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★ STARS ★

STUDENTS TACKLING AUTISM-RELATED SYNDROMES

Let the Fun Begin! We Can't Wait to Have You Back!



STARS is...

Ready for the New School Year!

Our College STARS program is excited and ready for a fantastic new school year...let's catch you up on what we have been up to!



Congratulations to our Class of 2023 Graduates!

Our CBU STARS were shining bright with this year's graduating class! To celebrate their success, we enjoyed a beautiful dinner together while sharing their favorite college memories. Such a special evening to enjoy together! The world is at your fingertips, go out there and SHINE bright!

Pictured from left to right: Ben Hultz, Alexandria Gipson, Derrick Rayford, Emil Johnson, Ethan Tatum & Shawn Lindow.



Introducing...Our 2023 All-Star Winner!

STARS is very proud to introduce you to our 2023 All-Star! Emil Johnson graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a Management Information Systems concentration. Emil has been an integral member of STARS for the past 4 years; attending almost every event. He has also participated with Dr. Colby Taylor with the InsideOut program since its inception 3 years ago. Emil, we are so excited to watch you continue to spread your wings and fly!

Pictured from left to right: Dr. Colby Taylor & Emil Johnson



STARS Partnership Announcement!

STARS is proud to announce its collaboration with UTHSC Center on Developmental Disabilities as part of their five-year grant with Tennessee's first University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities program (UCEDD). We are excited to partner with the UCEDD on several projects and look forward to having the UCEDD as a valuable source in evaluating and helping disseminate outcomes for the students, employers, and faculty served by our programs.



Have You Heard?

STARS was honored to be recognized as a finalist for Organization of the Year in the Mid-South Nonprofit Conference Catalyst Awards. With over 5,000 non-profits in the greater Memphis area, we are humbled by this nomination and so grateful for the opportunity to share all the awesome things our STARS are up to. Congratulations to all of the incredible non-profits who are doing extraordinary work in our community!

We had a Blast at the Milky Way 1K!

A HUGE Thank You to all who came out and joined us for our 2nd Annual Milky Way 1K! We had a fantastic turnout and raised over \$3,000 to go directly to our CBU STARS program. It was a gorgeous day to enjoy an active and fun time together, looking forward to next year!

Photo Credit: Melody Allensworth-James. Thank you for your continued support and sharing your talent with us!





[Click Here to View the Milky Way 1K Photo Gallery](#)



Our STARS Team is Growing! Introducing...Ms. Amy Harlan.

We are so happy to introduce our new Academic Coach, Amy Harlan. Amy earned a Bachelors in Health Sciences from Baptist College of Health Sciences in 2007. She has worked as a radiation therapist in oncology for several years. During this time, she was honored to guide and support patients, along with their families, through their treatment. Amy further grew her career in the Neurology Department at LeBonheur Children's Hospital, in Memphis, TN. During her time at LeBonheur, Amy was involved in electroneurodiagnostics and through this she worked with many families and children with autism. Amy is able to use her experience, knowledge and skills to work with STARS in order to support and enhance our student's current and future ambitions.



Come Watch Us Grow!

Starting and maintaining healthy lifestyle habits are difficult for most college students. Many students, especially freshman, experience enormous lifestyle changes, which may cause increased anxiety, difficulty focusing and depression. For students with autism, this is especially true. The objective of the InsideOut program is to promote the physical and mental wellbeing of students while getting their fit on and having fun!

Logo Credit: Joseph Jameson - great work, Joseph!



Thank you!

Our STARS program would not be possible without the generous support of our donors. From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU for your support! Our student's tenacity, grit and determination fuel our fire and we deeply believe we are just getting started on our journey. Your ongoing partnership and donations are incredibly appreciated, thank you for being an important part of our organization.



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