

FEBRUARY 2025

SUPPLY CHAIN PROGRAMS UPDATE

Middle Tennessee State University

Volume 3, Issue 2

MTSU'S Center for Supply Chain Management and Sustainability Presents

2025 MIDSOUTH SUPPLY CHAIN SUMMIT

Sustainability in the Supply Chain

KEYNOTE
TENNESSEE'S SOLID WASTE CRISIS=VAST ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
 State Senator Heidi Campbell
 Gary Cohen
 Maris Masellis



TUESDAY, MARCH 4
 9 AM - 4 PM
 STUDENT UNION BALLROOM MTSU





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WELCOME to the February edition of the MTSU Supply Chain Newsletter.

We are looking forward to the fourth annual MTSU Midsouth Supply Chain Summit. on March 4th, 2025, in The Student Union Building on the beautiful MTSU campus. This highly anticipated event will bring together industry leaders, supply chain professionals, academics, and students for insightful discussions, cutting-edge presentations, and valuable networking opportunities. This year's summit will highlight sustainability in the supply chain. State Senator Heidi Campbell and her team will deliver the keynote to discuss the proposed TN Waste to Jobs Act and its impact on companies. This proposed legislation will bring over \$300 million in annual support to our state, funding the operational, infrastructural, and educational initiatives needed to make recycling more efficient and accessible.

Our Synergy program has kicked off its fourth semester with two teams of students partnering with GEODIS to solve a real-world existing problem by the end of the semester. Additionally, The Center for Supply Chain Management and Sustainability has a new website. Check it out at <https://supply-chain.mtsu.edu/>. There is a lot of activity this semester. We will keep you updated and informed throughout the semester.



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MTSU
 Jones College of Business
Center for Supply Chain Management & Sustainability



MT SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT STUDENT ORGANIZATION
 MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Presents

Keynote Speaker

2025 MTSU

MIDSOUTH SUPPLY CHAIN SUMMIT

March 4th, 2025

STATE SENATOR HEIDI CAMPBELL



Sustainability in the Supply Chain

MTSU STUDENT UNION BALLROOM

Morning Mingle	8:45 am	-	9:30 am
Keynote	9:40 am	-	11:00 am
Lunch with Students	11:30 am	-	12:45 pm
Session #1 (4 Breakout Panels)	1:00 pm.	-	2:25 pm
Session #2 (4 Breakout Panels)	2:40 pm	-	4:05 pm
Evening Networking	4:30 pm	-	6:00 pm

INDUSTRY-STUDENT SESSIONS

- TN Waste to Jobs Act - Impact on Companies
- Bridgestone-Firestone March to Carbon Neutrality
- 2025 Supply Chain Market Trends & Update
- Distribution Center Sustainability
- Transportation Sustainability
- Sustainability Leadership
- Consolidation in T&L - Necessary for Many
- Student Professionalism

Student Registration
[Click Here](#) 

Company Registration
[Click Here](#) 

UPCOMING EVENTS:



Supply Chain Management Student Organization Meetings
Room: BAS S276 - **March 3rd & April 7th @ 5:30 pm**



Grove Life Facility Tour **March 7th @ 10:00 am**
106 Locke Ave, Spring Hill, TN 37174
To Register: ➔ [Click Here](#)



Red Cross Blood Drive **March 17th @ 9 am - 3 pm**
Room: BAS S326 - SunTrust Conference Room



Old Dominion Warehouse Tour **March 21st @ 10:00 am**
1250 Bridgestone Pkwy, La Vergne, TN 37086
To Register: ➔ [Click Here](#)

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SPRING 2025

SYNERGY PROGRAM KICKOFF!



The Synergy program is officially underway! This semester, students and faculty have teamed up with GEODIS, a global leader in logistics, to tackle real-world supply chain challenges. Participants have been divided into teams, each working closely with one of two GEODIS warehouse locations to develop innovative solutions. With this hands-on experience, students will gain practical skills, invaluable experience, networking opportunities, and insights into the logistics industry. The program will culminate in a final presentation, where teams showcase their findings and recommendations to GEODIS leadership.

Best wishes to all participants as they take on this exciting challenge!



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THE CENTER FOR SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

The Center for Supply Chain Management and Sustainability website provides valuable resources for students, professionals, and industry partners. It features program information, professional development opportunities such as exam prep courses, and highlights student and alumni achievements. Visitors can explore internship and scholarship opportunities, stay informed about industry collaborations, and learn about the Center's commitment to advancing sustainability in supply chain management.



Check out the website here: ➔ <https://supply-chain.mtsu.edu>

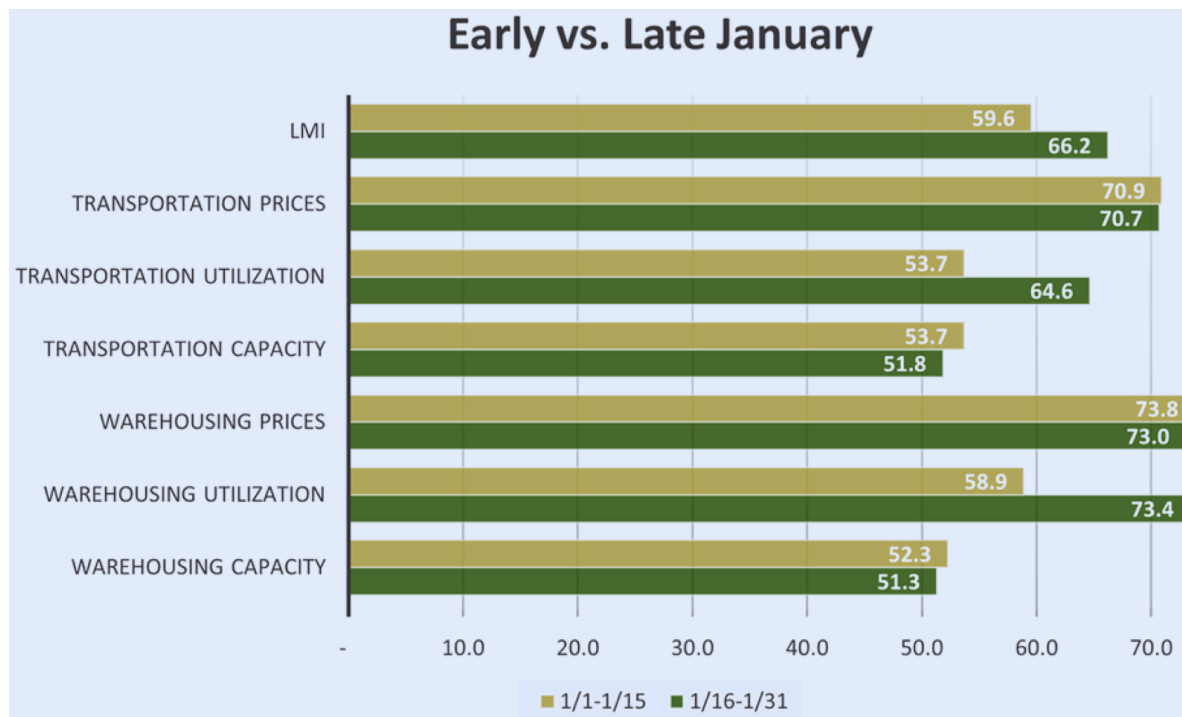
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LOGISTIC MANAGERS INDEX REPORT

The Logistics Managers Index (LMI) has been a key tool for analyzing logistics industry trends since 2016. Developed by a team of Supply Chain Management faculty from five universities, with Dr. Zac Rogers of Colorado State University leading much of the work, the LMI is released on the first Tuesday of every month. Supported by the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals, it is provided free of charge with the goal of offering valuable insights into the ever-changing logistics landscape. The LMI is based on a monthly survey of supply chain professionals, whose confidential responses provide insights into key logistics metrics. It measures activity across several areas, including prices, utilization, and capacity. A score above 50 indicates industry expansion, while a score below 50 signals contraction. This index is useful to help businesses, policymakers, and researchers track supply chain trends and anticipate market shifts.

As shown in the graph, the LMI captured a significant increase in logistics activity in January, rising from 59.6 in early January to 66.2 by the end of the month. This movement reflects how the index responds to economic shifts and changing market conditions.

[Click to Read the Full Report](#)



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INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT

- **Tenney Group** is an industry-specialized merger and acquisition advisory firm that has been dedicated to transportation and logistics since 1973. The firm's transactions and M&A insights have been regularly featured in **Transport Topics**, **FreightWaves**, **CCJ**, **3PL Perspectives**, and other industry publications.
- Tenney Group has a strong track record in sell-side advisory, representing notable deals such as Trimac's acquisition of Watt & Stewart, Heniff's acquisition of Hagen Johnson Group, and Wilson Logistics' Western operations acquisition by Ashley Furniture.
- Additionally, Tenney Group's M&A podcast, "In the Hot Seat with the Tenney Group," has featured nearly 200 thought leaders from across the transportation and logistics spectrum, providing key insights into industry trends and strategies.
- As part of its commitment to developing the next generation of industry professionals, Tenney Group has partnered with MTSU to bring educational sessions to students, offering real-world insights into mergers, acquisitions, and career opportunities in transportation and logistics. Through this partnership, students gain access to industry expertise, networking opportunities, and valuable knowledge that bridges the gap between academics and the business world.
- For those interested in a deeper dive into industry trends, **Tenney Group's Annual M&A Report has just been released, providing key insights from the 2024 market and expectations for M&A activity in 2025.** Scan the report to explore deal trends, market drivers, and forecasts shaping the future of transportation and logistics M&A.

To Download
the Report:

[Click Here](#)



2024 Tenney Group Annual Report

The M&A market in the transportation and logistics space has continued to shift. Download our free 2024 M&A Annual Report to stay on the cutting...

— The Tenney Group /

SUPPLY CHAIN EXAM PREP

CPIM & CSCP

 utc.edu/cpe



Join UTC and prepare for your ASCM Exams!

We offer **CPIM** and **ASCM** Exam Prep programs that fit your schedule. UTC is an ASCM Authorized Academic Partner and our online, live classes are led by an instructor with 47 years of experience in Supply Chain Management, Lean, Leadership, and APICS. Payment plans available and price includes class materials, exam fees, and a one-year ASCM membership! VISIT OUR WEBSITE for learning options and details.



Daniela Rodriguez

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT STUDENT EXPERIENCE



As a Business Administration student here at MTSU, my involvement with the Supply Chain Management Student Organization (SCMSO) has been a transformative experience. The SCMSO has provided me with resources and opportunities to discover the supply chain world. Through the SCMSO, I had the incredible opportunity to attend the WISE conference at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville in October this past year.

This conference widened my horizons and deepened my passion for this dynamic field, especially as a first-generation student who is also a woman.

The **WISE Conference** in Arkansas stands as the highlight of my SCMSO experience. WISE, which stands for Women Impacting Supply Chain Excellence, is an initiative that started at the University of Arkansas to encourage, equip, and inspire young women studying and planning to pursue a career in the supply chain. It has expanded into a national initiative that connects students, faculty, and industry professionals. WISE has four strategic initiatives: making connections, personal and professional development, leadership skills, and industry knowledge



I was eager to learn from industry professionals, experienced faculty, and fellow students who share a passion for supply chain, all of whom were women. In addition to the conference, I also had the opportunity to tour the GLAD manufacturing plant in Rogers, Arkansas. This experience allowed me to see firsthand how supply chain management principles are applied in a real-world setting. I was fascinated by the complexity of the manufacturing process and the importance of efficient supply chain operations.

Attending the WISE conference was an eye-opening experience. I had the privilege of hearing from influential women in the supply chain field, such as Shelly Simpson, J.B. Hunt Transport Services CEO, and Amena Smith, VP of Strategic Program Development at Keurig Dr. Pepper. Their insights and journeys were genuinely inspiring. The conference also allowed me to network with fellow students, faculty, and industry leaders. I learned about different career paths in supply chain management, explored various roles and industries, and gained valuable advice from professionals.





The conference solidified my passion for supply chain management and empowered me to pursue my career goals confidently. I realized the importance of inclusivity and fostering teamwork and innovation in the workplace and life. This experience inspired me so much that I ran for the position of Secretary for the SCMSO, and my peers voted for me with a speech I gave. Moving forward, I am excited to continue my involvement with the SCMSO and contribute to the growth of this growing community. I encourage all students interested in the supply chain to join the SCMSO and take advantage of its resources and opportunities.



Dr. Bakare, Michelle Venegas, Daniela Rodriguez,
Dr. Amarasuriya, Ava Anderson

My experience with the SCMSO and the WISE conference has shaped my academic and professional journey. The skills, knowledge, and connections I have gained will serve me well as I undertake my career in supply chain management. I am excited to see the future and am committed to positively impacting this dynamic and ever-evolving field. I am incredibly grateful to the SCMSO, Dr. Bakare, and Dr. Amarasuriya for providing me with this valuable opportunity.

The 7th Annual WISE Future Leaders Symposium will be on September 18-19, 2025 in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

- Registration begins in early April -

For more information contact Dr. Amarasuriya at:

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**MIDDLE TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY**

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

Issa Meho

Expected Graduation Date: May 2025

Q: What brought you to Middle Tennessee State University?

I chose MTSU because of its SCM program and its strong academic reputation. MTSU's SCM program is one of the best in the south, plus one of nations best MS programs in the nation - I didn't have to do a whole lot of research. Plus, my oldest son wanted to attend MTSU after high school which made it even more intriguing to me.

Q: Why did you choose to study Supply Chain Management?

I am currently a SCM Material Handling supervisor at AESC, I've always been fascinated by the complexities of supply chain and the critical role it plays in the success of a business. With over twenty years of experience in warehousing, logistics, and manufacturing, including 10 years of hands-on experience in production at AESC US where we manufacture the 100% electrical Lithium-Ion batteries, I was eager to further expand my knowledge through academic study. I am also committed to pursuing a long-term career in this field, enhancing both my practical expertise and theoretical understanding.

Q: What have you learned so far from the program?

I have learned about the various aspects of SCM including SCM strategies, procurement, logistics, methods of inventory management, but more importantly I have gained a deeper understanding of organizational functions particularly planning, controlling, and organizing. These functions are crucial to effective supply chain management as they help set objectives, monitor performance, and ensure resources are allocated efficiently.

Q: What do you view as the most significant challenge about the program?

I think the most significant challenge of the program is the lack of courses that teach the basic use of software like SAP and other MGMT systems to undergrads. Incorporating courses that would provide hands-on experience with SAP and other widely used MGMT systems would better prepare SCM undergrads for the real world and enhance their chances of meaningful employment.

Q: What are your future career goals after graduation?

I aim to leverage my expertise and academic skills, and knowledge gained from MTSU to advance further in field of SCM, I plan to continue growing my role at AESC and taking on more strategic responsibilities and contributing to the optimization of our supply chain operations. I aspire to move into upper level of management.




GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

Abbey Kuester

Expected Graduation Date: December 2025

Q: What brought you to Middle Tennessee State University?

A portrait of Abbey Kuester, a young woman with long dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark top with white polka dots. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage.

I was in the Blackman Collegiate Academy in high school, and we did lots of things in partnership with MTSU. I had visited MTSU many times and heard a lot about the different programs, so I felt like I would enjoy going here.

Q: Why did you choose Supply Chain Management at MTSU?

Like most seniors in high school, I wasn't 100% sure what I wanted to study in college. Ever since I was younger, I thought I wanted to go into the medical field, but I can't stand strong or gross smells, and the medical field is full of them. My dad suggested I study something in business because he said I've always been "business oriented," aka, taking old toys and trinkets from home to sell to kids at school. My cousin got her degree in Supply Chain, was enjoying her career, and making good money, so I decided to study Supply Chain too. Supply Chain seemed like the area of business I would like the most, and I knew Supply Chain jobs were pretty stable. My mom always said I needed to get a degree I could get a job with so I could always support myself.

Q: What have you learned so far from the program?

I have learned that Supply Chain doesn't just mean working in a warehouse. Supply Chain involves everything from sourcing raw materials to delivering stock at stores. This is one of the reasons I like Supply Chain, because there are so many different areas to get a job in.

Q: What do you see as the most significant challenge to the program?

I think the most significant challenge of the Supply Chain program is not having enough professors to teach the courses. The Supply Chain program is fairly new, so there aren't as many professors available to teach the courses.

Q: What are your career goals after graduation?

After I graduate, I would like to find a job with a company that does business internationally so I can travel for work. I think I would enjoy getting a job as a Supply Chain analyst because I like looking and organizing data to come up with solutions.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Hanna Brown

Graduated: December 2023

Q: Tell us a little about your current position at Hospital Corporation of America.

I am currently a Project Manager at HCA that supports the Digital Transformation and Innovation (DT&I) department. I am managing two projects: the Organ Donor Standardization project and the Machine Learning (ML) Platform project. Each project is unique, and I have had the privilege of managing projects in both waterfall and agile/scrum methodologies.

Q: What do you like about your job the most?

What I enjoy most about my role as a Project Manager at HCA is the opportunity for collaboration, problem-solving, and continuous learning.

- **Collaboration:** Working closely with diverse teams across the Digital Transformation and Innovation (DT&I) department allows me to engage with a variety of perspectives and expertise. This collaborative environment fosters creativity and innovation, making each project a unique and enriching experience.
- **Problem-Solving:** Each project brings its own set of unique challenges, and I find great satisfaction in tackling these head-on. Whether it's developing innovative solutions for the Organ Donor Standardization project or enhancing the efficiency of the Machine Learning Platform project, problem-solving is a core aspect of my role. I enjoy analyzing complex issues, brainstorming with my team, and implementing strategies that drive successful outcomes. This aspect of my job keeps me intellectually stimulated and continuously motivated.
- **Continuous Learning:** The dynamic nature of my work ensures that I am always learning something new. From adopting new methodologies like agile/scrum to staying updated with the latest technological advancements, my role offers endless opportunities for growth and development. This constant learning not only enhances my skills but also keeps me excited about the future possibilities in the field.

Q: Which course or professor at MTSU had the greatest impact on your career readiness?

Professor Tarpey's project management class had the greatest impact on me and my career readiness. Before entering the class, I did not know project management was a viable career option. The course opened my eyes to the intricacies of managing projects in corporate settings. I learned about the various stages of project management, from initial planning and stakeholder engagement to risk assessment and resource allocation. The class emphasized the importance of meticulous planning and coordination before a project can move into the execution phase. This comprehensive understanding of project management principles and practices not only prepared me for real-world challenges but also ignited my passion for the field. Professor Tarpey's insights and practical approach to teaching provided me with the foundational skills and confidence needed to pursue a successful career in project management.

Alumni Spotlight Continued

Q: Are there any memorable events, extracurriculars, or internships from your time at MTSU that you feel significantly contributed to your success?



Being a part of the Supply Chain Management Student Organization (SCMSO) was an incredibly enriching experience. It provided me with the opportunity to network with dozens of companies in the Nashville area, significantly broadening my professional connections. Through these interactions, I was offered multiple internships, each presenting unique learning opportunities and practical experience in the field. Additionally, I had the chance to tour several prominent companies, including Tractor Supply and Ascension Saint Thomas in Murfreesboro. These tours were invaluable, as they allowed me to gain firsthand insight into the operations and logistics of leading organizations.

Q: What advice would you give to current supply chain students?



No matter what career path you decide to take, cultivating an entrepreneurial mindset is essential. This mindset involves being proactive, innovative, and willing to take calculated risks. It means constantly looking for ways to improve, adapt, and seize new opportunities. Staying eager and maintaining a sense of curiosity will drive you to learn and grow continuously. One of the most powerful tools you have is your network. Building and nurturing professional relationships can significantly impact your career success. Networking can connect you with mentors, industry experts, potential clients, and collaborators who can offer valuable insights, support, and opportunities. These connections can open doors you might not have anticipated, helping you to advance in your chosen field.

ALUMNI ON THE MOVE!

MTSU's Supply Chain Management students and alumni are securing exciting careers at top companies across industries! From global giants like Amazon, FedEx, and General Motors to specialized firms like AkzoNobel and GEODIS, our graduates are making an impact in logistics, procurement, and operations. A degree in supply chain management opens doors to diverse, high-demand roles with strong career growth. Whether analyzing inventory, optimizing transportation, or managing supplier relations, our students are proving that supply chain is the backbone of business success!

BBA Alumni

Duaah Abdulla - Supply Chain Advocate - **Schneider Electric**
Ramez Alabed - Buyer at HVAC Modules/Glass - **General Motors**

Liwaa Alabed - Area Manager - **Amazon**

Jonathan Blalock - Logistics Specialist - **Kroger**

Landon Bradford - Logistics Analyst - **SAIC**

Chase Brodioi - North America Transportation Associate - **Hollister Inc.**

Jacob Dilts - Analyst - **Tractor Supply Company**

Christopher George - Global Inventory Analyst - **Dollar General**

Abdulhafiz Hassen - Technology Portfolio Management - **TN Valley Authority**

Carson Jennings - Warranty Intern - **Simply Dwell Homes**

Krishna Patel - Sales Development Representative - **Oracle**

David Prince - Shipping Manager - **Ferguson**

Bishoy Samaan - Production Supervisor - **Tyson Foods**

Mason Thompson - Maintenance MIT - **Interstate Warehousing / Tippmann**

Maya Yelland - Customer Supply Representative - **Mars Petcare**

MS Alumni

John Chism - Warehouse Manager - **U.S. Foods**

James Cunningham - Materials Planner - **Yazaki North America**

Jonathan Dobbins - Logistics Lead - **Cricket Wireless**

Fady Eid - Flow Controller and Buyer - **Schneider Electric**

Jeffrey Ferguson - Service Center Manager - **Wood Finishers Depot**

Ashley Harman - Sales Commissions Analyst - **Philips**

Shelby Hix - Project Specialist - **Pathway2Careers**

Sa'Day Jackson - Project Administrator II - **GEODIS**

Ashley McCarthy - Budget and Planning Analyst - **Mitsubishi Motors Inc**

Demonte Murry - Quality Engineering ManagerPart - **Nissan Motor Corporation**

Robert Simcox - Pickup & Delivery Manager - **FedEx Ground**

James Vallone - Commercial / Operations SME Americas - **Mars Petcare**

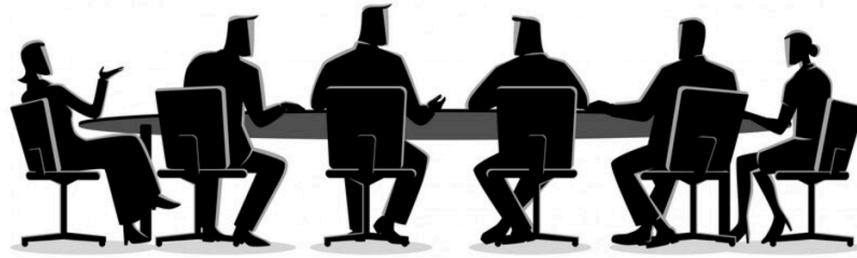
Chloe Williams - Inventory Planner - **AkzoNobel**

Allyson Wurm - Associate Commercial Specialist - SPM/Resilience - **Mars Petcare**



MTSU CENTER FOR SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

How Industry Partners can get Involved



Mentoring and Internships: Engage with our students through mentoring and internship opportunities, providing practical insights and hands-on experience.

Become a Speaker: Share your expertise at our events or in our classes and inspire the next generation of supply chain leaders.

Sponsor the Center: Support our initiatives through sponsorships that align with your organizational goals. Several opportunities are available, including track sponsorships for the 2025 Midsouth Supply Chain Summit. We had over 300 participants last year and expect more growth in 2025. We intend to continue building partnerships with other universities to bring their supply chain program students to this event. This is a great opportunity for your company to gain name recognition on campus. We have flexible and customizable Supply Chain program, Center, and Summit sponsorship packages available.

Synergy Collab Lab Program: Collaborate with bright, motivated students who bring new insights and cutting-edge knowledge to your projects.

Collaborate on Research: Partner with us on cutting-edge research projects that address real-world supply chain challenges.

Host a Facility Tour: We invite companies to open their doors and host students for facility tours, providing a unique opportunity to inspire, educate, and connect with the future workforce.

Join our Advisory Committee: We are excited to invite forward-thinking companies to join our Supply Chain Advisory Committee, a collaborative platform where industry leaders and academia come together to shape the future of education and workforce development.

For More Information Contact: Dr. Richard J. Tarpey
Richard.Tarpey@mtsu.edu