



A moment to focus on the good our team is doing every day



UCHRA ONHAND FOR EV DEMONSTRATION TESTBED KICKOFF AT TENNESSEE TECH

Project team members gathered at Tennessee Tech Thursday to celebrate a newly-installed electric charging station on campus; part of a new project designed to assess the challenges related to electric vehicle usage in a rural area while encouraging EV usage in the Upper Cumberland. According to TTU's proposal, this station is one component of a project will that create a proof-of-concept demonstration testbed for EVs and charging infrastructures in UC region in Tennessee; a representative rural and economically distressed region.

– Continued, pg. 2

Out in the Field

UCDD SUMMER STRATEGY SESSIONS CONTINUE



We enjoyed meeting with our friends and community partners during the recent Fentress County Summer Strategy Session in Jamestown.

These sessions are a great way for us to better assist the Upper Cumberland communities we serve.

UCDD coordinates Economic Development Strategy Sessions in each UC county annually to facilitate strategic planning conversations between all state and regional partners with local government officials and community leaders.

Thank you for your involvement and support!



STAR SUCCESS STORY: KELLIE DIZON

The following information was submitted by a UCHRA program participant and has been edited for clarity.

My name is Kellie (Dizon) and I successfully completed the STAR program at Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency (UCHRA) in Lafayette, Tenn. (Macon County).

With the help of the STAR program and my case manager Balinda Westmoreland, I have completed all my course hours and will be graduating from Genesis Community College. I will begin working full-time at The Health Nut in Lafayette as a Massage Therapist.

The STAR program made sure I had gas to get back and forth to school and always checked to see about any other needs to make sure I graduated. I want to thank everyone at UCHRA for their support. I look forward to starting my career so book your appointment now!





UCHRA ONHAND FOR EV DEMONSTRATION TESTBED KICKOFF AT TENNESSEE TECH

According to the proposal, this project will provide the experience, research, demonstration and educational opportunities needed to address EV adoption issues. Comprehensive data will be collected and analyzed to report the operation cost, issues and performance of EV to help potential fleet owners and the public at large make informed decisions in EV adoption for rural areas before making significant financial investment.

Rural areas cover 97 percent of U.S. land area but contain less than 20 percent of the population, about 60 million people (2016 U.S. Census report). Transportation plays a critical role in the social and economy development in rural areas since it provides access to food, healthcare, educational opportunities, and employment, and increases rural residents' ability to access recreation, entertainment, and other activities that promote community engagement.

Broad Project Impacts: 1) accelerating EV adoption and promoting EV awareness in rural vehicle fleets and communities; 2) reducing transportation cost, fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas and harmful emissions, and improving fuel diversity and public health in rural areas; 3) enabling smooth and long-distance intercity transportation of goods and people with rural EV charging infrastructure; 4) helping Tennessee's corridor development initiatives and potentially boosting the economic development in the rural areas; 5) facilitating collaborations between universities, automotive OEM and suppliers, DOE designated clean city coalition, and national lab for EV research and development, outreach, and education.

The project team includes Tennessee Technological University (lead); the University of Texas at Austin; Nissan North America; Phoenix Motorcars; East Tennessee Clean Fuels Coalition; Seven States Power Corporation; ChargePoint; Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency; Oak Ridge National Laboratory; and, Lyft.

UCHRA is proud to be part of the project team. Look for additional information in a future release.

Project information source: Tennessee Tech University. For more information, visit www.tntech.edu/engineering/research/ev-demo-testbed.php



July 24, 2020



COMMUNITY SERVICES NEEDS YOUR INPUT

UCHRA is seeking community input from all 14-counties of the Upper Cumberland region as part of the annual Community Needs Assessment.

Now through the end of the month of July, UCHRA will be asking citizens, stakeholders, and community partners to complete a brief, anonymous survey.

The survey lists nine questions tailored to determine what community members see as the biggest needs within the community; including the identification of any service gaps and identifying populations within the community that have unmet needs that UCHRA could assist with. The survey also provides an opportunity for respondents to provide additional information.

While the CSBG Act requires the distribution of a Community Needs Assessment, the questionnaire provides an opportunity for UCHRA to work toward addressing service gaps, needs, and opportunities within the region.

The survey is available to be completed online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/UCCCommunityNeedsAssessment2020 until July 31, 2020.

For more information, or to volunteer to take part in focus groups surrounding the needs of the Upper Cumberland Region, please contact LaNelle Godsey, Community Services Director, or Megan Spurgeon, Community Services Assistant Director, at (931) 528-1127.

Issue 14