



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Jacobs to Create Scholarship with State-Mandated Raise

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs will donate his state-mandated salary increase to create an educational scholarship for children of county employees.

The raise – almost \$5,000 – kicks in at the beginning of the new fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Mayor Jacobs said he will also supplement the “Mayor’s Knox County Applied Technology Scholarship Fund” with his own additional money each year. The scholarship will benefit a Knox County employee’s child who attends the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Knoxville (TCAT Knoxville).

“I didn’t want to accept this raise at a time like this, but it’s required to by law, so I want to create a scholarship fund to support the children of our county’s employees,” Mayor Jacobs said. “I can’t think of a better way to put this money to good use as I’ve talked a lot about the importance of career and technical education.”

TCAT Knoxville will oversee the application process and the scholarship is expected to begin this fall.

“Even with the support of great programs like Tennessee Promise, students still incur different costs,” the Mayor added. “I hope this scholarship will help offset some of that by helping students pay fees and cover other miscellaneous expenses or buy necessary books and equipment.”

The mayor’s raise is tied to the county’s charter and its population. The bigger the population, the higher the salary. Further, the charter requires the mayor to be the highest paid elected county official. And, the state requires that the mayor make at least 5 percent more than the sheriff. Therefore, this upcoming fiscal year, the mayor is mandated by state and county law to take the almost \$5,000 raise.

Other county-wide elected officials, including the sheriff, law director, judges, and fee office holders also automatically receive state-mandated raises that are tied to the size of the county.

TCAT Knoxville was established in 1963 and designs and offers programs that are responsive to local business and industry needs, according to its website. School leaders believe that technical education should provide a well-balanced program of study that involves academic knowledge, skills and work experience needed by the student to obtain employment, compete in the global economy and be competitive in the workplace.

“Even graduates who decide to seek technical or vocational employment rather than attend a two- or four-year university will need some training and possible certification. TCAT Knoxville provides an extremely valuable service to our community by helping these students get where they want to go be it nursing, cosmetology, diesel mechanics or any number of other skilled trades. Whatever career a young person wants to choose, their financial situation shouldn’t be a barrier to that.”

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