



Tennessee Board of Regents

RODP/ROCE E-Newsletter



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Message from the Associate Vice-Chancellor

This is the start of a new venture for the RODP program, the launching of the RODP e-newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to allow students, faculty, staff and administrators an online forum to discuss ideas, share new RODP/ROCE programs and showcase the various students in our program. I predict that this e-newsletter will allow RODP/ROCE students, faculty, staff as well as administrators to learn more about exciting online teaching and learning opportunities.

I would like to thank Lori Stephens, (RODP Staff) and Dr. Dawn DeVeaux for their assistance with this project. Please share your opinions and thoughts about the various pieces in the newsletter. Also, there is a contest to give the newsletter an official name—please look for information about the contest on page four.

I hope you have a great academic year with RODP and ROCE.



Sincerely,
Dr. Robbie Kendall Melton

Message from the Director of Student Services

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the RODP/ROCE newsletter for online learners. One thing we know is that online learners are organized, focused, goal-oriented, and most of all busy people. With our knowledge of who you are, our objective for each issue will be to educate, entertain and even to inspire you with features geared specifically toward addressing your

day-to-day challenges and fast-paced lifestyle.

We encourage you to correspond with us; tell us what you think and guide us in providing the kinds of information that you will find truly useful and helpful. Our hope is that each newsletter we produce will not only make you think, but will also make you smile.



Sincerely,
Donna Ashford

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Associate Vice-Chancellor
Dr. Robbie Kendall Melton
Director of Student Services
Donna Ashford
Special Consultant
Dr. Dawn DeVeaux

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Quarterly Quotes

“Friendship consists in forgetting what one gives, and remembering what one receives.”
—Alexandre Dumas

“There are souls in this world which have the gift of finding joy everywhere and of leaving it behind them when they go.”
—Frederick Faber

“Tell me and I’ll forget. Show me, and I may not remember. Involve me, and I’ll understand.”
Native American Saying

RODP Student Profile by Lori Stephens

When Chico Haley first enrolled in courses at his local community college, he had no idea how far it would take him. He did know he had to make some changes in his life.

“I ran the streets for years and realized I was going nowhere,” said Haley.

Education became just the change he needed. Through hard work and a desire to better himself, Haley graduated from Jack-

son State Community College with an Associate’s degree in Communications, but he did not stop there!

Haley is currently enrolled in RODP courses through the University of Memphis and will graduate this year with a Bachelor’s degree in Professional Studies. He is employed at Jackson State as a Multi-Media Specialist. Haley is the father of a daughter and a son, Miles and Diamonds.



Chico Haley
RODP Student majoring in Professional Studies

Ethiopian Delegation Visits TBR by Lori Stephens

The Tennessee Board of Regents and RODP were honored by a recent visit from an Ethiopian delegation of higher educators. Representatives from Ethiopia and the US took part in a panel presentation titled, “Globalization of E-Learning in Providing Staff Development and Cross Cultural Partnership.”

Dr. Mintesinot Behailu, President of Mekelle University, chaired the Ethiopian team. He shared both the higher

education achievements and needs of Ethiopia.

“Mekelle University was started under a tree,” Behailu said. Now with three campuses, residential halls, and a variety of student services, the university has come a long way.

However, there are still many unmet needs. There is a shortage of faculty, staff, books, and computers. Fifty academic staff share one laptop. Even resources that

Americans often take for granted like access to health-care and clean water are needs Ethiopians often face. The group discussed not only the problems, but how partnerships can be a solution.

Behailu remarked that he will take home memories of “friendliness and hospitality” from his trip to America and that he looks forward to the “benefits of friendship and partnership.” For info about Mekelle University go to www.mu.edu.et

Characteristics of a Successful Online Learner by Dr. Dawn DeVeaux and Lori Stephens

The following are a few characteristics that you can develop in order to be a successful online learner:

- (1) **Discipline**—Similar to a member of the military, discipline is the key to your successful online experience.
- (2) **Self-motivation**—No hand-holding here! The instructor will not visit you in your home, but will always be available by email.

- (3) **Willingness to take action**—Your computer is your tool, but you must turn it on and interact with your fellow learners and instructors.
- (4) **Adherence to deadlines**—Assignments are built upon each other, each one crucial to the end result. You will do yourself a disservice to miss even one.

- (5) **Open-mindedness**—Embrace new technology and this innovative way of attaining a higher education. Imagine the possibilities!
- (6) **Determination**—If you do not possess all of these characteristics right now, do not worry. Never give up! You will reap the rewards.

Meet Your RODP/ROCE Staff



Donna Ashford
Director of
Student Services



James Dye
Asst; Coordinator for
Technical Services



Lisa Hall
Director of Business
and Operations



Syed Hasnain
Director of Training
and Technical Services



Dr. Carol Helton
Coordinator of
Education



Dr. Raylean Henry
Coordinator of Faculty
Services and ROCE



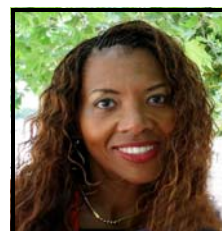
Dr. Pam Holder
Coordinator for
Nursing Education



Jeanne Holland
Administrative Assistant



Sandy McFarlin
Onsite Coordinator
of the Renaissance
Center



Dr. Robbie Melton
Associate Vice-Chancellor



***Tachaka Pentecost**
Assistant Coordinator
of ROCE



***Rochelle Smith**
Assistant Coordinator
For Student Services



Lori Stephens
Assistant Coordinator
For Nursing Education



John St. Clair
Executive Director of
Training and
Technical Services

*Denotes temporary position

MERLOT

Multimedia Educational Resource
for Learning and Online Teaching



The Tennessee Board of Regents is hosting the **MERLOT International**

Conference July 25-28 at the Nashville Convention Center.

This conference brings together the broad spectrum of higher education, from members of community colleges to research universities.

MERLOT spans the disciplines, linking together the **faculty, students, and administrators** who focus on teaching and learning with technology.

This year's theme is "Engaging the Global Community—Looking Over the Horizon." Last year there were over 400 attendees who participated in more than 80 sessions

Don't miss it!
www.merlot.org

Message from the Editor

One of the things I enjoy about my job is communicating with RODP and ROCE students. I already speak to students on the phone and correspond through email, but this newsletter will give me the opportunity to communicate in an innovative and meaningful way. It is my goal to provide you with information that will make your online learning experience more enjoyable and successful.

Many of our students are non-traditional students. Being one myself, I understand some of the challenges that you face. Your life may seem like a circus act as you learn to juggle school, work, and

family with whatever life throws at you along the way.

For some of you, attending classes on ground is not an option and online education through RODP/ROCE is making it possible to achieve your educational goals. I applaud you for thinking outside the box by learning outside the classroom! It is an exciting time for us all and I hope you will feel free to share your stories, tips, and keys to success with other students.

I also look forward to hearing from faculty and staff who can offer us insight and encouragement as we progress each semester.



[Lori Stephens](#)
Assistant
Coordinator for
Nursing
Education

ATTN: RODP/ROCE Students: Name the E-Newsletter for Fame and Fortune!

Okay, not really. But the winner will be featured in an upcoming issue of the newsletter (looks good on your resume) and will receive 25% off on their next online bookstore purchase (looks good for your wallet). Submit your suggestions for the newsletter name along with your name, home school, and phone number by August 1st to [Lori Stephens](#). The suggestions will be reviewed by the RODP campus contacts and the winner will be notified by phone.



Message from the Special Consultant

Coinciding with another session of courses with the RODP program is the arrival of the first newsletter for the RODP faculty, administrators, staff and students. I hope that you will find this newsletter of great benefit to you.

The purpose of the newsletter is to provide information for you to ponder, reflect upon and discuss with fellow faculty and students involved in the RODP program. This month's newsletter features tips about online learning, introduction to the staff in the RODP office

and finally, the opportunity for you to name the newsletter.

I look forward to hearing from you concerning the newsletter and hopefully, you will send suggestions and possible topics for upcoming articles. Please allow me to give kudos to Dr. Robbie Kendall Melton, Donna Ashford and Lori Stephens for their hard work and vision for the RODP newsletter. Have a wonderful summer—Looking forward to hearing from each of you.



Dr. Dawn DeVeaux