

# The University of Tennessee University Center

## University

University of Tennessee

## Center Director

Kim K Denton, CEcD

## Center Location

Nashville, TN

## Center since 2006

## Center Activities

- Strengthen rural workforce systems and build economic resiliency
- Improve participation and equity in the labor force
- Help rural businesses attract and retain talent to support job growth

## Clients

- Economic development organizations
- Local and regional communities
- WFD Professionals
- Existing businesses

## Assessment Techniques

- Feedback from partners
- Client interviews
- Feedback at regional community forums
- Client satisfaction surveys
- Case studies

## Contact Information

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## University of Tennessee EDA University Center

The University of Tennessee EDA University Center (UTUC) strives to address gaps in Tennessee's economic development ecosystem and promotes innovation, investment and growth across the state.

The UTUC engages university resources and strategic partners to strengthen capacity of Tennessee communities to create and sustain high skilled jobs, particularly in rural areas. This work addresses critical needs to improve labor force participation and increases workforce alignment and capacity, which are hindering the ability of counties to advance economic development.

## Activities

The UTUC will engage resources to strengthen rural workforce systems and build economic resiliency, improve participation and equity in the labor force and help rural businesses attract and retain talent to support job growth and investment. The project will:

- ❖ Convene university and partner resources to identify and address labor force participation issues, particularly among under represented populations

- ❖ Help rural and distressed counties leverage, align and enhance workforce development assets
- ❖ Develop professional development programs for workforce development practitioners
- ❖ Support business expansion and quality job creation in rural communities by helping companies become employers of choice

## UTUC Technical Assistance Resources

- ❖ Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)
- ❖ Tennessee Certified Economic Developer (TCED) Program
- ❖ Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC)
- ❖ OSHA Training Institute

