



*Davidson County Courthouse*

## County Spotlight: *Davidson*

Population: 569,891  
County Seat: Nashville

### Did you know?

*Davidson County is named in honor of William Lee Davidson, a North Carolina officer who died in the Revolutionary War.*

*Nashville did not become the capital of Tennessee until 1827, and did not gain permanent capital status until 1843.*

For more information, visit:  
[www.tennesseeencyclopedia.net](http://www.tennesseeencyclopedia.net)

## New Solution Point System for Training Participants

CTAS has introduced a new training management system – Solution Point. This new system offers participants of the CTAS training programs the ability to manage their own account and profile information. In addition, Solution Point’s web-based application allows for 24/7 availability and online course registration/cancellation with immediate confirmation. Below is information on how to register for training using the new system. It is important to note that all Solution Point usernames and passwords must be assigned by CTAS. If you attempt to create your own login information from the Solution Point homepage, your transcript data will be lost and you will be unable to register for CTAS classes.

### How to register for training:

- Go to [www.ctas.tennessee.edu](http://www.ctas.tennessee.edu) and click on the “Training” icon on the left hand side of the page.
- Click on the link “Click here to get started in Solution Point”
- If you have a Solution Point username and password, click the link to login.
- If you do not have a Solution Point username and password, click the link to receive them. Please allow several business days for CTAS to process your request.
- Once you have logged into Solution Point, select “Browse by Category” in the Catalog Search box on the homepage.
- Select a category listed under County Training Programs (Category A and B are listed).
- A list of offerings will display on the screen.
- To narrow the search, you can select the delivery type in the drop down box (instructor-led, web-based and correspondence are listed).
- If you want to register for a course listed, select the “Register” button to the right of the course.

## COCTP Credit for Podcasts

COCTP participants are also now able to receive credit for the completion of assessments based on CTAS podcasts. The podcasts are audio recordings that can be listened to from a computer or downloaded to an iPod or MP3 player. The podcasts can be found on the right side of the CTAS homepage. After listening to the podcast, log in to Solution Point and select “Browse by Category” in the Catalog Search box. Under County Training Programs, select “Podcast Assessment” and register. Each podcast assessment is worth 1 hour of category A or recertification credit.

If you have questions concerning any of the information above, please contact the CTAS Training Department at (615) 532-3555.

# Education Jobs Program

A new federal jobs program that impacts county governments was passed by Congress this summer and signed into law on August 10, 2010. It is not a part of ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act), but will have similar reporting guidelines and similar purposes. It authorized \$10 billion in financial assistance to states to save or create jobs, specifically targeted to help protect jobs in K-12 education.

Tennessee's allocation was \$195.8 million. The state qualifies for the money under all known federal guidelines and the Bredesen administration has applied for the funds. Once received, the funds must be available to LEAs (Local Education Agencies) for the 2010-2011 school year. The funds must only be used for obligations made on or after August 10, 2010. LEAs may use the funds through September 30, 2012 (which is the end of the 2011-2012 federal fiscal year). However, for ease of administration and reporting, the Tennessee Department of Education is recommending that LEAs expend the funds by June 30, 2012 - the end of the state's next fiscal year. Although eligible to retain a percentage of the funds for offsetting administrative costs, the state Department of Education is not retaining any of the funding and is letting it all flow through to the LEAs.

The state had the option to distribute the funds under either Title I or the state's primary education funding formula (the Basic Education Program or BEP). Tennessee has determined that the funds will be distributed under the BEP. The US Department of Education guidelines indicate that a Governor may not direct how an LEA uses its education jobs fund. However, the Federal guidelines do require the funds to be spent in certain areas.

Education Jobs Program funds must be used only for school-level employee compensation and benefits and other expenses, such as support services,

necessary to (1) retain existing employees, (2) recall or rehire former employees, and (3) hire new employees. Examples of permissible compensation and benefits include: salaries, performance bonuses, health insurance, retirement benefits, incentives for early retirement, pension fund contributions, tuition reimbursement, student loan repayment assistance, transportation subsidies, and reimbursement for childcare expenses. Besides teachers, examples of other school level employees who may receive these funds would include principals, assistant principals, academic coaches, in-service teacher trainers, classroom aides, counselors, librarians, social workers, interpreters, physical, speech and occupational therapists, security officers, maintenance workers, nurses, bus drivers, and

cafeteria workers. The money can be used to restore reductions in salaries and benefits, implement increases or bonuses, or compensate teachers for previously scheduled furlough days. The important distinction is whether the employee is a "school level" employee or an "LEA-level" or "central office" employee. The federal guidelines do not allow the funds to be used for central office administrative personnel such as staff for the superintendent's office or the board of

education. The funds also cannot be used to pay for contracted services. The federal guidelines describe the funds as being for K-12 education. At this time it is unknown whether it is permissible to use the funds for Pre-K expenses.

These funds will have to be tracked, reported and accounted for separately. These are considered federal funds, but do not have to adhere to federal non-supplanting guidelines. Additionally, as federal funds, these do not impact the required local match, or state-level non-supplanting or maintenance of effort requirements. The funds are expected to be available for draw down by the end of September. The funds could be spent entirely in this budget year or an LEA could wait to spend the funds in next budget year or use them both years. They simply cannot be spent for obligations arising before August 10, 2010, and must be spent before September 30, 2012.



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## NEW SWPCP GRADUATES

In 2009, CTAS began the administration of a new training certificate program in conjunction with the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) and the Tennessee Solid Waste Directors Association (TSWDA). The Solid Waste Professionals Certificate Program (SWPCP) was designed to provide sound principles and practices in the planning, management and operation of an integrated solid waste system.

Earlier this month CTAS graduated an inaugural class of 14 Certified Solid Waste Professionals. The following solid waste directors received the certification: Michael Atkins, Monroe Co.; Danny Benard, Chester Co.; John DeMoll, Franklin Co.; Glynn Edmonds, Gibson, Dyer, and Crockett Co.; Randy Etheridge, Hardin Co.; Robert Hayes, Wayne Co.; Justin Holland, City of Chattanooga; Gary Jackson, Tipton Co.; Clinton Neal, Haywood Co.; Mark Payne, Marion Co.; Mike Russell, Claiborne Co.; Mike Sweeney, Maury Co.; Morgan Thomas, Marshall Co.; Charles Traylor, Fayette Co.

To obtain more information on the SWPCP, including the program requirements and how to enroll, click [here](#) and scroll to the bottom of the page.



*Pictured above, from left, include CTAS Manager of IT & Environmental Services Jon Walden, Etheridge, Traylor, Holland, Edmonds, Russell, Benard, Sweeney, Hayes, Payne, CTAS Senior Environmental Consultant Mike Stooksberry, CTAS Environmental GIS Consultant Kim Raia, and Neal.*

## Info on Missing Funds in County Governments Available Online

As part of a continuing effort to provide greater transparency in government, Comptroller Justin P. Wilson is making information about cash shortages reflected in the annual financial reports and special reports of Tennessee's 95 counties available online.

The report provides information about cash shortages and other thefts reported in the annual financial reports for the year ended June 30, 2009 and certain special reports for Tennessee's 89 county governments audited by the Comptroller's Division of County Audit and for six counties audited by private accounting firms.

In addition to providing information about the amounts of the cash shortages in each county, the report also provides explanations about how the shortages were discovered, why they occurred, what steps have been taken to correct the problems and any judicial actions resulting from the cash shortages.

"This report serves a dual purpose," Comptroller Wilson said. "First of all, it gives Tennesseans easy access to important financial information about their county governments, which serves the purpose of increasing transparency in government. Also, bringing this information to light may help reduce fraud, waste and abuse of taxpayer dollars in the future, which is one of the primary missions of the Comptroller's office."

The cash shortage report can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

## Mark Your Calendars!



The Tennessee County Services Association (TCSA) Annual Fall Conference will be held at the Music Road Hospitality & Convention Center in Pigeon Forge on October 26-28. For more information, click [here](#).



The County Officials Association of Tennessee (COAT) Annual Conference will be held at the Chattanooga Marriott & Convention Center October 12-14. Registration information has been sent to COAT members and can be faxed back in to (615) 253-4840.

## Upcoming Drug Fund Workshops

CTAS, in conjunction with the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), will offer drug fund workshops throughout the state during the month of October.

The course will cover all aspects of drug fund administration. Class discussion will include the accounting process required for confidential expenditures; allowable expenditures; budget requirement; maximizing drug fund revenues; and how the special revenue account (drug fund) differs from the confidential expense account.

Participants should include sheriffs, county mayors, county finance directors and account/budget directors. This workshop will be useful for anyone within local government with other responsibilities relating to the drug fund.

Four hours of category A or recertification credit will be given to participants who are enrolled in the County Officials Certificate Training Program (COCTP).

To register for one of these instructor-led workshops, follow the directions located on the front page of this newsletter.

Have comments or suggestions for this newsletter?  
Contact Claire Marsalis at [claire.marsalis@tennessee.edu](mailto:claire.marsalis@tennessee.edu).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept. 20 – 24 New Sheriffs School, Nashville
- Sept. 21 TN County Commissioners Association (TCCA) Regional Meeting, Jonesborough
- Sept. 22 TCCA Regional Meeting, Knoxville
- Sept. 23 TCCA Regional Meeting, Baxter
- Sept. 28 TCCA Regional Meeting, Springfield
- Sept. 30 TCCA Regional Meeting, Paris Landing State Park
- Oct. 5 Drug Fund Workshop, Smyrna
- Oct. 6 Drug Fund Workshop, Cookeville
- Oct. 12 – 14 County Officials Association of TN (COAT) Annual Conference, Chattanooga
- Oct. 13 Drug Fund Workshop, Lakeland
- Oct. 14 Drug Fund Workshop, Jackson
- Oct. 19 – 20 TN Solid Waste Directors Association (TSWDA) Fall Conference, Henry Horton State Park
- Oct. 20 Drug Fund Workshop, Athens
- Oct. 21 Drug Fund Workshop, Johnson City
- Oct. 22 Drug Fund Workshop, Knoxville
- Oct. 26 – 28 TN County Services Association (TCSA) Fall Conference, Pigeon Forge

**\*For more detailed event information, click [here](#)**

## COOP Presentations Available Online

Handouts and powerpoint presentations used at the County Officials Orientation Program in August are now available on the CTAS website ([www.ctas.tennessee.edu](http://www.ctas.tennessee.edu)). The information can be found under the “News & Featured Items” section on the homepage, or can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

*County Officials E-News is a monthly newsletter provided by the University of Tennessee County Technical Assistance Service in an effort to promote better county government through direct assistance to county officials and their associations.*

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