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PIPS: Possibilities in Postsecondary Education and Science is a five-year, NIH grant-funded project that seeks to expand opportunities for rural Appalachian high school students by providing postsecondary education and STEMM (science, technology, engineering, math, and medical) career awareness programming for students in Campbell and Union Counties.

Co-led by Primary Investigators Melinda M. Gibbons, associate professor of counselor education, and Erin Hardin, associate professor of psychology, PIPES involves undergraduate and master’s students, doctoral-level graduate assistants, and faculty and staff from across UT’s campus.

PIPS is a multifaceted two-year curriculum that integrates professional development activities for high school science teachers and school counselors; mentoring activities for high school students; barriers-focused curriculum designed to increase motivation to pursue post-secondary education in general and a STEMM career, more specifically; and outreach to the local community. Specific activities include an eight-week curriculum on STEMM careers and postsecondary options for sophomores; a summer experience at UT for rising juniors; a science-in-action community outreach program and peer mentoring experience for juniors; and professional development activities for school counselors and STEMM teachers.

For more information:
- Check out our website: pipes.utk.edu
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