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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MTSU and UTK Awarded \$1.8 Million to Increase Math and Science Teachers**

**Nashville, Tenn. – November 20, 2009** – Governor Phil Bredesen, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and the Tennessee Department of Education announced the recipients of the Tennessee UTeach replication grants to increase the number of math and science teachers in K-12 classrooms. Middle Tennessee State University and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville will each receive up to \$1.825 million over the next five years to replicate the UTeach program in their institutions. The UTeach replication sites will be funded through two federal programs, THEC’s Improving Teacher Quality grant program and TDOE’s Math and Science Partnership Grants.

“Innovative solutions like the UTeach program will help address the shortage of math and science teachers in our state,” said Governor Bredesen. “This program will play a vital role in improving the education of Tennessee’s children and provide a focused effort in the areas of greatest need.”

The UTeach program began at the University of Texas, Austin with the goal of increasing the number of mathematics and science teachers with a strong content knowledge. Since 1997,

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the program has gained national recognition and expanded throughout the country. The UTeach Institute partnered with the National Math and Science Initiative to fund replication sites through a competitive grant process. Institutions such as the University of Florida, the University of Colorado, the University of California, Berkeley, and Louisiana State University were awarded grants to replicate the UTeach program. Over the next five-years, Middle Tennessee State University and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville will have the opportunity to create a UTeach program and collaborate with these and many other institutions in the process.

The UTeach program has proven effective in dramatically increasing the number of highly qualified math and science teachers in high-need schools. THEC and TDOE are eager to improve math and science education in the state through this unprecedented collaboration.

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