



## Expanding Perspectives Center for Global Engagement

Students delve into rights issues in Ecuador during their four-week summer course, *Human Rights & Global Citizenship II*, including rights of nature and indigenous groups. Global Year is a comprehensive internationalization effort involving international faculty and scholar collaboration, education abroad group and exchange programs, and projects that benefit communities across borders with focus on a single country. [ETSU Global Year: Ecuador](#)

### Global Citizen Scholars Ecuador 2022-23

Fulfilling ETSU's vision to improve the quality of life in the region and beyond. Students study and explore the country's three main regions: the coast and Galapagos Islands, the capital city of Quito in the Andes Mountains, and select areas of the Amazon Rainforest.

## Fall Orientation 2022-23

Welcoming New  
Students & Families!



## Jess Potter- Rodriguez Class of 2023

University Honors Scholar,  
College of Arts & Sciences  
Child Psychology and Early  
Childhood Development  
Majors

Jess' case management and research experiences have led to what is, undoubtedly, the capstone of her undergraduate experiences. In the summer of 2022, she worked as an intern with **Outer Atlanta's Friends of Refugees**, specializing with **Embrace Birth Support**. Advocating for and empowering refugee and new American mothers as they navigate the perinatal experience following resettlement. Jess hopes her ventures with Embrace will expand upon previous clinical experiences and prepare her to pursue a master's education in social work that emphasizes both children and families as well as global welfare.

# Honors Early Assurance Scholars



Fall 2022 welcomed its first cohort to the Honors Early Assurance Pathway Scholars. Focusing heavily on experiential learning, leadership and problem solving, students traveled to New York City in October to meet with ETSU alumni of the Quillen College of Medicine.

Dr. Rebecca Brown, a neuro-oncologist and assistant professor at Mt. Sinai's Ichan School of Medicine

gave the students a tour of the hospital. Students visited the 9/11 Memorial Museum accompanied by Dr. Jennifer Whittington, a general surgeon and surgical oncologist with NYC Health and Hospitals-Elmhurst. Dr. Whittington shared her experiences providing care in New York City during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. Dr. Payne Stanifer, a thoracic surgeon and assistant professor at New York Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center, treated students to dinner at the prestigious Harvard Club.

Drs. Stanifer and Whittington answered students' questions about medical school life, residency, and the practice of medicine.

## NEW ETSU Program

The Honors College at ETSU and the Quillen College of Medicine collaborate to offer a competitive, experiential-learning based medical school Early Assurance Program (EAP). Offering ETSU undergrads the opportunity to smoothly transition from undergraduate to med school studies and secure a spot in the Quillen College of Medicine earlier in their education.

"This is an unbelievably exciting opportunity to partner on the creation of a premiere program at ETSU," said Dr. Christopher Keller, dean of the Honors College and senior international officer.

[Honors Early Assurance Pathway Program](#)

## Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities

The Honors College hosted the **Tennessee Collegiate Honors Conference**, which included research presentations from 80 honors students from 12 institutions across Tennessee.

Additionally, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities, within the Honors College, hosted the Dr. **Jay S. Boland Undergraduate Research Symposium** in Spring 2022. The event offers ETSU undergraduate students the opportunity to present their research in an informal, non-competitive environment.

This summer, nine undergraduate students were awarded Summer research Fellowships designed to create an opportunity for significant progress on a scholarly activity/ original research as they work with a faculty mentor. [URCA](#)

## Impacting Healthcare

### Katherine (Rowe) Sweeney

#### Alumna's Remarkable Story

"After graduating from ETSU, I went on to pursue my masters degree in Sociology at Middle Tennessee State University. While there, I published an article in The Tennessean, "**911 dispatchers deserve better pay, recognition / Opinion**", and published my masters thesis in ProQuest, "**Emergency Communications: A Quantitative Survey on Emotional Labor.**"

Upon graduation from ETSU in May 2020, Sweeney took a position as an adjunct faculty at The University of Alabama in Huntsville in their Sociology department.

"I applied for several doctoral programs in the fall of 2021, and this spring I was accepted and offered full funding and a stipend into the Medical Sociology doctoral program at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. During my time at UAB, I will have the unique opportunity to work with their medical school to conduct research on modern day medicine and the health care system."

Sweeney hopes to pursue a career that allows her to work with medical doctors and scientists to analyze and research medicines, specifically, how they might be changed to better various communities, or how the pharmaceutical side of medicine impacts society. Whether that means working in a hospital or working with an organization such as the CDC, Sweeney is grateful and excited for the opportunity to use her knowledge to positively impact the future of medicine.

**Congratulations Kate!!**



# Welcoming New Student Life Coordinators

## Student & Alumni Engagement

Under the direction of Ms. Karla Leybold, Assistant Dean, Meaghan Heimbach and Brittany Mitchell join the College's Student Life Team. Together they are creating new initiatives for more robust orientation events for all new Honors students, expanded Living and Learning Community offerings, additional recruitment events including "shadow" days, and expanding the role of Honors Ambassadors.



## Alumni Pride

Our ETSU Alumni in NYC gather with students, sharing their remarkable stories as industry leaders in medical, media, literary, and business fields.

Stay connected with Honors College students and staff as we continue to develop programming and engagement opportunities that bring you back to campus in support of Honors education.

**Suggestions always welcome!**

[Student & Alumni Engagement](#)



**Meaghan Heimbach (left) and Brittany Mitchell**

Meaghan graduated from ETSU with a Masters in Higher Education, has experience in Greek Life, and brings a new energy to our team. She advises the Student Council, is the liaison for the Changemaker Scholar Program, and maintains the webpages and social media accounts, Brittany comes to us from the public school system and was introduced to the Honors College through an adjunct position, traveling with students to Ecuador and England. She advises the Honors Living-Learning-Community, is the liaison for the Global Citizen Scholars Program.

## Changemaking in England and Appalachia Honors Education at Harlaxton College and Beyond

### Summer 2022 Course Partner

The Education Abroad Office at ETSU is always looking to partner with programs and institutions in other countries that provide experiential learning opportunities that can't be replicated domestically.



Students networked with social innovation experts in England (University of Northampton, University of Evansville) and the Appalachian Highlands (ETSU Honors Alums, United Way, East Tennessee Highlands, and other organizations). The goal: To cultivate critical and creative thinkers, and produce ethical, global citizens equipped to thrive in a world of complexity and change. 33 students were accepted into the program. [Harlaxton College, Grantham, England](#)



## 4,000 Miles Apart: ETSU Honors Student witnesses history in England

Cassidy Blackwell, Senior, College of Arts & Sciences, chronicles her semester studying abroad in England at Harlaxton College.

[JC News & Neighbor](#)

# Empathy in Leadership

## City as Text - New York City



Created and lead by Dr. Carson Medley, students from the Honors PEAKS (persistence, empathy, authenticity, knowledge, skills) mentor program teamed up with students from the Mary V. Jordan Multicultural Center to spend a week in New York City this summer. They engaged in experiential learning activities that viewed the Big Apple through a lens of empathic and care-driven leadership.



### Student Council 2022-23

Our focus continues as we develop networking events, pre-professional application workshops, mock interview sessions, and more.

We welcome our alumni to take part in our speaker series, showcasing your remarkable careers and life experiences with students. If you would like to contact the council, please email me:

**Aarsh Patel:** [patela10@etsu.edu](mailto:patela10@etsu.edu)  
**Follow our Instagram to reach out to us and stay updated on all our events:** [@etsu\\_hcstudentcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/etsu_hcstudentcouncil)

## Enhancing DE&I

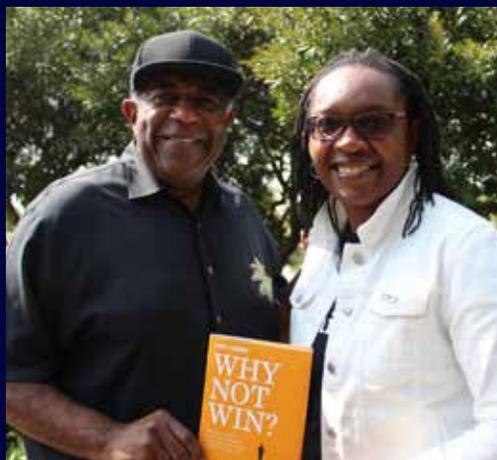
### National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Dallas, TX

In November, Dr. Carson Medley presented *Why Not Win?: Innovations in Place-as-Text Pedagogies to Enhance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategies in Honors Education*. The first-ever domestic exchange between a predominantly white institution (PWI) and an historically black institution (HBCU).

He was joined in Dallas by author and businessman Larry Thornton, who will be ETSU's commencement speaker, Fall 2022 graduation, and Dr. Zillah Fluker, United Negro College Fund (UNCF) Executive Leadership for Capacity Building.

Dr. Medley also presented on the nation's first-ever university and student-led Empathy Museum that took place in Carter Hall, Spring 2022.

[NCHC.org](http://NCHC.org)



**Dr. Carson Medley,**  
**Assistant Dean,**  
**Academics**

Dr. Carson Medley, formerly student success coordinator, has been named assistant dean for academics and special programs. In this role, he will oversee responsibilities tied to all academic facets of the Honors College, including courses, curriculum, advising/mentoring, and other student success programs. He will also be responsible for the development of special summer and spring break programs as well as for Equity and Inclusion initiatives in the college.



**Karla Leybold,**  
**Assistant Dean**  
**Student Engagement**

Ms. Karla Leybold, formerly manager for student and alumni engagement, will complete her doctorate in higher education leadership and policy analysis next year. Ms. Leybold has been named assistant dean for student life and alumni engagement, and supervises two student life coordinators.



### Make a Remarkable Difference!

Your financial gift supports student scholarships, study abroad, out of classroom learning experiences, conferences, research and more!

If you would like to speak to someone directly about how

your gift can make a specific impact, please contact me:

**Dessi Ford, Director of Development**  
**University Advancement**  
423-439-5125 or [forddk@etsu.edu](mailto:forddk@etsu.edu).

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