

2026 TENNESSEE EXTENSION NEW EMPLOYEE CONFERENCE

THE EXTENSION STORY: WHAT WILL YOUR STORY BE?

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026 - UT CONFERENCE CENTER

8:00 - 8:30 am	Pre-Conference Check-in
8:30 - 10:30 am	Pre-Conference Workshops (SUPER & DASH)
10:00 - 11:00 am	Conference Registration
11:00 am - 12:15 pm	General Session I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening • Icebreaker - Brandi Berven • The Extension Story - Lori Gallimore
12:20 - 1:25 pm	Lunch & Informal Networking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tables hosted by Extension Professional Associations
1:30 pm	General Session II
1:45 - 3:45 pm	Breakout Session I - Program Area Breakout Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANR/CED - Aaron Smith • FCS - Janet Fox • 4-H - Jamie Harris • Administrative & Finance - Missy Kitts
3:45 pm	Break

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4:00 - 4:45 pm

Breakout Session II

5:00 pm

Adjourn - Dinner on Your Own

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2026 - UT CONFERENCE CENTER

7:30 - 8:15 am

Breakfast & Registration

8:30 - 9:30 am

General Session 3

- Icebreaker
- Working with Different Generations - *Dr. Carrie Stephens*

9:30 - 9:45 am

Break

9:45 - 10:45 am

Breakout Session III

1. Worklife Balance in Extension - *Laura Clark*
2. Crisis Communication - *Dr. Shelli Rampold*
3. Leading Effective Meetings - *Brigitte Passman*
4. Access & Engagement - Communication & Accessibility - *Egla Lopez*

10:45 am

Transition Time

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11:00 - 12:15 pm	<p>Roundtables I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Office of Sponsored Programs - Hollie Schreiber• Library Resources - Maggie Albro• Extension Workforce Development - Clint Cummings• Community Economic Development - Sreedhar Upendram• Going Back to School - Amy Kirk• Working with Volunteers - Dave Close• Building Your County Program & Partnerships - Seth Whitehouse• Marketing Your Programs - Kelsey Whitefield• Strategies for Engaging Youth - Brigitte Passman
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm	Lunch
1:15 - 1:30 pm	Load charter bus for UTIA Tours
1:45 pm	<p>Arrival on UTIA Campus - ANR Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group photo• Transition to Tour 1
2:00 - 3:00 pm	<p>Tours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tour Track 1: UT Gardens/CVM & Hospital• Tour Track 2: UT Campus Tour/UT Creamery Production & Sensory Lab

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3:00 - 3:15 pm	Transition to Next Tour
3:15 - 4:15 pm	Tours Tour Track 1: UT Gardens/CVM & Hospital Tour Track 2: UT Campus Tour/UT Creamery Production & Sensory Lab
4:15 - 5:15 pm	Ice Cream Social and Networking - ANR Plaza
5:30 pm	Dinner - ANR 101A <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guest Speaker<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Reggie Lane, Director of EVOLVE & Player Engagement - Tennessee Football
7:00 pm	Adjourn Load Buses back to UT Conference Center/Hotel

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026 - UTIA CAMPUS - ANR BUILDING

7:00 - 8:15 am	Breakfast - ANR 101B
8:30 - 8:45 am	General Session 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome & Icebreaker - <i>Brandi Berven</i>• Door Prizes• Reflections

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8:45 - 9:45 am	Career Development in Extension <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administrative Assistants - Trudi Neubeck• Agents/Specialists - Brandi Berven & John Toman
9:45 - 10:00 am	Break
10:00 - 10:45 am	Breakout Session IV <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluation - Karen Franck• e-Learning Best Practices - Steve James• UT Travel - Shelia Hobby• Bridging the Gap: Turning Disagreements into Dialogue - Dave Close
10:45 - 11:00 am	Break and Transition back to General Session
11:00 -11:45 am	General Session 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keynote Speaker - Vallie Collins
11:45 am	Wrap-up <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Debrief• Evaluations• Reflections• Final door prizes
12:00 pm	Adjourn <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shuttles from UTIA Campus back to parking lot