

LOCAL / REGIONAL

Taylor Moore goes from learning to teaching

By Chuck Wasserstrom

When Taylor Moore first began looking at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga's Master of Public Health (MPH) in Chronic Disease Prevention and Control program a few years ago, he had no idea how close he would be to having a front-row seat into the rapid-fire evolution of the global public health landscape.

It was early 2019, a year before anyone had heard of COVID-19, when Moore--then a senior at Tennessee State University--first set foot on the UTC campus. The MPH program had formally started admitting students in fall 2018, and Moore was trying to figure out if the fledgling program would be the right fit for him.

"When I came to Chattanooga, just talking to the professors and the staff, everyone made me feel welcome," said Moore, who went on to receive his MPH degree in

May 2021. "Everyone seemed genuine. They wanted me to succeed, and they wanted me to be able to find a career that I wanted to do. It was basically a no-brainer to go to UTC."

Moore is now a health communications Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education fellow for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Oak Ridge Institute research participation programs are educational and training programs designed to provide students, recent graduates and university faculty the opportunity to participate in project-specific research, current public health research and developmental activities.

Moore said he first came to UTC to get a general outlook of the ins and outs of the field of public health, but the arrival of

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Taylor Moore always had plans to pursue public health as his profession. That choice led him into paths he hadn't considered.

TSU Students Excited to Return to Campus Amid Pandemic, Restrictions

By Emmanuel Freeman

NASHVILLE, TN (TSU News Service) — New and returning Tennessee State University students say they are glad to be back on campus despite continuing challenges posed by the pandemic. Classes began on Monday, Jan. 24, following a one-week delay due to the COVID-19 omicron variant.

For the first two weeks of class, the university is enforcing a safer-in-place policy for students arriving on campus. The policy requires students to stay in their places of

residence unless they need to perform essential activities, such as getting food, or going to medical appointments. During this time, all classes will be online.

Even with these policies, many students are highly enthusiastic about returning to campus. Just ask senior health sciences major Tredarius Lassiter, of Atlanta.

"I am very excited, and I am sure other students are as well," says Lassiter. "Of course, safety protocols are in place but it's been so long that we haven't actually had a college experience. I think

that's the reason why we are so ready and anxious to get back."

Dr. Curtis Johnson, associate vice president and chief of staff, leads the university's COVID taskforce. He says students want to come back because the university has "gone to great lengths" to be as accommodating as possible.

"The safer-in-place policy allows us to create a bubble for the students in the event that they are positive (for COVID)," Johnson says. "We are better equipped to deal with it immediately and to also conduct contact tracing to de-

termine if others have the potential to test positive and be quarantined right away."

A father helps to unload his daughter's luggage at Wilson Hall.

Chandler Cotton, a freshman, who spent his first semester taking classes online, says he was able to interact with some classmates virtually and even join some student organizations.

"Even though my first semester was virtual, I was still able to con-

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Bomb threats made to historically Black schools across U.S.

CNC Staff Reports

NATIONWIDE -- At least a half-dozen historically Black universities in five states and the District of Columbia were responding to bomb threats Monday, with many of them locking down their campuses for a time.

In warnings to students, school officials say some of the threats were directed at academic buildings. Albany State University warned students and faculty on social media that "a bomb threat has been issued to Albany State University's academic buildings."

School officials at Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, told students to stay in their dormitories and until an all-clear was given.

At Bowie State University in Maryland, school officials told everyone on campus to shelter in place

until more information was available. WTOP-TV showed images of police activity concentrated around Charlotte Robinson Hall. The station reports the Maryland Fire Marshal had dispatched its bomb technicians and explosive detection units to help with building sweeps on the Maryland campus.

Howard University was also the subject of a bomb threat before dawn Monday, but later gave an all-clear to students and staff, WTOP reported.

In Florida, Bethune-Cookman University said in a statement that the Daytona Police Department and Volusia County Sheriff's Office were on campus to investigate a bomb threat there.

Delaware State University spokesman Carlos Holmes told local news outlets a bomb threat to that campus was made early Monday morning.

Tennessee's Labor Movement highlights Gov. Bill Lee's ongoing lack of concern for working families

CNC Staff Reports

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee AFL-CIO President Billy Dycus issued the following statement in response to Governor Bill Lee's State of the State address:

"Overtly partisan and pandering directly to the most extreme factions of the Republican supermajority, Governor Bill Lee's State of the State Address failed to touch on any of the real crises facing Tennessee's working families. With hardly any mention of the still-ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a lack of good-paying jobs, or Tennessee's ranking at the bottom of multiple lists, it was nearly impossible to recognize the version of our state that Governor Lee referenced in his remarks.

The use of the phrase 'Working People USA' in the nearly-hour

long address was an interesting choice of words for a governor who has made it abundantly clear that his administration is pro-business and anti-worker. Throughout his first three years in office, Governor Lee has shown total disregard for working families or those who do not share his same political persuasions.

A true state leader should represent Tennesseans of all political stripes, not just those who agree with him. We, too, are hopeful that one day Tennessee can reach its full potential but consistently talking about an idealized version of our state and ignoring the real problems is making it harder to get there."

The Tennessee AFL-CIO Labor Council represents over 60,000 working men and women throughout the state.

Mayor's Youth Council registers voters on MLK Day of Service



TOP: Members of the Mayor's Youth Council registered voters on Jan. 17, Chattanooga's annual MLK Day of Service. BOTTOM: Mayor Tim Kelly (4th from left), is joined by members of the Mayor's Youth Council on Jan. 17, Chattanooga's annual MLK Day of Service.

By Camm Ashford

Members of the Mayor's Youth Council registered voters on Jan. 17, Chattanooga's annual Martin Luther King Day of Service.

"Thank you to some of our Mayor's Youth Council kids that were able to come out and get people registered to vote on this MLK Day of Service," Mayor Tim Kelly said. "Thank you to every partner that was able to help today and thank you to those who donated to some of our wonderful organizations in Chattanooga. We are so thankful for your desire to serve your community."

The annual MLK Day of Service was launched in 2014 at the Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy as a "day on, not a day off," where Chattanoogaans were encouraged to come together and work on community-oriented service projects. Past projects have included a clean-up at the Historic Beck Knob Cemetery, painting and cleaning of local childcare centers, neighborhood beautification and litter pickups, among others.

The Mayor's Youth Council is a diverse and engaged group of approximately 44 high school juniors and

seniors from across Chattanooga who share their ideas and their concerns about issues young people face today. From advising the mayor on key priorities to acting as a liaison between the school hall and city hall, the students work together to give a voice to young people across various communities.

Participating Schools include: Baylor School, Brainerd High School, Central High School, Chattanooga Center for Creative Arts, Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy, Chattanooga School for the Arts & Sciences, Collegiate High, East Hamilton High School, Girls Preparatory School, Hixson High School, Howard High School, Ooltewah High School, Signal Mountain High School, Silverdale Baptist Academy, The Baylor School, The McCallie School and The STEM School.

The Mayor's Youth Council is open to all high school juniors or seniors who reside in the city of Chattanooga--that includes students who attend public schools, private schools, or are home schooled.

If interested, contact Shelby Glover at (423) 643-7666, or sglover@chattanooga.gov.