

Positively UC

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



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SMITH JOINS INAUGURAL CCHS STEAMPOSIUM PANEL

Earlier this month, Cumberland County High School (CCHS) held its inaugural STEAMposium. The event, which was formerly focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), now also incorporates the Arts, reflecting a broader commitment to creative learning.

The STEAMposium continues to serve as a platform for students to explore interdisciplinary learning and develop skills that will prepare them for future careers in a rapidly evolving world, and underscores the importance of inspiring the next generation of thinkers and creators.

Rosa Smith, UCDD's Assistant Director of Economic Development, joined Cumberland County Mayor Allen Foster; Dr. Ina Maxell, Sixth Congressional District Representative for the Tennessee State Board of Education; and Angela Regitko, Regional Director of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.



UCHRA GEARS UP FOR STATE ROADEO COMPETITION

Next week, UCHRA Public Transportation mechanics and drivers will take center stage at the Tennessee Public Transportation Association (TPTA) State Rodeo Competition!

This annual event brings together top transit professionals from across the state to showcase their skills, precision, and expertise in both driving and vehicle maintenance.

UCHRA is proud to be represented by Daniel Holmes, Joey Bitter, Billy Gilbert, Jonny Maynard, Mike Smith, and John Pistole, and we encourage the UCDD and UCHRA teams to cheer them on as they compete for top honors. Their dedication and skill reflect the commitment of UCHRA's Public Transportation team to safety, excellence, and service.

We wish our team the best of luck and look forward to celebrating their achievements at this exciting statewide event — bring home the big wheel!



OPEN ENROLLMENT: ACT NOW TO SECURE YOUR BENEFITS

Open Enrollment for medical, vision, dental, and supplemental benefits is underway and runs through Oct. 31. This is your annual opportunity to review and adjust your coverage for the upcoming 2026 plan year. Whether you're enrolling for the first time, adding or removing dependents, changing plan options, or opting out, now is the time to make those decisions.

Why Timely Enrollment Matters

In Tennessee, approximately 9.3 percent of residents remain uninsured, equating to around 654,000 individuals without health coverage in 2023. This rate has remained steady, highlighting the ongoing need for accessible and affordable healthcare options, according to *The Sycamore Institute*.

Additionally, *Healthcare Value Hub* states 61 percent of Tennessee adults reported experiencing healthcare affordability burdens in the past year, with many delaying or forgoing necessary care due to cost concerns.

What You Need to Know for 2026

- Delta Dental is transitioning to MetLife: Even if your dental coverage automatically rolls over, you must submit your enrollment form with "NO CHANGES" noted to ensure continued coverage.
- Updated Premium Rates: All plans have new contribution rates that will apply to your paycheck starting Jan. 1, 2026.
- Health Savings (CDHP) Plan Participants: If you're enrolled in this plan, confirm that you've received provider change information. Contact HR if you have not.

How to Complete Your Enrollment

To complete your enrollment, fill out the applicable parts of the form, attach any required documents, sign, and submit your completed form to hr@ucdd.org by Oct. 29.

Forms received after this date may not be processed during the Open Enrollment period.



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.





HOSTING AN EVENT AT UCDD? HERE'S WHAT TO KNOW

As UCDD continues to welcome community partners and guests into our offices, we want to make sure every visit is a positive one—for them and for us!

Creating a welcoming, professional environment takes teamwork, and we appreciate everyone's help in following (and sharing) a few important reminders.

If you're hosting an event or working with a partner organization that plans to use our conference space, please take a moment to go over these guidelines with them ahead of time. A quick conversation can make all the difference in keeping things on track and running smoothly.

All audiovisual (AV) presentations should be emailed to connect@ucdd.org at least 24 hours before the event. This gives our team time to upload materials and make sure everything works properly. To keep our network secure, please remember that outside equipment can't be used, and any flash drives must be submitted to IT for approval at least 24 hours in advance.

Because our office opens at 8 a.m., guests won't be able to enter before that time.

If an event is scheduled to begin right at 8, please let attendees know that early access can't be guaranteed. When possible, we recommend starting events at 8:30 a.m. or later to allow a little extra breathing room for setup and arrivals.

Guests should stay within designated areas (the conference room(s), restrooms, and kitchen), and signs will be posted as a reminder. We also ask that everyone be mindful of noise in shared areas such as hallways, smaller meeting spaces, and the kitchen, which remains open for staff use during breaks and lunch.

As a friendly reminder, smoking, vaping, or similar activities aren't permitted near entrances or in front of the building. And if an event changes, whether it's canceled, rescheduled, or shortened, please let us know right away so we can update the booking calendar.

Thank you all for helping make UCDD a great place to meet, collaborate, and connect. Your cooperation ensures that every guest and every workday runs just a little more smoothly. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to connect@ucdd.org.

**HAVE CONFERENCE ROOM AV QUESTIONS?
CHECK OUT THIS TRAINING VIDEO FROM JUNE 2024! [HTTPS://QRCO.DE/BGOLCI](https://qrcod.de/bgolci)**