

True Blue Core Committee Meeting

February 13, 2026

12.30 pm via Zoom

Voting members in attendance: Virginia Hemby-Grubb, Jane Seok Jeng Lim, Suzanne Mangrum, Rebecca Oldham, Stephanie Totty, Ashlee Hover, Andrew Fialka, Teresa Davis, Laura Cochrane, John Zemora, Xin Yang, Brielle Campos, Sylvester Lamin, Jorge Vargas, Kari Neely

Voting members absent: Andrea Hall, Andrea Taylor, Michael Peasley, Nia Moore, Amber Shelton

True Blue Core Team: Christina Cobb, Natalie Hoskins, Molly Walters, Abby Arnold

Ex officio: Jeff Gibson, Michelle Conceison

Welcome

Terri Davis, Chair of True-Blue Core Committee, welcomes the committee members back for the second meeting in 2026.

Approval of minutes

With no other amendments, a motion was called to approve the minutes for January 23, 2026. Motion for approval- Brielle Campos, seconded by Laura Cochrane. The meeting minutes were approved with a Vote (12/12)

TBC Assessment

Natalie reported on the True Blue Core assessment, noting that the first-year data had been submitted and that the second-year data collection was ongoing. Now in the process of early collection of critical thinking outcomes for 31 courses. Terri Davis inquired about the psychology assessment timeline, and Natalie clarified that it was conducted only in the spring semester. Christina explained the rationale for splitting data collection between the fall and spring semesters to balance the workload. Data collection is ongoing throughout the year.

Teagle Grant

Christina reported that a \$75,000 planning grant was awarded to design a humanities-centered pathway across Tennessee, with an implementation grant submitted for further funding.

She shared that a grant proposal for a program aimed at promoting humanities education, with a funding request of \$560,000, though similar programs typically receive around \$400,000. Christina explained that the program's goal is to facilitate student transfers between community colleges and four-year institutions, with plans for badges and degree stamps to recognize students' achievements.

Jeff Gibson thanked Christina and the team for the hard work on the grant.

True Blue Core Outstanding Teacher Award

At this moment, the Outstanding Teaching Award has received 119 nominations, but only 4 met all requirements, with the deadline for nominations set for Monday, February 16.

Christina explained that only 4 nominees had met all the requirements for the Outstanding Teaching Award so far, noting that many others did not meet the requirements due to insufficient teaching experience or not teaching enough True Blue Core courses. She clarified that the 119 submissions represented multiple nominations rather than 119 unique candidates.

Jane suggested reviewing the nomination requirements to understand why so many submissions did not meet the criteria, with Christina agreeing to review and potentially modify the criteria for selecting nominees in future cycles.

Jorge Vargas asked if the selection process was automated. Christina clarified that Molly Walters, the student worker, reviews each application to ensure all eligibility criteria are met.

Blueprints

One blueprint has already been launched, led by Rebecca Oldham and Matt Duncan. It has been successful and will serve as a model for future blueprints. Rebecca shared that the FLC has provided excellent feedback for the first blueprint launch. Christina is working on additional blueprints up to five and will finalize a survey for students to earn badges and graduation credits.

Christina reiterated that the suggestion is all faculty-led and not top-down, as TBC is inclusive.

Convocation

Christina announced that faculty teaching in the core will be recognized at the MTSU convocation on August 22nd, with 40 seats available and TBC medallions to be awarded. She strongly encouraged the TBC committee to attend as well.

New business

NA

Other matters

With no other matter, the meeting was adjourned at 12.55 p.m.

Meeting notes submitted by Jane Seok Jeng Lim, Recording Secretary , with the assistance of AI Companion.

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Edits and revisions submitted by Christina Cobb