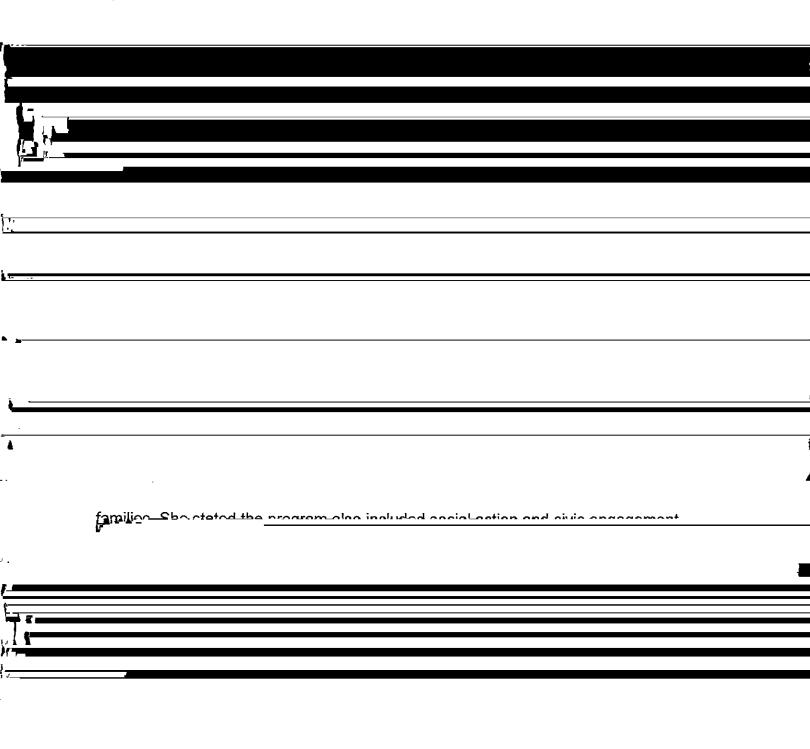


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program for children who were disadvantaged by poverty. She stated that the program had 29 participants and stated that next year she hoped to have 40 participants. She stated this was a Children's Defense Fund program, and one of more than 200 sites across the country.

Dr. Isbell stated that the program focused on a rich multicultural curriculum in literacy as well as family involvement and provided two meals per day for the students. She stated the program also trained college students to well as a family involvement and provided two meals per day for the students.



Dr. Oldham added his congratulations and thanks to Dr. Geist. Chair Harper presented Dr. Geist with a plaque expressing appreciation for her service. was able to dedicate his time to the Board when he was also CEO of his own company. She stated that Mr. Jones set a tone of professionalism, efficiency, and candor and reminded the Board to stay student focused. She stated that Mr. Jones stated the

	President Oldham stated that among Tennessee public universities, Tennessee Tech
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<i>t</i>	consistently above 75 percent for first-year retention. He stated that the goal was to
	President Oldham stated that the national standard for graduation rates was to report a
	six-year rate, which is considered one and a half times the norm. He stated that Tennessee Tech's six-year rate was at 54-55 percent, which was an all-time high. He
	stated that the five-year graduation rate was also increasing and was not much different
	from the six-year rate. He stated that the four-year graduation rate was at a record high for Tennessee Tech at 37 percent. He stated that the goal for 2025 was to pass 50
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President Oldham stated that Tennessee Tech had set a record for sponsored research activity the past year, receiving over \$20.2 million in grants and contracts. He stated this

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Chair Jones stated he wished there was a conversion from undergraduate to graduate students. He stated this is another area that could be focused on. <u>President Oldham stated that many faculty and institutions actually discouraged</u> students from staying at the same institution for all their degrees, but in some cases it would be the right thing to do. He stated that there was room to grow in that regard and opportunity for Tennessee Tech undergraduates to remain at the university. He stated that the right mix of graduate programs must also be highlighted to attract those

AGENDA ITEM 6.B—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT, REPORT ON COMPLETION OF PRESIDENT'S PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Chair Harper stated that the Board completed its annual evaluation of the President's performance. She stated that there was no recommendation on a salary increase for the

	Mr. Stites stated the Committee also received an update on the five-year strategic
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