholars Program Embodies Student Empowerment

HT’s Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Research Scholars Program empowers HT students to develop critical and scientific thinking, proficiency with new technologies, collaboration, teamwork, and communication abilities while they pursue their research projects with awareness of the societal impacts of research—a model called Science + Social Justice.

STEM Research Scholars conduct hands-on scientific research projects with faculty mentors at HT and collaborating partner institutions. Students develop the skills they need for a STEM career or graduate study as they research relevant scientific questions. Scholars receive stipends, mentorship, and the opportunity to travel to scientific conferences and external research labs.

Scholars continue to present their work at external scientific conferences and at HT events, including HT’s own annual STEM Research Scholars Symposium, the annual Digital Health Student Innovation Forum, and, most recently, the Community Engaged Research Forum. The scholars also host a campus STEM Week each fall. Past/current grant support during the past five years totals $1.3 million from funders including Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The program is directed by Dr. Amanda Masino, HT associate professor of biology and chair of natural sciences.

Project Highlights from the STEM Research Scholars

HT/Dean STEM Research Scholars: HT biology and computer science students worked with HT faculty members to develop a student research project on the Heart Health Disparities project. Student teams used big-data approaches to investigate why African-American and Latinx patients have higher rates of disease and/or worse outcomes when compared to non-Hispanic White patients.

HT/TPWD STEM Research Scholars: This collaboration research project with the TPWD focuses on urban coyotes. Students conducted field and lab work to better understand urban coyote diet, behaviors, and roles as environmental sentinels. HT student interns work at various TPWD units over the summer, including wildlife, marketing, outdoor education, and information technology.

HT/Measure/Capacity Catalyst STEM Research Scholars: HT collaborated with nonprofits Measure and Capacity Catalyst and co-created a Community Engaged Research course to train scholars in interdisciplinary and equity-informed research methods, including an investigation of the history of racism in research. Students applied their skills to usual area nonprofits (Black Women in Business, Chance 1, DJ Bling Foundation, Goodwill Excel Center, and Texas Justice Initiative) with their real-world data challenges.

The St. David’s Foundation Scholars program was launched in 2016 and graduated its first cohort of students in 2020. Eligible career tracks include medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, physical therapy, optometry, nursing, physician assistant, radiology, medical technology, biomedical engineering, and other allied health professions. The partnership between HT and the St. David’s Foundation strives to bridge the deficit in our health care system through intentional support of the next generation of health care professionals and by providing diverse opportunities in social justice and health equity.

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The University’s legacy is influenced by our graduates who embody our core values while making outstanding contributions to their profession and community.

Several alumni who have exemplified the University’s core values, known as I.D.E.A.L., have been recognized through the years.

INTEGRITY
We believe in honesty, sincerity, and responsibility.

DIVERSITY
We recognize and value the differences that enrich our educational environment.

EXCELLENCE
We are committed to the highest standards of expectation and achievement.

ACCOUNTABILITY
We believe in taking responsibility for our actions and our outcomes.

LEADERSHIP
We set an example and provide an environment that cultivates tomorrow’s leaders.
#IAMThePipeline – HT Prepares Male Students for the K-12 Classroom

Increasing the number of African-American male teachers is one of Huston-Tillotson University’s top priorities. The undergraduate programs serve as a natural pipeline with the Master of Education Degree in Educational Leadership with Principal Certification elevating the goal to the administrator level.

Recent male graduates Raoul C. Howard, ’06; Corey M. Wiggins, ’06; Gabriel Russell, ’18; and Jared Breckenridge, ’21 are just a few examples of graduates changing the classroom dynamic.

Mentor Russell was living his calling through the Kealing Men’s Mentorship Program while enrolled at HT. Youn men looked up to him, especially when he was in his business suit, crown of rubies, and sparkling sash across his chest as Mister Huston-Tillotson University.

Russell launched his career with the Austin Independent School District as a teacher at Barbara Jordon Elementary School.

Wiggins has six years of teaching experience working with students and parents of Title 1 campuses and is currently the Eighth Grade Assistant Principal at Sarah Lively Middle School within the Austin Independent School District. He stated, “As grade level team leader, I have fine-tuned my leadership skills, mentoring new teachers and planning logistics of campus grade level activities. My growth as an educational leader has afforded me the opportunity to serve as director of After-School Targeted interventions Director for Math and Language Arts.”

## Meet Mpho Alice Lethoba

LETHOBA EARNED HT’s bachelor’s degree in Business Administration with a concentration in accounting. She earned a business analytics master’s degree from Bentley University, located in Boston, MA.

Lethoba established her leadership skills on campus as the Student Government Association treasurer, Toastmaster’s International president, National Association of Black Accountants vice president, Golden Key International Honors Society vice president, a member of the Delta Mu Delta International Honors Society, and served as a University Ambassador. The Kingdom of Lesotho native is employed with SALT Tax Associate – PwC.

### Master’s Graduates Charting New Paths

**The Master of Business Administration** degree was launched in 2019 with five students completing the 12-course, 36-credit hour course designed for working individuals. The MBA graduates are: Juanita Budd, Sulipsa Luque, Ashley McClary, D’Janae Robinson, and Thomas St. Julien.

Juanita Budd graduated with “High Distinction” honors. Budd was offered and accepted a new job immediately upon graduating with the MBA degree. She is the Director Project Management at Equus Workforce Solutions, located in Arlington, Texas. Equus Workforce Solutions is a comprehensive provider of workforce development services in North America guided by a mission changing lives, advancing economies, and helping communities thrive. She previously the Executive Director of Austin Free-Net (AFN) where she led the strategic direction of AFN, ensuring that the organization stayed relevant with the rapid changes in the technology industry. The MBA program “enhanced my leadership and executive management skills.”

Juanita Budd

Sulipsa Luque

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Austin’s Faith Community Champions Huston-Tillotson University

SUSTAINING THE GRIT AND RESILIENCE OF OUR FOUNDERS

Huston-Tillotson University – 1952
- In Union, Strength
- 1875 - The United Church of Christ

In 1870s with hopes of establishing a school for freed African Americans. Richardson soon met Rev. Jeremiah Webster, an African American Methodist preacher. With Webster’s help and contacts, the two men started a schoolhouse for Blacks in 1875.

Sadly, the Klu Klux Klan burned down the school, and when Richardson and Webster rebuilt it, Dallas instituted teacher exams that were intentionally difficult to pass, so the school could not legally reopen. Worse still, Webster passed away during this troublesome period.

Instead, Richardson relocated the school to Austin, Texas. He later received funding from an Iowa philanthropist, Samuel Huston, allowing Richardson’s small school to blossom into Samuel Huston College.

The struggles facing Richardson and Webster were daunting, yet they faced them courageously and remained committed to their goals of maintaining a school for African Americans.

During the Austin relocation, classes of the predecessor institution, Samuel Huston College, were housed in the basement of Wesley United Methodist Church, established in 1865 during the Civil War era. Wesley, currently under the guidance of Pastor Sylvester Chase, and its congregation have extended steadfast support, standing with students facing housing, scholarships, financial donations, and spiritual comfort. HT celebrates that union annually through a shared University Day worship at Wesley that spotlights the concert choir and features the president as the keynote speaker. The day culminates with a fellowship reception.

Congregations such as Austin Stone Community Church, one of the most significant ways The United Methodist Church helps make quality education accessible to all is through the Black College Fund (BCF). The fund supports Huston-Tillotson University and other historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) related to the church — the largest number of black colleges and universities receiving funding from any church body in the United States.

These 11 institutions play an indispensable role in shaping diverse young leaders for the church and the world. UM-related black colleges and universities offer a chance to everyone with a dream and a commitment to excel — regardless of race, class, gender or ethnic heritage. They also extend important educational opportunities to countless underserved and first-generation college students who might not be able to pursue a degree otherwise, despite their talents, skills and passions.

Great Mount Zion

Greater Mount Zion, under the leadership of Pastor Gaylon Clark, serves the community through their relevant Bible teaching with an aim to ensure that those that they reach know God and grow spiritually. Greater Mount Zion is a staunch financial supporter of Huston-Tillotson University with a $451,989 investment during 2020 Fall to ensure that HT students have the financial resources needed to succeed, First United Methodist Church, under the leadership of Senior Pastor Taylor Fuerst believes that the church and the UM-related black colleges and universities offer an opportunity for transformation in all our lives and the community that binds us together.”

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Meet HT Star Assistant Professor Jennine Krueger

"PROFESSOR KRUEGER is one of my top faculty," said Dean of College of Arts and Sciences Michael Hirsch. She continues to be a student and faculty favorite being voted best faculty four times in the last five years either for homecoming or end of the year awards by the students. She was then voted by her colleagues to represent HT as this year’s nominee for the Minnie Stevens Piper Professor award.

Krueger often talks about how we gain strength from our flaws in the writing process, the same way flaws are called quirks and superpowers in an anime called My Hero Academia. She also considers those same powers in different ways when talking about racial inequities; she looks at invisibility and hypervisibility as how society sees people of color. She has discussed immigration and assimilation while using Superman as the example.

She guides students to self-analyze their strengths and weaknesses by exploring their own backstory when writing a personal narrative. As a spoken word poet and playwright, Krueger often sees teaching as being on stage, so she also presents instruction dramatically and animated to keep students engaged. She has even written poems that she performs to introduce topics such as a poem called “Deductive Reasoning,” that showcases contradiction in persuasive arguments. In addition to first-year writing courses, she also teaches creative writing. She gaged student interests and developed new Topics in Writing courses in Playwriting, and Poetry and Performance.

Krueger also proves to be exemplary outside of campus by being a leader in the community through activism around equity and inclusion, and she is a scholar exploring creative ways to include activism in her poetry, playwrighting, and librettist projects.

Students and the community enjoy success in the literary world thanks to Krueger’s coaching. In HT’s first offering of Introduction to Playwriting, Krueger secured 16 memberships into Scriptworks Austin, an organization to nurture playwrights and provide resources and opportunities for submissions and publishing. She also coached the Austin Poetry Slam to a second-place finish at Ink Slam in Los Angeles, CA. The community Wakanda Council held in HT’s King-Seabrook Chapel in 2008 engaged students via a panelist bringing together black leaders to discuss making our community a Wakanda. That same year, she led the Austin Comic Con workshop by hosting and organizing a panel on black superheroes.

Krueger can invoke jaw-dropping reactions when she takes the stage, which is why she is an award-winning lyricist. She is the 2017 recipient for the Brian Turner Literary Arts Prize in Spoken Word. The Original Coven debut at Frontera Fest @Hyde Park Theatre, was co-written by Krueger who was also an actress in the production. The production closed the Frontera Fest voted by the audience as Best of Fest in 2016.

Our deep-rooted mission and strong values serve as the springboard for the intellectual growth and development of all members of the Ram family. Huston-Tillotson University offers academic and extra-curricular programs that prepare and nurture our uniquely individual students to become diverse scholars and leaders of the genius generation.
English Department faculty forged a relationship with the Writers' League of Texas to offer free memberships to HT students. Professors Ashley Nash, Jennine Krueger, and Dr. Katherine Durham Oldmixon as sponsor presented "Black Literature Matters: A Conversation on Writing and Race" during the League's event at BookPeople to a standing-room only crowd.

Professor Shawanda Stewart and colleagues planned, coordinated, and hosted a four-day UNCF/Mellon Teaching and Learning Institute, titled "Centering Students in the First Year Composition Classroom: Engagement, Improvement and Pedagogical Practices."

Adjunct instructor of French, Dr. Anne Cirella-Urrutia, joined Dr. Alaine Hutson and Cale Carter (history major) on a three-day research trip to Archives Nationales d'OutreaMer (ANOM) in Aix en Provence, France, to conduct Carter's research on a French pilot of World War II, Roger Sauvage.

Dr. Azubize Okpalaeze, computer science faculty, was awarded a $492,200 grant from the Department of Defense to conduct research to identify key safety issues within the Human-Robots Interactions. The research focuses on developing advanced robotic systems to assist people in their homes and at their work.

Dr. Michael Hirsch, Dean of the College Arts and Sciences, was the lead author of the paper, "Looking Back on Five Years of Evaluating U.S. – Pakistani University Exchanges" that he presented at the Association of Applied and Clinical Sociology where he received the William Julius and the Alex Boros awards. In partnership with the honor society Pi Gamma Mu, the chapter hosted the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Freedom Riders on the HT's campus.

Dr. Lorraine Samuels, Chair, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, participated in the DiscoverLaw Plus Project in collaboration with the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) and The University of Texas in Austin. Students take part in law school forums/fairs and spend time with admission directors and others from a host of law schools. Samuels also participated as a panelist in a student-led forum on human trafficking.

The Empowerment and Prevention Implemented Through Campus Community Collaboration (HT EPICC) directed by Dr. Debra L. Murphy, Professor of Psychology, engaged the campus in assisting with significant peer-led evidenced based alcohol abuse screening and brief intervention through the Texans Standing Tall TX Dot grant. She also received the "Conference Legacy Recognition" award by the Central Texas African American Family Support Conference for her contribution as a founding member.

Dr. Carlos M. Cervantes, Chair of Kinesiology, was the recipient of the 2019 Michael E. Fassiotto Scholar-In-Residence Fellowship from the Faculty Resource Network. Dr. Cervantes is a fellow for the Obesity Health Disparities (OHD) Research PREP Program by the University of Mississippi Medical Center. He received training in community-based intervention to address obesity disparities. He is a requested presenter at numerous conferences.

Dr. Ahmad Kamalvand, Chair of the Mathematics Department, ensures student success through efforts that support the Math Center, which provides tutoring. In addition, he provides mathematics students the opportunity to attend conferences to connect with their peers.

Dr. Rosalie Martin was awarded a 2016 Sam Taylor Fellowship to develop poetry to be used in sociology classes captured in a book, titled "The Human Condition in Poetry: From A Sociological Prospective," containing student and alumni poems.

FACULTY TEACHING within and beyond the classroom has elevated Huston-Tillotson University’s profile to award-winning levels and moved students into stellar careers in their chosen fields.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS within and beyond the classroom has elevated Huston-Tillotson University’s profile to award-winning levels and moved students into stellar careers in their chosen fields.
 Meet Dr. Monique Carroll, An HT First

PROGRAMS FOR MORE THAN 300 ATHLETES—including men's and women's basketball, outdoor track and field, soccer, men's baseball, cross country, and women's cheerleading, softball, and volleyball—is managed by newly hired Athletic Director Dr. Monique Carroll.

Carroll is the University's first black female athletics director and has already introduced her vision with new concepts such as E-Sports and the launch of HT's online market of clothing items. She started her tenure during the pandemic, managing the Red River Athletic Conference by following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for gatherings. “We've made some tough decisions, ” she says, “but definitely the right decisions to rebuild.”

Monique Carroll.

THE HT VOLLEYBALL TEAM continued to advance to the finals for a second straight season. They had a team hitting average of .204 with Tiana Thompson and Briana Domino leading the charge with 10 kills apiece, and Mir Tillman totaling 19 digs on the defensive end. In the tournament finals the following day, they would meet up with the number-three seed and tournament host the Saints of Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU).

It was a thrilling final game as the Saints took down their last opponent for the title. The Rams' offense was led by Thompson as the number seed and showed their grit and toughness before enjoying a tournament reprieve as they prepared to take down their last opponent for the title.

The Lady Rams entered the tournament as the number seed and showed their grit and toughness before enjoying a tournament reprieve as they prepared to take down their last opponent for the title.

THE Lady Rams entered the tournament as the number seed and showed their grit and toughness.

Meet Our Championship Volleyball Team – Lady Rams Finish 1st in the RRAC

Her recognitions and organizational memberships include National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I National SAAC Representative for the SWAC, NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics, NCAA Effective Facilitation workshop, Women Leaders in College Sports, National Association of Athletic Compliance (NAAC), Black Women in Sport Foundation (BWSF), and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. She was recently selected to the serve on the board of the Austin Sports Commission.

A native of New Boston, Texas, Carroll received her BS in secondary education from Northcentral University. A Ph.D. with an emphasis in sports management from Northcentral University. In Daphne, Alabama, and a Master in sports management from the United States Sports Academy.

She was recently selected to the serve on the board of the Austin Sports Commission.

The University of the Southwest (New Mexico) and Jarvis Christian College battled it out in the opening round of the RRAC Tournament on November 8, 2019. Southwest ended up prevailing to face HT in the semifinals taking place the same day.

The Rams went on to defeat Southwest in straight sets (25-18, 25-15, 25-17) to advance to the finals for a second straight season. They had a team hitting average of .204 with Tiana Thompson and Briana Domino leading the charge with 10 kills apiece, and Mir Tillman totaling 19 digs on the defensive end. In the tournament finals the following day, they would meet up with the number-three seed and tournament host the Saints of Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU).

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Meet Our Championship Volleyball Team – Lady Rams Finish 1st in the RRAC

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ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

Mary E. Branch Gymnasium

May E. Branch Gymnasium
VICE PRESIDENT’S SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Archibald W. Vanderpuye

Advances HT’s Academic Efforts

JULY 2021

Vanderpuye has unequivocally delivered on his overarching goal. Specifically, during the 2015-2020 academic years, HT graduated 42% more students compared to the previous 5-year period. Also, HT experienced a 4% increase in first-time freshman retention rate in addition to a 4% increase during the 2015-2015 academic years. Vanderpuye attributes the aforementioned successes to the incredibly hard working and mission driven HT faculty and staff. Retention rate increases were partly due to dividing the first-year experience course into two semesters. Incoming HT freshmen are now enrolled in both a fall semester and a spring semester first-year experience course. Vanderpuye has found this course change transformative, ensuring stronger student college life, “one semester is not enough. Students need that second semester oversight of a faculty member who serves as an advisor to encourage, remind, and help them continue to navigate successfully in the college environment.” Vanderpuye also credits HT’s student retention efforts to the achievements of all the staff of The Center for Academic Excellence and HT’s campus for “continuously checking in on our students and hard to remove barriers to make our students successful and working closely with faculty and staff, helping everyone contribute their best to the university.”

Throughout the past five years, Vanderpuye has collaborated with the HT academic leadership to develop and orchestrate a myriad of initiatives at HT. He is incredibly proud of the following three initiatives: (1) HT’s inception of master’s programs – M.Ed in Educational Leadership with Principal Preparation in Spring 2015 and Vice President Government Relations and Engagement for Austin Central State University and in his biography for the university’s cornerstone he shared that he “wanted to be the CEO for a university, a black college” when he grew up. Fast forward 15 years later, Kent Vanderpuye has arrived. Vanderpuye is the VP/COO for Austin’s oldest institution of higher learning and only HBCU – Huston-Tillotson University. VP/ COO Knout prepped fervently and worked diligently for the opportunity to serve HT in this administrative capacity. He is “grateful for the opportunity to be able to serve the black college and playing a role to ensure that this institution has the same level of relevance and prowess 100 years from now because of the work that I’ve done here today at Huston-Tillotson University.”

One of VP/COO Knout’s biggest points of pride is when he “arrived at HT, we were just shy of 930 students. Now, within my five-year tenure, we are just shy of 1,200 students.” VP/COO Knout attributes this remarkable growth, nearly a 33% increase in student enrollment to several key factors: (1) HT’s Career Pathways Initiative (CPI) program, which provides students with a hyperfocus on how their degree as a liberal arts student directly aligns with their desired career outcomes, while simultaneously ensuring our corporate partners are a part of their success; (2) Collaborating with colleagues in academic support such as The Center for Academic Excellence to cultivate a rich and robust first-year experience so that students really understood the notion of four quarters – each quarter representing an academic year – encouraging students to aim for doing four quarters and no overrider; and (3) Intentionality of our corporate partners to “walk alongside” us to help put the exclamation point on the sentence as it relates to the university’s value proposition because both the student and their family are able to see our corporate partners being a part of the total HT experience from the day our student signed up – to seeing school graduates from the institution and subsequently being hired by our corporate partners.”

When asked to relay the three initiatives that he is most proud of implementing, during the 2015-2020 academic years, VP/COO Knout cites the following: Endowed Faculty and Athletics departments’ massive retention of the student experience outside the classroom – intentionally “rooting the student experience in our institution’s core values of I.D.E.A.L (Integrity, Diversity, Excellence, Accountability, and Leadership); Enrollment Management meeting our enrollment target year-over-year, “culminating with our University’s record enrollment for first-year students in 2018-2019 where we exceeded our target by 24 students,” and “the significant gains we’ve been able to accomplish with improving the digital infrastructure across campus – Information Technology has been able to deploy great technology to shore up our campus via offerings such as Canvas for our new LMS (Learning Management System) and Office 365 for our new productivity system, which enables students to access information on-demand regardless of where or how in the world they do their work.”

Favori...

HOMETOWN: Cincinnati, Ohio
FAVORITE MEAL: Grilled salmon with creole sauce
FAVORITE SONG: Got to Give it Up by Marvin Gaye
FAVORITE SPORT: Soccer

Dr. Archibald W. Vanderpuye, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
HT IS HOME TO AUSTIN’S ONLY EARTH DAY EVENT AND TO SISTER MOSES: THE STORY OF HARRIET TUBMAN, SOUL FOOD TRUCK FEST, AND THE URBAN CULTURAL FEST.

SXSW EVENTS ON THE HT CAMPUS INCLUDE HUSTLE HOUSE AS THE FIRST IN ADDITION TO HBCU@SXSW.
Huston-Tillotson University makes it one of the most diverse campuses in Central Texas. Expanding the enrollment of international students is an important component of the University’s global efforts. Since Fall 2015, students from at least 28 countries have attended HT. Currently, 1.7% of HT’s total student enrollment is comprised of international students.

Internationalization helps transform our students into global citizens. Interacting with international students via education abroad or as classmates enables HT students to see the world with a different perspective from which they are accustomed. Importantly, internationalization gives students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to increase their knowledge about new cultures and countries.

The University has set a goal of increasing the number of students who experience education abroad from its current 1.4% annually.

The global trip affords students the opportunity to practice the global knowledge that they acquired in the classroom through fieldwork with visits to country-specific organizations in the host country.

The University sees the internationalizing of the curriculum as critical to the campus internationalization plan. Several faculty members have collaborated on research projects with university faculty in Mexico, Nigeria, and Pakistan. The University’s academic curricula offers more than 20 international courses with an explicit focus on international issues. Several of the international courses are in the social sciences and humanities, including political science and history. The Department of Business Administration has an entire curriculum of international business courses. Look for a new degree program within the College of Arts and Sciences titled, Global Studies.

Frost Bank and Spurs Give Partner to Award Huston-Tillotson University $100,000 Grant

FROST BANK AND SPURS GIVE partnered to award Huston-Tillotson University a $100,000 grant. This grant is a continuation of Frost Bank and Spurs Give’s commitment to “Operation Renovation,” which strives to enhance facility infrastructures that provide our students with safe places to play and learn, while acquiring the valuable life lessons gained through teamwork and competition.

HT will use the funding to renovate existing areas and create new spaces that promote physical, mental and emotional well-being for students. Updates include resurfacing the outdoor basketball and tennis courts, along with new equipment for players and seating for fans. These improvements will be open to students and the community so they can practice and compete in tennis, basketball and other outdoor matches. Additionally, the project includes creating areas on campus that will promote mental and emotional wellness. Spaces inside and outside residence halls will be transformed into therapeutic and meditative areas for the campus community. Outdoor seating, hammocks, lighting and improved aesthetics will also be installed.

“From the very beginning of my presidency, Frost Bank and the Spurs organization have been invaluable partners in supporting our students and our mission,” said Dr. Burnette. “This grant is yet another anchoring of that partnership, another indelible investment in our students and is greatly appreciated.”

Spurs basketball player Derrick White surprised the members of men’s basketball team in February to share news of the announcement during a Zoom meeting. They talked about the grant, White’s basketball journey from college to the NBA, and how he inspired youth to continue to work hard toward their dreams.
HT Opens the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

A MAJOR MILESTONE under the Huston-Tillotson University administration of President Burnette is the creation of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI). In fall 2018, CEI officially opened its doors at Springdale General on Springdale Road in East Austin. The 6,600-square-foot building is just five minutes from HT’s campus and 10 minutes from downtown Austin.

The goal of CEI is to empower women and people of color through entrepreneurial training. By offering workshops and business education classes, CEI assists in making dreams of starting a new business come true for this target demographic.

President Burnette noted the significance of CEI’s location when she remarked that, “it is in historic East Austin and provides space for non- and for profits. Just like HT, each organization located in the Springdale General complex is exploring creative solutions to social issues, including education, access to health care, and poverty.”

CEI provides space for community organizations. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, CEI was very active with many community events including Latinitas and its four-week summer coding camp for young girls. Also, Life Development of California has sponsored a Startup Pitch Competition Workshop every spring. Additionally, the City of Austin located its Challenge Studio in one of the spaces at CEI.

In addition to providing space to community groups for various entrepreneurial related events, CEI offers co-working office space to community organizations. Several organizations, including the Black Professional Alliance (BPA), have utilized space at CEI for their regular monthly meetings.

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The CEI reopening in Fall 2021 fuels training of the next generation of women and people of color entrepreneurs and innovators.

In Union, There is Strength – Keeping our Campus Beautiful

THE ACADEMIC MISSION OF HT is supported through grant funding efforts that provide resources for a variety of teaching and learning endeavors. Preserving the beauty of the historical campus is paramount for its buildings, grounds, and overall campus aesthetics.

Making our Mark

Projects range from our new marquee that sits strong on the Bluebonnet Hill, signaling to the thousands of vehicles and pedestrians on the highly travelled Seventh Street corridor from the airport to downtown that we ARE Huston-Tillotson University. In addition, the new campus lighting continues to illuminate not only the campus pathways but the splendor of the elevated landscape under the night glow. The new entryway signage and perimeter fencing maximizes the University’s curb appeal.
Michael Robertson is HT’s Baseball Hall of Fame inductee. Robinson is a 1987 alumnus who thus far is the first and only coach to have won Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) championships at two different universities and the only coach to have won SWAC Western Division titles at two different universities.

Coach Alvin Moore collected more than 600 wins during his career as the HT baseball coach while serving as a mentor to hundreds of athletes. His athletes have been drafted by the Atlanta Braves, Cincinnati Reds, Cleveland Indians, Houston Astros, Kansas City Royals, Los Angeles Dodgers, New York Mets, and Texas Rangers. He was also featured in a local production, "District Days at Historic Downs Field," as part of a community-wide celebration of culture, legacy, and baseball.

Coach Charles Dubra immediately began his teaching career at J. E. Johnson High School in Prentiss, Mississippi. After graduating, he coached boys’ basketball, and divided his time between Johnson High School and Prentiss Junior College as the choral director. He later introduced and coached the first women’s sports program on campus, women’s basketball.

In addition to the coaching staff, these individuals were also recognized during the Diamonds in the Outfield Scholarship Gala.

Many HT alumni have been stalwart in their support of the university. During the 2017 Diamonds in the Outfield Scholarship Gala, these alumni were recognized for their longstanding contributions in their professions and to the university:

- Coach Abe Moore collected more than 600 wins during his career as the HT baseball coach while serving as a mentor to hundreds of athletes. His athletes have been drafted by the Atlanta Braves, Cincinnati Reds, Cleveland Indians, Houston Astros, Kansas City Royals, Los Angeles Dodgers, New York Mets, and Texas Rangers. He was also featured in a local production, “District Days at Historic Downs Field,” as part of a community-wide celebration of culture, legacy, and baseball.

- Coach Charles Dubra immediately began his teaching career at J. E. Johnson High School in Prentiss, Mississippi. After graduating, he coached boys’ basketball, and divided his time between Johnson High School and Prentiss Junior College as the choral director. He left Prentiss in 1969 to return and join the staff at Huston-Tillotson College as the men’s assistant basketball coach. He wore many other hats at HT, including interim athletic director, mailroom director, security director, director of admission, dean of enrollment services, coordinator of biweekly payroll, and head baseball coach. He later introduced and coached the first women’s sports program on campus, women’s basketball.

- A Glimmer of Hope Foundation
- Austin Community College
- Austin Revitalization Authority
- City of Austin
- Colette Pierre Burnette
- Donald Fleming
- Exon E. Hayes, Jr.
- Katrine Foremy
- George Brothers
- Kincaid and Horton Gourmet Services
- Greater Texas Federal Credit Union
- Hawkins Public Policy Consulting
- Helix Education
- Huston-Tillotson University International Alumni Association
- Dr. Nancy Crayton Jones
- John F. Coovers Foundation
- Kathleen Page
- Scott Schmidt and Carol L. McDonald
- The Austin Area Chevy Dealers
- University Federal Credit Union (UFCU)
- University of Texas Division of Diversity and Community Engagement
- Wells Fargo Bank

2017 Diamonds in the Outfield Scholarship Gala

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY paid tribute to baseball during this gala with Jim Gideon and Trennis Jones providing a vision to honor the members of the Negro Baseball League. Downs Field is home to our own baseball team that brings memories of a field of dreams when teams such as the Austin Black Pioneers, Austin Greyhounds, Austin Indians, Austin Palominos and players such as Satchel Page, Willie Wells, and Buck O’Neil made their marks. Before signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1945, Jackie Robinson was the Samuel Huston College basketball coach. Robinson later returned to serve on the Huston-Tillotson College Board of Trustees.
FOLLOWING GRADUATION, Class of 1994, Godsey started a career as an insurance claims adjuster with Progressive Insurance Company. After three years as an adjuster, he was promoted through four levels to the managerial level and ended his career as the Dallas office branch manager. After which, he enrolled at Texas Wesleyan School of Law in Fort Worth.

As a law student, he was initiated with honors into Delta Theta Phi law fraternity and was the first African American student there to serve as vice president of the Moot Court Honor Society, as well as the first to earn the honor of First Oralist in the school-wide Moot Court competition.

Godsey eventually built what is now known as Godsey Martin, the largest African American–owned personal injury law firm in the state of Texas. He prides himself on providing not only expert legal counsel but also on delivering a greater level of compassion and understanding to suffering clients.

In addition to his efforts in the legal field, Godsey is proud to be involved in many community-related matters. He and the firm give away hundreds of bicycles and car seats every year to families in need. Godsey has also given scholarships, laptops, and iPads to high school and college students, and consistently donates each year to countless community organizations and programs. He also serves on the board of directors of the Heart of a Warrior Charitable Foundation, a total-enrichment program for underserved children in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Godsey is active at his alma mater, where he underwrote the title sponsorship for HT’s 2018 scholarship gala, and is a supporter of HT’s Supply Chain Management Program.

PRESENTING SPONSORS
Catina and David Godsey

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Philanthropic contributions from corporations, foundations, institutions, and individuals of Texas Southern University and HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY help to further the impact of scholarship support, valuable internship experiences, and technology to enhance learning and classroom research, and innovative and life-changing courses to nurture the love of learning.
THE UNIVERSITY, with its 145-year history, opened its doors to the broader Central Texas community, and the response has been awe-inspiring.

The director of the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Outreach, Linda Y. Jackson, not only manages campus events but also serves on boards, attends neighborhood meetings, visits schools, and networks at galas, ensuring that HT’s voice is heard while lifting the profile of the campus.

Long-term partners such as the Austin Area Heritage Council—which plans the annual Martin Luther King Jr. March and Festival—provided a framework for new partnerships with planners of Earth Day. Combined with Black Lives Matter, Stop Asian Hate, and transgender rallies, more than 50,000 guests visited the campus with organizers who were not looking just for space to host an event but seeking that legacy of leadership and excellence in education that HT typifies in its mission to connect knowledge, power, passion, and values.

Even as groups such as Measure Austin and the East Austin Rotary Club find that their strategic planning works best knowing that they can meet monthly on campus, other organizations—such as E3Alliance and the Austin Area Urban League—find that the central location and amenities provide a framework for success.

HT is also home to the Louis Gregory Symposium on Race Unity, Green Justice Forum, New Story Festival, Sister Moses: The Story of Harriet Tubman, and the Urban Cultural Fest. In addition, the University is an election-day voting location. The Black and Brown founders brought Hustle-House@SXSW, and Rodney Sampson brought Opportunity HUB or OHUB, another SXSW event, to HT to connect 200 HBCU students across the country with technology-industry experts right here on campus. The Greater Austin Area My Brother’s Keeper initiative brings young men to King-Seabrook Chapel annually for an empowerment day, and Students with a Graduation Goal (SW AGG) brings 500 Austin Independent School students to campus to get them college-ready during a day-long session.

Opportunities to broaden one’s thoughts came through speakers such as Nikole Hannah-Jones, New York Times author of The 1619 Project, who shared the framework around race and race relations, dating to slavery. Several conversations on race occurred were lifted by several organizations. The former president
of Nigeria, H. E. Olusegun Obasanjo, shared his ideas; a panel of international journalists made a profound impression on the audiences gathered in the Agard-Lovinggood Auditorium; and former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder chatted with then Dallas representative Eric Johnson, now mayor, about the perils of redistricting.

HT’s own virtual discussion, “Answering Questions, Dispelling Myths, and Telling Truths,” featured Barney S. Graham, chief of the Viral Pathogenesis Laboratory at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), and Kizzmekia Corbett, who recently joined Harvard’s T.H. Chan School of Public Health but previously served at NIAID, where she was instrumental in research that led to the development of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Onyema Ogbuagu—associate professor of medicine at Yale School of Medicine, who worked on the COVID-19 clinical trials—and Stephanie Hayden—Austin assistant city manager for health, environment, culture, and lifelong learning—rounded out the discussion with comments from Jerome M. Adams, the 20th surgeon general of the U.S.

Whether hosting schoolchildren during a field day or a holiday tradition such as The Icons of Broadway—featuring Mela Sarajane Dailey, Gregory Cash Durham, and HT students as part of the musical ensemble—opportunities are plentiful for the enrichment of the community and the University. ▲
# Huston-Tillotson University 2016-2020

## REVENUE & EXPENSES

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Revenue</th>
<th>Total Expenses</th>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$25,261,431</td>
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### Financial Highlights

- **Total Revenue**: 39% Increase
- **Total Expenses**: 6% Decrease

## ENDOWMENT

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<th>Investments</th>
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<td>2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$11,572,295</td>
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</table>

### Financial Highlights

- **Endowment**: 23% Increase

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**Total Revenue**: $18,152,407 - $25,261,431

**Total Expenses**: $21,899,165 - $20,528,530

**Investments**: $9,439,258 - $11,572,295
February 28, 2020
Huston-Tillotson University President Colette Pierce Burnette called a Pandemic Preparedness Plan meeting with key faculty and staff support and names a Pandemic Coordinator.

February 28, 2020
Huston-Tillotson University teams (Academic Affairs, Facilities Management, Administration and Finance, Communications, Information Technology, Campus Safety, Human Resources) began crafting and executing pandemic plans.

March 6, 2020
President Colette Pierce Burnette sent the Coronavirus alert to the HT community with how to be safe instructions.

March 30, 2020
Huston-Tillotson University successfully moved all instruction and campus services online.

March 31, 2020
Texas Governor issued a COVID-19 Stay-at-Home order.

April 12, 2020
Individuals residing in residence halls were provided masks.

April 13, 2020
Huston-Tillotson University, as an essential business, instructed personnel to post face covering flyers at key locations, implementing the 6-ft distance rule or face covering.

16 Months Later - August 7, 2021
Huston-Tillotson University plans Commencement Convocation for the Class of 2020 and the Class of 2021.

August 23, 2021
Huston-Tillotson University Fall semester planned with in person instruction and full reactivation of campus.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The health and safety of our entire campus community is paramount. We remain steadfast in our vigilance to protect ourselves and others. We must stay mindful and practice preventive measures at all times.
OUR PERSISTENCE IS OUR SUPERPOWER