

# Honors in the Era of Covid



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# Overview

- Impact of the ongoing crisis on students, faculty, and staff
- Adjustments to honors programs and colleges at three Tennessee community colleges:
  - Cleveland State
  - Chattanooga State
  - Northeast State

**Impact on Students, Faculty, and Staff**

# Cleveland State

- Brief overview of program design
- Impact of the pandemic on enrollment, programming, extracurriculars, etc.
  - Enrollment is down from about 120 students to about 80.
  - Compilation of Capstone projects and Graduation:
    - 2020: 40 students
    - 2021: 50 students
    - 2022: 15-20 students

# Scheduling during Pandemic

- Spring 2020 - All classes went virtual. Extensive PD on how to offer synchronous virtual classes.
- Summer 2020
  - Summer training on online course design and instruction
  - Specific training for honors faculty
- Fall 2020 - Most classes offered virtually (synchronous and asynchronous)
- Spring 2021-Spring 2022 - Classes have slowly returned to the traditional classroom.

# State of Online Honors in 2022

- Faculty show an increased comfort with teaching online.
- We've gained students in the program we wouldn't have had otherwise (nontraditional students, students with full-time caretaking responsibilities, students with disabilities, etc.)
- We've developed some wonderful courses and assignments that work well in an online environment.
- Most classes want to return to the classroom as soon as possible, though some plenty have stayed remote to accommodate student and faculty needs.

# Chattanooga State

- Brief overview of program design
- Impact of the pandemic on enrollment, programming, extracurriculars, etc.
  - Enrolment continues strong, with 213 active students
  - This is due to the flexible nature of our program's membership
  - Online and virtual academic options have increased
  - Co-curriculars have shifted to either remote or student-centered events

# Chattanooga State - Scheduling

- Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021 - All classes went virtual and or asynchronous online. Honors faculty did not receive specific training, as the college invested most of their resources in training for a switch to 7-week classes.
- Fall 2021- 60% of classes returned to the traditional classroom; 40% remained asynchronous or synchronous online. All honors courses were offered as 7-week courses.
- Spring 2022 - The proportion has switched to 75%-25%. Writing, Math, and Modern Languages courses have returned to the 15-week paradigm.

# Chattanooga State- Participation

- The pandemic has had a strong impact in co-curricular participation (60-70% decrease)
- Studying abroad, once a pillar of our honors program, was not an option two summers in a row
- Opportunity to identify more committed students
- Opportunity to undertake internal audits, re-examine processes, etc.

# Northeast State

- Brief overview of program design
- Impact of the pandemic on enrollment, programming, extracurriculars, etc.
  - Enrollment down from 209 in Spring 2020 to 153 in Spring 2021
  - Enrollment down from 143 in Fall 2020 to 100 in Fall 2021
  - Three in-person sections did not make
  - Extracurricular Lyceum events suspended during COVID

# Northeast State Scheduling

- Spring 2020 - All classes went virtual. Using HEERF funding, faculty created model courses including peer review and CTL staff developed a D2L Certification Course
- Fall 2020 - Most classes offered virtually (synchronous and asynchronous)
- Spring 2022 - Returned to pre-COVID scheduling which does include online offerings to accommodate working students and those attending satellite campuses
- A survey of honors students revealed a near 50/50 split in the desire for online vs. in-person courses.
- Plan to have honors faculty develop honors model courses with sample syllabi and assignments

# Conclusions