

# Gracey Suggs

Austin Peay State University | Halbert Harvill Civitan Citizenship Award Nominee

**Leadership Roles:** Student Trustee – APSU Board of Trustees | President – TriBeta  
Biological Honor Society | Junior Class Senator – Student Government Association |  
Treasurer – Omicron Delta Kappa

## Citizenship Statement

I am committed to using my leadership, service, and academic opportunities to strengthen the Austin Peay State University community and the broader Clarksville region. Through roles in student governance, campus leadership organizations, and community outreach, I strive to represent students with integrity while serving others with humility and purpose. I believe leadership is most meaningful when it supports others, strengthens the community, and contributes positively to the university experience for all students.

## Service & Leadership Impact

- Student Trustee, Austin Peay State University Board of Trustees — representing the voice of the student body in university governance.
- 80+ volunteer hours through the President's Emerging Leadership Program in addition to extensive campus and community service.
- Six years volunteering with Night to Shine, serving individuals with special needs through the Tim Tebow Foundation.
- 400 hours of cancer research through the Vanderbilt V-EXCEL Program.
- Leadership roles across Student Government, TriBeta Biological Honor Society (President), Omicron Delta Kappa, and the Honors Program, mentoring and supporting fellow students.

## Education

Austin Peay State University

Bachelor of Science in Biology

Concentration: Medical, Cellular, and Molecular Biology

Minors: Psychology | Pre-Professional Health

Expected Graduation: May 2026

## **Leadership, Citizenship, and Service to the APSU Community**

### Student Trustee – Board of Trustees | Austin Peay State University

- Represents the voice and interests of the APSU student body on the university's governing board, contributing student perspectives to institutional discussions and decisions.
- Serves as a liaison between students and university leadership while attending board meetings and statewide higher education convenings.
- Completed legal and governance training to prepare for service on the Board of Trustees.
- Attended quarterly board meetings, new trustee orientation, university commencements, the Health Professions Building ribbon cutting, the Tennessee Higher Education Committee conference, and additional campus and community events while representing student perspectives.

### President – Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society (TriBeta)

- Serve as President of the Eta Pi Chapter, providing leadership for initiatives that promote academic engagement among biology students.
- Participated in President Leadership Trainings and the Fall Leadership Experience (FLEX) leadership conference.
- Organized TriBeta's participation in the CoSTEM Academic Rush recruitment event.
- Coordinated organization participation in G.H.O.S.T. (Greater Halloween Options for Safe Trick-or-Treating), a community outreach event for Clarksville families.

### Student Government Association – Junior Class Senator

- Represented the junior class by advocating for student interests and supporting initiatives that enhanced student engagement and campus life.
- Collaborated with student leaders and administrators to strengthen communication between students and university leadership.

### APSU Cheerleading Team – Cheerleader | Total Gov Concept Award Recipient

- Represented APSU athletics at university and community events.
- Served as Cheer Representative for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and as a peer mentor in the ELECT leadership program.
- Received the Total Gov Concept Award (2024), recognizing leadership and commitment to the team and university community.

### President's Emerging Leadership Program (PELP) Leadership Scholar

- Selected for APSU's leadership development program designed to prepare students for lifelong leadership and service.

- Completed more than 80 volunteer hours through community engagement initiatives.
- Served on the Honors/PELP Council and led leadership presentations for students at Montgomery Central High School.
- Spoke to incoming PELP freshmen about leadership development, service, and campus involvement.

#### Honors Program – Honors Ambassador

- Mentored incoming freshmen and supported their transition into the Honors community.
- Assisted with Honors and PELP Orientation and helped welcome new students to campus.
- Represented the Honors Program at recruitment events, preview days, and high school visits.

### **Community Engagement and Volunteer Service**

#### Night to Shine – Tim Tebow Foundation Volunteer (6 Years)

- Volunteered at the annual prom for individuals with special needs, helping create an inclusive and memorable experience for participants and their families.

#### Project YESU – Junior Advisory Board Member

- Supported community outreach initiatives including the Go Green Race and youth engagement fundraising activities.

#### American Cancer Society Hope Lodge Volunteer

- Prepared and served meals for cancer patients and their families traveling for treatment.

#### Clarksville Tornado 2023 Cleanup Volunteer

- Assisted with debris removal and recovery efforts supporting residents following the Clarksville tornado.

#### Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk Participant

- Participated in fundraising and awareness efforts supporting breast cancer research and patient services.

#### APSU Cheer Clinics for Kids Volunteer

- Assisted with youth cheer clinics promoting teamwork, confidence, and school spirit.

#### Belmont Behavioral Health ‘Nifty Fifties’ Sock Hop Volunteer

- Supported an inclusive social event for individuals with disabilities.

#### Buddy Ball Bowling Volunteer

- Assisted individuals with disabilities during recreational bowling events promoting inclusion and community.

#### Loaves & Fishes Volunteer

- Assisted in providing haircuts for individuals experiencing homelessness or financial hardship.

#### Manna Café Ministries Volunteer

- Packed and distributed food bags for individuals and families facing food insecurity.

### **Research and Academic Engagement**

- Vanderbilt V-EXCEL Cancer Research Program – Selected as 1 of 7 students nationwide.
- Completed 400 hours of cancer research in the Holowatyj Lab studying appendiceal cancer.
- Presented research findings at the V-EXCEL symposium.
- Austin Peay Research – Dr. Sergei Markov bacteriophage genomic annotation project.
- Publication: Phage OverHedge – PhagesDB.org

### **Honors and Scholarships**

- APSU Presidential Scholarship
- APSU President's Emerging Leadership Program Scholarship
- Gary Mathews Scholarship in Science
- Charlie Mills Memorial Scholarship
- Scarlett Family Foundation Scholarship
- Reagan Scholarship
- Clarksville Civitan Scholarship
- Clarksville Montgomery Retired Teachers Scholarship
- Haskell and Estelle Phillips Scholarship
- Jennifer L. Vick Memorial Scholarship
- Dr. William E. Beaumont Memorial and Dr. Gerald Karr Scholarship

### **Commitment to Citizenship**

Throughout my time at Austin Peay, I have sought to use my opportunities in leadership, research, and service to support fellow students and contribute positively to the APSU community.