



INSTITUTE  
for PUBLIC  
SERVICE

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## *FY25 Ely Public Service Experience Fund Case for Support*



# Endowment History and Purpose

## *Purpose of the Fund*

Current research and data suggest that neurodiverse individuals, including those on the autism spectrum, are underrepresented in public service careers. A contributing factor is the limited availability of work-study programs that provide practical experience in these fields for students on the spectrum. According to the U.S. Department of Labor and organizations like the Autism Society, adults with autism face higher rates of unemployment and underemployment than individuals with other disabilities.

In response to this need, Dr. Macel and Jamie Ely established the Ely Public Service Experience Fund. This endowment is designed to support students on the autism spectrum by providing access to immersive internship opportunities with the University of Tennessee's Institute for Public Service (IPS). IPS offers a dynamic environment to cultivate future public service leaders, ensuring they have inclusive access to both serve and be served in our communities.

## *Fund Overview*

Established on August 12, 2024, the Ely Public Service Experience Endowment was created with the vision of connecting students on the autism spectrum with opportunities to discover a career in public service.

The fund is managed by the University of Tennessee Foundation, Inc. (UTFI) in partnership with the University of Tennessee (UT) and UT Institute for Public Service (IPS). When the fund is fully endowed—when the balance reaches the \$25,000 minimum required by UT and UTFI policy—the available investment income will support students on

the autism spectrum accessing public service internships and other career exploration opportunities offered across IPS.

While the fund gives preference to students on the autism spectrum, students with other documented disabilities are encouraged to apply and will be considered.

## *Student Public Service Career Opportunities at IPS*

IPS and its agencies offer a variety of career exploration opportunities targeting students with an interest in public service including, but not limited to:

- Summer or semester internship programs
- Student worker positions
- Research and capstone projects

Compensation for paid student employment opportunities varies, but generally students earn ~\$14 per hour.

## *Recent Endowment Financials & Aspirational Fund Goals*

**Market Value:** \$7,287

**Annual Donors:** 17 households have contributed more than \$5,000 in one-time and recurring cash gift contributions.

**Endowment Fundraising Goal:** \$125,000

\$125,000 in gifts would generate investment income that could fund approximately one full-time (40-hour) or two part-time (20-hour) public service career exploration opportunities, up to 10 weeks of paid experience per year.

# How to Make a Gift

## Cash Gifts

Follow the URL or use your smart-device camera to scan the QR code to make a one-time or recurring online gift using a credit card or digital wallet.

[giving.tennessee.edu/ely](https://giving.tennessee.edu/ely)



Make checks payable to the “UT Foundation,” and in the memo include “Ely Public Service Experience Endowment” or “ELYPS\_E01”. Mail payment to:

UT Foundation  
1525 University Avenue  
Knoxville, TN 37921

## Matching Gifts

Most corporate matching gift programs require the donor to submit a completed paper form or complete an online form to accompany each personal gift. If you’re not sure about your company’s process, check with your company’s human resources department.

To check if your employer is already registered in our system to match your gift, visit [utfi.org/giving/matching-gifts/](https://utfi.org/giving/matching-gifts/).

For your convenience, you may submit your completed matching gift form via email to [kristen.davis@tennessee.edu](mailto:kristen.davis@tennessee.edu) and copy [matching@utfi.org](mailto:matching@utfi.org).

## Stocks and Securities

Gifts of appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual fund shares can be a tax efficient way of giving. Gifts are received electronically through the UT Foundation’s broker, BNY Mellon. Your broker initiates the transfer, and a receipt will be issued by the UT Foundation when the gift is posted. Contact Kristen Davis for full instructions.

## Real Estate or Planned Gifts

If you are interested in making a planned gift of real estate, consider residences, vacation homes, farms, commercial buildings or undeveloped land.

Access complementary resources on planned giving at [tiny.utk.edu/ips-gift-plans](https://tiny.utk.edu/ips-gift-plans).

Contact Kristen Davis, director of development at the UT Institute for Public Service, with questions or to request assistance.

- [kristen.davis@tennessee.edu](mailto:kristen.davis@tennessee.edu)
- (865) 974-9609



Dr. Macel and Jamie Ely and family.