



Resolution of Appreciation

For the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies On the Occasion of Its 65th Reunion

From the East Tennessee State University Office of the President

- WHEREAS** The Department has served East Tennessee State University with distinction for 65 years, pursuing questions in every dimension of human life and applying its techniques to problems across all fields of study and endeavor; and
- WHEREAS** The Department has consistently demonstrated that philosophy majors excel academically, ranking among the top scorers on the Graduate Record Examination, the Law School Admission Test, and the Graduate Management Admission Test, while achieving some of the highest medical school acceptance rates; and
- WHEREAS** Under the leadership of expert faculty, the Department has emphasized the development of critical thinking, clear communication, and analytical reasoning skills that employers consistently identify as essential qualifications for new hires; and
- WHEREAS** The Department has prepared generations of graduates for success in diverse fields including law, medicine, and business, with alumni consistently crediting their philosophical training for teaching them to approach problems logically, evaluate ideas critically, and engage thoughtfully with ethical issues in their professions; and
- WHEREAS** Philosophy education at ETSU has equipped students not only with practical skills but also with the capacity to wrestle with life's most enduring questions about existence, morality, knowledge, and justice, fostering more responsible thinkers who better understand pressing social issues; and
- WHEREAS** Faculty members have contributed significant scholarship to their fields, publishing books and articles that advance philosophical discourse, address contemporary challenges, and bridge the gap between academic inquiry and public understanding; and
- WHEREAS** The Department has strengthened the College of Arts and Sciences by fostering interdisciplinary collaboration across the humanities and beyond, with philosophy students frequently pursuing double majors in fields including history, theater, political science, psychology, microbiology, and economics; and
- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that East Tennessee State University extends its deepest appreciation to the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies on the occasion of its 65th reunion. The Department's dedication to developing critical thinkers, creative problem-solvers, and engaged citizens has enriched countless students and strengthened the intellectual foundation of this university and the broader community for 65 years. We celebrate this milestone and look forward to the Department's continued excellence in the years to come.

Brian Noland
President, ETSU

November 14, 2025