



# TRUE BLUE CORE

December 2024

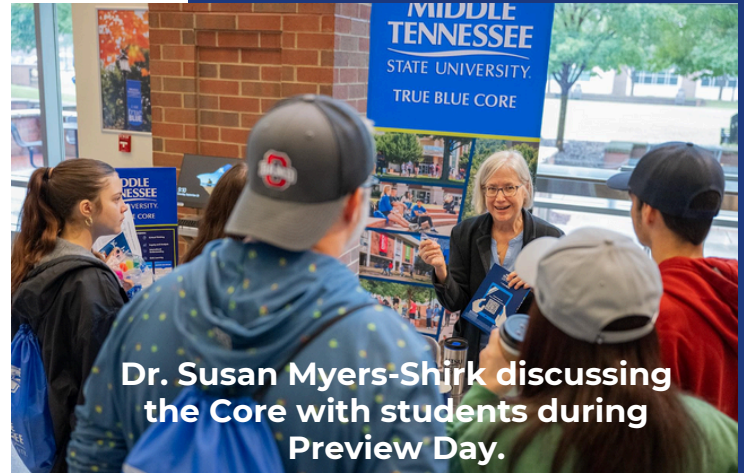
Issue #1

# NEWSLETTER

## TBC DIRECTOR UPDATE

Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) is excited to announce the launch of its new general education curriculum, the True Blue Core, as part of the 2024-2025 catalog. This innovative program builds upon the strengths of the previous curriculum by incorporating new courses and student learning outcomes, empowering students with more choices and equipping them for both academic and career achievements. The smooth transition to this curriculum is a testament to the hard work and collaboration of faculty, advisors, and the Registrar's Office. MTSU remains at the forefront of general education, hosting initiatives like Civic Learning Sidewalk

Talks to engage the university community, particularly during the election season. Progress is also being made on Blueprints, with faculty and student groups actively participating in planning sessions. Additionally, the Center for the True Blue Core has opened, offering students a welcoming space with snacks and comfortable seating. The university community is warmly invited to explore the True Blue Core, both on campus and virtually, to discover the exciting opportunities it presents.



Dr. Susan Myers-Shirk discussing the Core with students during Preview Day.

## COURSES APPROVED FOR THE 2025-2026 CATALOG

- **JOUR 2720 - DIGITAL MEDIA SKILLS**
- **CDFS 2100 - DATING AND MATING: THE SCIENCE OF LOVE, SEX, AND RELATIONSHIPS**
- **ENVS 2810/2811- INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**



Students from the True Blue Tour in Shelbyville, TN.



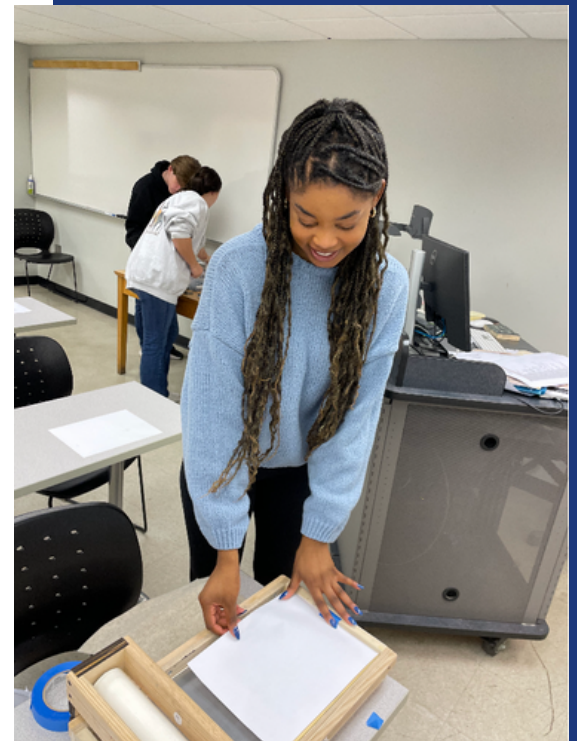
Dr. Laura Cochran



Medieval-style  
manuscript page by  
Katherine Fralix.  
Picture from Faculty  
Spotlight.

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT DR. LAURA COCHRANE

In fall of 2024, I began teaching a new course that I designed for the True Blue Core. ART 1040 is a topics course, and the topic I am teaching this semester is the Medieval and Renaissance Book. Students are learning about the history of manuscripts and printed books in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. This is also an EXL course. In addition to lectures and readings, students have been able to make their own manuscripts and printed books. The materials and tools we are using are housed in the True Blue Core Art and Design Laboratory, which I have created over the last few years with grants from EXL and the True Blue Core, as well as funds from the Department of Art and Design. This laboratory includes, among other things, table top printing presses, type and blocks for printing, bookbinding tools and materials, and calligraphy pens, paint, and gilding materials.



Morgan Williams  
printing on tabletop  
printing press.



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Meet Our Staff



Dr. Christina Cobb discussing the new courses added to the Core during the True Blue Tour.

## ASSESSMENT UPDATE

The new assessment plan is underway, focusing on three key learning outcomes: written communication, non-written communication, and information literacy for the 24 -25 AY. A random sample of course sections has been selected, and faculty members involved have been notified about submitting student artifacts. Please remember, this process is not an evaluation of teaching methods but a check to ensure students are achieving the intended learning outcomes. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Christina Cobb ([Christina.cobb@mtsu.edu](mailto:Christina.cobb@mtsu.edu)) for assistance.



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