



**THE ENTERPRISE CENTER**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019





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# A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT & CHAIRMAN

The Enterprise Center nurtures innovation in Chattanooga, connecting people to resources, while working to build a more inclusive community. We believe that with a shared community vision, our fiber network can be used to improve everyday life. We also believe that every single resident must be equipped to fully participate in modern digital life. These are bold visions, that require the whole community's effort.

Our effectiveness depends on the strength of our community partnerships, and over the last year, our collaborative work has reached new heights. Tech Goes Home has deepened relationships with anchor institutions like schools, libraries, and churches, as well as organizations like Signal Centers and La Paz, allowing us to better serve the public. The Innovation District continues to thrive, and has begun to touch neighborhoods in new ways, as more teachers, business leaders, and creatives become involved with the innovation ecosystem. We know that exchanging ideas with other communities helps ours evolve, and The Enterprise Center was instrumental in attracting two major conferences this year —



Nation of Makers Conference and International Placemaking Week — to come to Chattanooga and leave a lasting impact. We helped convene several of the area's largest public institutions to form the Chattanooga Smart Community Collaborative, and together, we developed the MLK Blvd Smart Corridor that was called for in the Innovation District Framework Plan.

When Ken Hays, president and CEO for the past five years, retired at the end of the fiscal year, he left The Enterprise Center well-poised for a new level of community impact. Under the new leadership of Deb Socia, we're ready to work collaboratively with the Chattanooga community, as we leverage Chattanooga's technological resources to improve life for all.

**DAVID BELITZ**  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

**KEN HAYS**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

# STAFF

Ken Hays  
President & CEO

Ann Coulter  
Strategic  
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Executive Assistant

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Tech Goes Home  
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Tech Goes Home  
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Officer

Mary Helen Montgomery  
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Communications Manager

Terrance Westfield  
Floor Five Events  
& Site Coordinator

Andrew Rodgers  
Research & Applications  
Development

Eugenia Payne  
Research & Applications  
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Director of Innovation District  
Programs

Alexander Leffew  
Innovation District  
Coordinator

# BOARD

David Belitz (Chairman)  
Steve Angle  
Sheila Boyington  
Ben Brown  
Zac Brown  
Mickey Cloud  
Sydney Crisp  
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Sarah Morgan  
Daniel Ryan  
Kim White  
Bryan Johnson  
Sheldon Grizzle  
Dr. Mina Sartipi

Marcus Shaw  
Scott Pierce  
Rebecca Ashford  
*Ex Officio Members:*  
Mayor Andy Berke  
Mayor Jim Coppinger  
Erskine Olgesby  
Sabrena Smedley  
Dr. Steve Highlander



# DIGITAL INCLUSION



## The Challenge

Chattanooga has the fastest, cheapest, most pervasive internet in the world, which gives our city a leg up when it comes to building digital equity. With many residents lacking basic digital literacy or a home internet connection, we face a serious challenge, and thanks to strong support from the City of Chattanooga, Hamilton County and others, we're taking that challenge on.



## Our Impact

Tech Goes Home Chattanooga continued to expand, offering new modules that equip graduates to better engage in digital life, keep up in school, and seek new kinds of employment. The program is now so popular, in fact, that we are no longer able to accommodate everyone who wants to partner with us to host a class, but we are feeling energized by the challenge of growing our program to meet demand.

We also saw the benefit of putting technology into new hands, as we expanded the 4K Microscope program to five high schools in Hamilton County this year. Students across the county now have access to an enthralling and powerful tool that's usually only found in top-level professional labs.

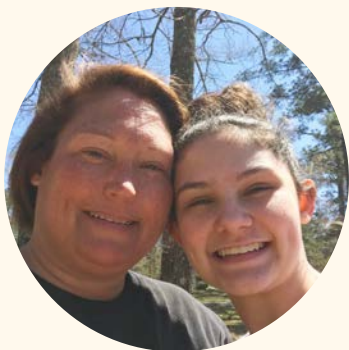
# TECH GOES HOME: CHANGING LIVES



“When somebody needs me to send them an email, I can actually do it now.”  
- **Annette Tatum**

## 4,001

Participants served,  
FY 2015-2019



“It’s opened my eyes... I didn’t know there was online courses for adults, to get a GED, learn second languages, or get help with resume or job search.”  
- **Melissa Schwartz**

## 238

Number of courses,  
FY 2015-2019

## Classes offered

Community - all ages  
Hamilton County Schools  
Small and Micro Business  
Spanish instruction  
Google Suite 2.0  
Office Ready

Early Childhood  
Early Childhood Educator  
Deaf, deaf-blind, low-vision  
ASL instruction  
HCS Teacher Edition  
Offender re-entry

# 4K MICROSCOPE

The 4K microscope at STEM School Chattanooga was installed in 2018, and this year, we assisted five additional Hamilton County Schools in gaining remote access to the tool, allowing students at urban and rural schools to examine the natural world at microscopic levels.



**“The 4K Microscope really allows us to redefine learning.”**

**Dr. Bryan Johnson,**

**Superintendent of Hamilton County Schools**

## **Support and funding from:**

EPB

Hamilton County Schools

Public Education Foundation

University of Southern California

National Science Foundation

Mozilla

US Ignite

Erlanger

## **Participating schools**

Brainerd High school

East Hamilton High School

Hixson High School

The Howard School

Red Bank High School





# INNOVATION DISTRICT

## Life and work in the public realm

A healthy public realm is crucial in building a strong innovation economy. Throughout the year, we continued to support programming in the district and invited people of all backgrounds and experiences to participate. We gathered with entrepreneurs each week for The Kauffman Foundation's One Million Cups program, we played BINGO every other week with our neighbors across the street at Patten Towers, and we cheered on teachers as they pitched their ideas at Teacherpreneur Pitch Night. And throughout the Innovation District, the physical landscape evolved — Cherry Street lit up with new business, the massive Miller Park renovation was completed, and Transcard began renovations on the underutilized building wedged between Market Street and Georgia Ave.







## FLOOR FIVE AT THE EDNEY

The free community space on Floor Five of The Edney is a great indicator of the state of Chattanooga's entrepreneurial and creative community. As the front door of the Innovation District, The Edney is a welcoming and shared space for Chattanooga's thinkers, starters, and doers.

**1,799**

Number of events  
in FY 2018/19

**150**

Average number of  
events per month

**22,570**

Number of visits  
in FY 2018/19

## INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM TOUR DAY



To help ensure that all are aware of the resources in the Innovation District and feel welcome there, we began an "Innovation Ecosystem Tour Day" program, inviting leaders from underrepresented communities to spend the day networking and learning.

# RESEARCH & APPLICATIONS DEVELOPMENT

*Chattanooga's fiber network is an incredible asset for research, and this year, so many efforts in our community gelled and made each other stronger.*

## CHATTANOOGA SMART COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE

The Chattanooga Smart Community Collaborative cultivates an ecosystem of academia, industry and community to develop and apply innovative solutions to authentic challenges in Chattanooga while leveraging our community assets in order to thrive in the new economy.



**RECOGNIZED BY:**





# MLK SMART CORRIDOR



The Chattanooga Smart Community Collaborative, with leadership from UTC, opened a 1.25-mile “smart city corridor” along ML King Blvd. The corridor, which was called for in the Innovation District Framework Plan, collects data that researchers can use to address challenges of city life.



## Financials

You can find The Enterprise Center's most recent financial audit here: <https://www.theenterprisectr.org/uploads/FinancialReport19.pdf>