

# Positively UC

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



AUG. 29, 2025

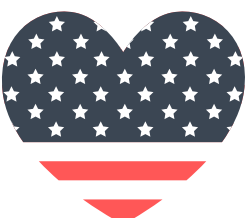
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## 2025 FALL TRAINING, ROADEO IN THE BOOKS

Learning, laughter, and a little friendly rivalry set the stage for UCDD and UCHRA's fall training last Friday! Embracing this year's theme, *Game On!*, staff went all out with creative costumes and game-inspired tent décor. The day wrapped up with a celebration of our 2025 Employees of the Year and the thrilling Rodeo driver competition. *Catch the highlights and award-winning moments on the following pages!*

UCDD, UCHRA OFFICES CLOSED MONDAY



## Happy Labor Day!

Relax. Take a breather.  
Celebrate the fact that you  
make a difference to people's  
lives. Every day.

## HOUSING, RCP TEAM ATTENDS VULNERABLE ADULT SUMMIT



UCDD's Relative Caregiver Program and Housing teams recently attended the 2025 Upper Cumberland Vulnerable Adult Summit, highlighting our commitment to serving and supporting the region's most vulnerable populations.

## STAFF ATTEND SUPERVISOR TRAINING AT TENNESSEE TECH



UCDD and UCHRA attended the recent Supervisor Training at Tennessee Tech University. Presented by Wimberly Lawson Wright Daves & Jones, PLLC and Upper Cumberland SHRM, this half-day seminar covered conflict management, workers' compensation training, and leadership development.

# UCDD, UCHRA ANNOUNCE 2025 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

*Congratulations to the 2025 UCDD-UCHRA Employees of the Year and Roadeo Competition Winners!*



UCDD and UCHRA are proud to recognize and celebrate the outstanding individuals selected as the 2025 Employees of the Year. These honorees exemplify dedication, service, and a commitment to improving the lives of individuals, families, and communities throughout the Upper Cumberland region.

“Our employees are the backbone of everything we do,” said Mark Farley, UCDD and UCHRA Executive Director. “Each of these individuals has gone above and beyond in service to their clients, coworkers, and communities, and we are proud to celebrate their achievements.”

The following employees have been recognized for their exceptional contributions in 2025:

## Upper Cumberland Development District (UCDD)

- Administration: Tammy Kulpa
- Aging Services: Connie Vassilev
- Economic Development & Lending: Jessie Lusk
- Finance: Robin Mayberry
- Housing & Family Services: Vicki Beck
- Planning & Community Development: Sean Patten

## Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency (UCHRA)

- Community Intervention: Pam Sanford
- Community Services: Melissa Moore
- County Coordinator: Carol Watson
- County Office Support: Sheila Ooten
- Empower UC: Courtlind McCutcheon

## Transportation Rural Drivers of the Year:

- Region 1: Donny Miller (Cumberland)
- Region 2: Victor Ketrang (Fentress)
- Region 3: Roy Brown (Jackson)

## Transportation - Regional Dispatchers:

- Maxine Anderson (Cumberland)
- Penny Hix (Clay)
- Lashay Dobson (White)
- Stephanie Rigsby (Warren)
- Paula Rigsby (Warren)

Additionally, UCHRA Public Transportation staff who participated in the local transportation Roadeo competition were recognized. In the Maintenance division, Daniel Holmes took home first place, with Joey Bitter earning second. In the T-305 category, Billy Gilbert of Putnam County claimed first place, followed by John Pistol, also of Putnam, in second, and Sheryl Stephens of Pickett County in third. For the Cutaway division, Jonny Maynard of Putnam County secured first place, Billy Gilbert earned second, and Michael Smith of Clay County rounded out the top three.

Our top winners will go on to represent UCHRA at the statewide Roadeo in Knoxville.

Together, these individuals represent the heart of UCDD and UCHRA's mission: to help the Upper Cumberland region cultivate self-sufficiency and build true wealth through innovation, collaboration, and leadership.

## WHO WE ARE

### OUR MISSION

*To help the Upper Cumberland region cultivate self-sufficiency and build true wealth through innovation, collaboration, and leadership.*

### OUR VISION

*A region abundant in resources, fostering a productive and vibrant life for the people of the Upper Cumberland.*

**get plugged in.**

Follow us on social media for the latest updates.





# CELEBRATING THE 2025 UCDD-UCHRA EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR





# SCENES FROM UCDD-UCHRA'S FALL TRAINING, ROADEO

*Game On! UCDD and UCHRA teams leveled up with epic costumes and over-the-top decorations!*

