

# INTERCULTURAL AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

## A SEMESTER OF SERVICE, SUPPORT, AND CELEBRATION

Spring 2026 was filled with meaningful opportunities for students to connect, receive support, celebrate achievement, and engage with the campus community through Intercultural Affairs programming. From service initiatives and resource-based events to cultural programs, recognition gatherings, and end-of-semester encouragement, these experiences helped students feel supported and connected throughout the semester.

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## SERVICE, SUPPORT, AND STUDENT RESOURCES

The semester began with a focus on meeting student needs through practical support initiatives. During the Week of Service, Intercultural Affairs hosted a Clothing Donation Drive that gathered formal and semi-formal business attire, such as suits, ties, dresses, shoes, and accessories to support students preparing for interviews and special events.

The Clothing Giveaway on January 22 in the Roaden University Center Multipurpose Room allowed students to select free professional attire for events like SOLO activities, career fairs, and other occasions, helping them feel confident and prepared.

Intercultural Affairs also led a campus-wide Hygiene Drive from January 19 through 30 to collect personal care items for the Tech Food Pantry, providing students with everyday necessities and encouraging the campus community to support one another in tangible ways.

Intercultural Affairs & Tech Food Pantry  
Week of Service 2026 Hygiene Drive  
January 19 - January 30  
Donate hygiene items all week to support Tech students  
Boxes will be on the 1st & 2nd floor of the Roaden University Center (RUC), Intercultural Affairs Spaces, & other campus buildings.

**Suggested items:**  
Soap  
Lotion  
Deodorant  
Toothpaste & Toothbrush, Floss  
Shampoo & Conditioner  
Feminine Hygiene Items  
Shaving Items  
Laundry Items  
Tissue  
Cleaning Products

SUPPORT STUDENTS FOR THE SOLO EVENTS GALA & UPCOMING CAREER FAIR  
**CLOTHING DONATIONS**  
ACCEPTED:  
**JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup> - 21<sup>ST</sup>**  
Consider donating gently new/used formal wear or business attire to help students prepare for the gala and career fairs!  
(suit separates, dress shirts, dress shoes, formal gowns, and/or j...)

Locations for Donations:



## CULTURE, COMMUNITY, AND SHARED EXPERIENCE

Spring programming also created space for students to gather, celebrate, and experience culture through music, food, and fellowship. On February 22, the Gospel Extravaganza brought students and community members together in the RUC Multipurpose Room for an uplifting afternoon featuring the United Voices of Praise Choir and other local groups and individuals. This event was sponsored by the United Voices of Praise and offered an opportunity for worship, musical expression, and community connection.



On February 26, Intercultural Affairs sponsored the “Somebody Feeds Phil” Tour Dinner featuring Jim & Samella’s House from Memphis. Students enjoyed a soul food meal from a restaurant featured on “Netflix”, while learning more about the story behind the restaurant and connecting with others over food and conversation. The event created a meaningful opportunity to experience regional flavor, storytelling, and fellowship in a welcoming campus setting.



## LEADERSHIP, LEARNING, AND FUTURE PLANNING

Spring 2026 also included opportunities for students to think ahead, learn from others, and reflect on their academic and professional goals. On March 2, Rooted in Worth hosted the **Future You Panel** in the Tech Pride Room, where graduate students, Tennessee Tech faculty, and community members shared their educational journeys, career paths, and advice for success. The discussion gave students a chance to hear a variety of perspectives and gain encouragement as they considered their own futures beyond graduation. Intercultural Affairs organized this event to develop students' leadership skills, explore career options, and connect them with mentors and professionals for guidance and inspiration.

Rooted In Worth Presents  
**FUTURE YOU  
PANEL**

FEATURED SPEAKERS:  
GRADUATES, COMMUNITY  
MEMBERS, FACULTY & MORE

LEARNING POINT:  
GAIN INSIGHTS ON WHAT  
POSTGRADUATE LIFE IS LIKE

**MARCH  
2ND  
2026  
6 PM**

ROADEN UNIVERSITY CENTER  
ROOM 101  
TECH PRIDE ROOM

All are welcome!

The poster is light blue with a stylized graphic of a person pointing at a screen displaying three smaller figures. The text is in a mix of bold and regular fonts, with the event title in large, bold letters. The date and time are prominently displayed in the bottom right corner.

## RECOGNITION, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND END- OF-SEMESTER CONNECTION

As the semester came to a close, Intercultural Affairs hosted several events that celebrated student achievement and created supportive spaces before finals. On April 7, the Annual Scholars' and Graduate Luncheon honored graduating students and recognized those who had distinguished themselves through academic excellence, leadership, volunteer work, and program involvement. This event offered a meaningful opportunity to celebrate student success and recognize the many accomplishments of Tennessee Tech graduates.

Intercultural Affairs also collaborated with the Office of Access, Belonging, and Community Outreach to offer a Historical Road Trip to Alabama on April 2–3, providing students with an engaging educational experience beyond the classroom. Through visits to historical and educational sites, the trip gave students the opportunity to reflect on history, build relationships, and gain a deeper appreciation for the stories, struggles, and achievements that continue to shape communities today. Student reflections described the experience as meaningful, eye-opening, and unforgettable.

On April 24, Intercultural Affairs, in partnership with the School of Music and Dr. Mark Cramer, welcomed Dr. Doreen Ketchens, the “Queen of Clarinet,” for a special Meet & Greet in the Tech Pride Room. Students, faculty, and staff had the opportunity to connect with the internationally recognized performer, vocalist, and educator, whose visit inspired conversations about music, creativity, and culture.

To close out the month, Intercultural Affairs hosted a Study Break on April 30 at the Marc L. Burnett Recreation Center. Students enjoyed 3-on-3 basketball, board games, snacks, and refreshments while taking a well-deserved pause from studying. The event gave students a chance to relax, recharge, and spend time in community before final exams.



# STAY CONNECTED WITH INTERCULTURAL AFFAIRS

Stay connected with Intercultural Affairs! Follow us on Facebook and visit our website to learn more about upcoming programs, events, and campus opportunities. Scan the QR code below to follow us and never miss an update!



INSTAGRAM



FACEBOOK

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You can also visit our website for programs, events, and resources:

<https://www.tntech.edu/intercultural/about.php>

