

# Eastman assists growing Milligan engineering program

By Sarah Colson

The Eastman Foundation has made a \$250,000 commitment to Milligan College's new engineering program. Milligan President Dr. Bill Greer announced recently the college would be adding the Eastman name to its mechanical engineering design lab.

"Eastman has been incredibly supportive in the development and launching of our engineering program, and this gift and partnership is tremendous," said Greer. "We look forward to the day when we will see interns, co-op students, and professional engineers from Milligan working at Eastman."

Milligan's engineering program is a four-year program offered from the Milligan campus in Northeast Tennessee. It is the only such program within a two-hour radius of the Tri-Cities. With mechanical and electrical engineering majors, Milligan's program is designed to offer a well-rounded, competitive engineering education in the context of the Christian liberal arts.

"I applaud Milligan for coming up with an approach uniquely designed to incorporate various disciplines of learning in a way that will produce problem solvers, innovators, and thinkers with expertise in their particular field of engineering," said David Golden, senior vice president, chief legal and sustainability officer and corporate secretary at Eastman. Golden also serves as the President of the Eastman Foundation. "Milligan has a history of producing well-balanced, successful graduates, and we look forward to continuing to work with them as they bring innovative solutions to the world's problems."

"Milligan produces service-minded scholars who also make quality employees," said Mark Cox, senior vice president, chief manufacturing, supply chain, and engineering officer at Eastman. "The Milligan engineering program will be a resource for recruiting these types of individuals in engineering roles." Cox also said he has been impressed with the program's curriculum, new facilities, and the faculty being assembled to lead and instruct students.

Program Director Greg Harrell is a University of Tennessee and Virginia Tech grad who serves as the lead technical advisor for the United Nations and the U.S. Department of Energy. Last month the college announced West Point professor and Navy



Greg Harrell



Hongyou Lu



David Hampton

veteran David Hampton would join the engineering faculty in fall 2017.

Milligan's engineering program starts in August and will have 100 students when fully enrolled.

"Now more than ever, our world needs young leaders who are strong in the science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) disciplines," said Greer. "Milligan is well-positioned to meet this need by educating men and women who have dedicated their lives to service through their understanding of the application of science to improving the human condition."

Milligan continues to grow the engineering faculty. In addition to Hongyou Lu, a faculty member dedicated to engineering accreditation and engineering projects, the college has also hired Hampton, a mechanical engineer. Hampton has spent the last decade teaching at West Point. His skill set centers around machine design, strength of materials and vibration. He has worked with NASA, Cambridge, and U.S. Army Research.

The first electrical engineer named to the faculty is Jeff Giesey, most recently the associate dean for academics at Ohio University's Russ College of Engineering. His hiring was announced by Harrell at the June meeting of the Washington County Economic Development Council. "What we are doing is choosing faculty that have specific skill sets and are very experienced and very accomplished in their fields," Harrell said. "This ensures that from the first class to the last class, our students get a quality education."

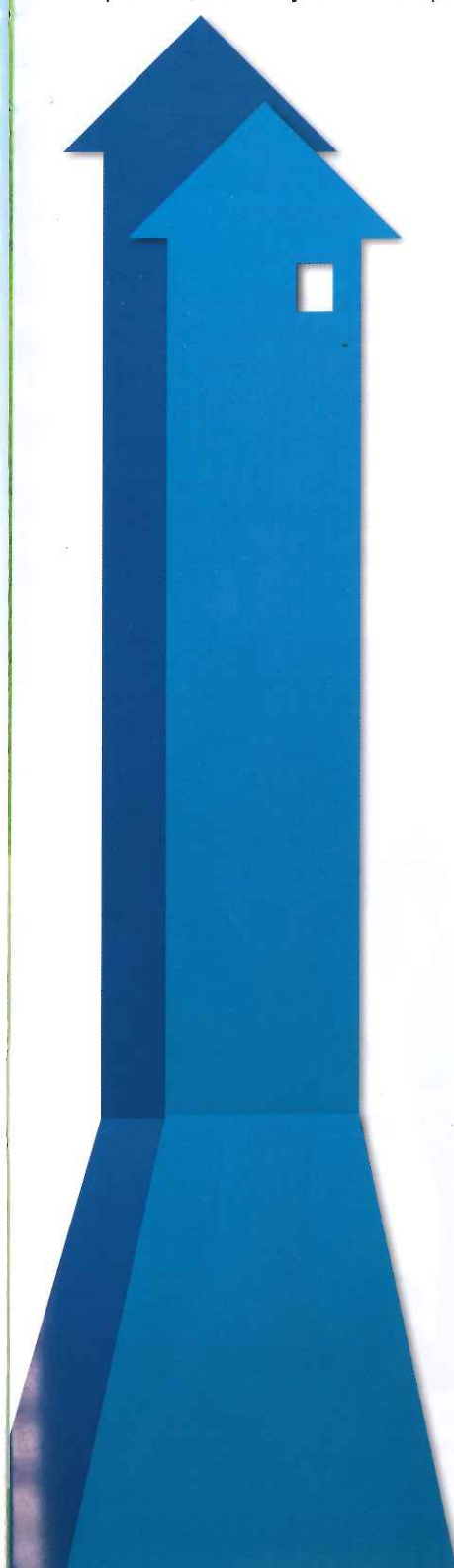
The Milligan engineering majors have been reviewed and approved by the college's regional accreditor, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Milligan also will seek accreditation from ABET,

whose accreditation standards the college's engineering program has been designed to meet. In addition, Milligan's engineering faculty includes experienced and seasoned academicians who have been core faculty members in ABET-accredited programs. Local industry leaders already are endorsing the program and ready to offer internships and co-ops, as well as hire Milligan engineering graduates. More information on ABET accreditation can be found on the ABET web site at [abet.org](http://abet.org).

# NETAR: Home sales continue record-setting pace in May

Six hundred thirty four single-family home sales closed in May. That's the highest monthly volume since 2008 when the Northeast Tennessee Association of Realtors® began collecting data for the Trends Report. May was the fourth month to see double-digit sales increases this year. But while local sales are moving at a blistering pace the regional average price trend isn't keeping pace. The May-to-May increase was flat at 0.7 percent, and the year-to-date price has dropped to 2 percent.

It's softer because while the lower price market tiers saw increases, the upper end of the market is struggling. Last year's annual average price increase was 3 percent. May's average sales price in Northeast Tennessee was \$164,755 compared to \$163,689 last year. The overall inventory is 13 percent lower than May last year. The average home sold in May was on the market for 146 days compared to 168 last year.



## HOME SALES

MAY 2016 
 APRIL 2016 
 MAY 2015

### JOHNSON CITY

**121**  
 Average Price \$189,318

**59**  
 Average Price \$210,954

**86**  
 Average Price \$227,814

### KINGSPORT

**69**  
 Average Price \$155,690

**46**  
 Average Price \$139,931

**59**  
 Average Price \$185,931

### BRISTOL, TN

**27**  
 Average Price \$147,731

**27**  
 Average Price \$181,238

**32**  
 Average Price \$149,592

### BRISTOL, VA

**14**  
 Average Price \$140,539

**13**  
 Average Price \$116,716

**12**  
 Average Price \$163,785

### ELIZABETHTON

**22**  
 Average Price \$113,766

**10**  
 Average Price \$156,719

**8**  
 Average Price \$111,900

### GREENEVILLE

**21**  
 Average Price \$175,394

**16**  
 Average Price \$124,706

**12**  
 Average Price \$117,183

### ERWIN/UNICOI

**18**  
 Average Price \$145,732

**16**  
 Average Price \$166,416

**9**  
 Average Price \$124,744

NOTE: NETAR counts city sales as those made in a city's high school zone. City data is included in county totals.