

illuminate

Thank you for an
awesome day
^



VANDERBILT
People, Culture and Belonging

Vol 2.2

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EDITOR'S REFLECTION

My grandfather lived through the Great Depression, a time of unimaginable hardship and uncertainty. Yet, out of that era, he emerged with a construction start-up—a business that would sustain him for a lifetime.

He and his artisans built everything from houses to cathedrals, transforming blueprints into something tangible, something lasting. Each structure stood as a testament to their craftsmanship, resilience, and quiet dedication. Their work wasn't always valued, and their names weren't etched in stone, but their impact was undeniable.

At Vanderbilt, **you are those artisans**. You are the hands that build, the minds that solve, and the hearts that bring our mission to life. Whether you're shaping the student experience, advancing groundbreaking research, or ensuring our university runs smoothly, your work forms the foundation of everything we achieve—from the classroom to commencement.

Like my grandfather and his team, you may not always see the full extent of the legacy you're creating, but make no mistake—**what you do matters**. You are pushing boundaries, embracing bold ideas, and driving meaningful change to build a stronger, more innovative Vanderbilt for the next **150 years**.

That's why appreciation isn't about a single day—it's about recognizing the craftsmanship, commitment, and heart that each of you bring, every single day. Because without you, Vanderbilt wouldn't be the institution of excellence that it is.

On behalf of university leadership and the entire Vanderbilt community, **thank you**. Thank you for showing up, for giving your best, and for building something that will last for generations to come.

It's Our Moment!

Sydney Savion

MOMENTS THAT MATTER: EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION

VETERANS
MATTER @
VANDY! THANK
YOU

FREE
MUG
FRIDAY

BEING
APPRECIATED

GETTING
PROMOTED

MEETING
STUDENTS

UNEXPECTED
JOB
OPPORTUNITY

TRIVIA!

SEEING THE
STAFF
SMILE :)

MEETING
NEW
EMPLOYEES
EACH DAY

MOMENTS THAT MATTER SHARED BY VANDERBILT EMPLOYEES

WINNING
A STAFF
ASSEMBLY
AWARD

OUR
BEAUTIFUL
CAMPUS

WATCHING
STUDENTS
THRIVE!

BEING
KIND!

VANDERBILT
VOYAGE

MY
CHILDREN
WERE BORN
HERE

MORNING
COFFEE
BREAKS

PEOPLE
I CARE
ABOUT

Moments
THAT
Matter

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Celebrating the excellence of Vanderbilt staff.



Amy Silvers, BSN, RN, Programs Manager, Public Health and Wellbeing Champion Health, Wellbeing & Belonging

Amy has been an invaluable asset, demonstrating exceptional dedication and initiative. During her tenure, Amy successfully implemented the Wellbeing Champions program. Starting with a pilot group, she has expanded the initiative to include over 50 Wellbeing Champions across the campus. This program has significantly enhanced our community's focus on health and wellness. Her commitment to promoting a healthy workplace is evident in all her endeavors. Amy's passion and dedication make her a deserving candidate for this nomination. She has truly made a positive impact on Vanderbilt, and I am confident she will continue to excel in her efforts to foster a healthier workplace.

Submit a nomination for a staff member or team for our Staff Spotlight



Did You Know?

Curious Bar

Inspired by the Apple Genius Bar, Curious Bar is a vibrant space for the Vanderbilt community to connect, learn, and innovate. This offering is available both in person and virtually twice a month. Join us in person on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays or virtually on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. No appointments needed - just stop by to explore ideas, seek guidance, and engage in meaningful discussions! Learn more about Curious Bar and upcoming events [on our website](#).



I visited the Curious Bar and asked a question about paycheck deductions/calculations regarding my 403b. I was told someone will follow up with me and they did right away. I received a phone call from LaWanda Stallworth who assisted me and was very patient with me on the phone. I am knowledgeable about the info I needed. Kudos to Curious Bar for providing this type of service.
- Vanderbilt Employee

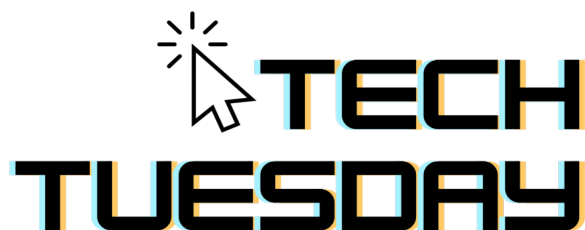


FUTURES LEARNING HUB UPDATES

Futures Learning Hub April Tech Tuesday and Thrive Thursday Events

The Futures Learning Hub is excited to offer our *Tech Tuesday* and *Thrive Thursday* lineup. This month's sessions will provide engaging and insightful information about managing your finances, enhancing your PowerPoint presentation skills, and cultivating a feedback culture.

The Futures Learning Team has partnered with Vanderbilt's Personify App! Vanderbilt staff can earn Personify points for attending each Tech Tuesday or Thrive Thursday Session. If you haven't yet registered for the Personify App, download it today and register for one or all of April's sessions. To claim your points, you must attend the entire session.



Register

Access All Your Fidelity Workplace Accounts – Anytime, Anywhere with NetBenefits!

When: 4/1/25 @ 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

About: Join Vanderbilt's Fidelity rep to review Fidelity's NetBenefits App. The NetBenefits app offers a convenient and secure way to manage your Fidelity accounts on the go. Its user-friendly interface lets you easily access your account balances, view recent transactions, and monitor your investment performance.

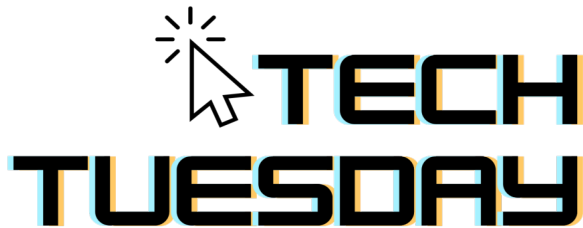
Managing My Money: Budget, Emergency Savings, Debt, and Retirement Basics

When: 4/3/25 @ 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

About: In this session, we will equip you with practical strategies, tools, and tips to take control of your financial future. Our goal is to help you manage your money effectively, reduce financial stress, and build a secure financial foundation. By the end of this workshop, you will have a clear understanding of how to manage your money, build a safety net, and plan for a secure financial future.



Register



Register

PowerPoint for Storytelling: Simple Presentation Tips

When: 4/15/25 @ 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

About: Unlock the power of storytelling to create engaging and impactful presentations. Learn practical tips to simplify your slides, captivate your audience, and deliver your message clearly and confidently. Perfect for anyone looking to enhance their presentation skills and make a lasting impression.

Creating a Culture of Feedback

When: 4/17/25 @ 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

About: This session will explore different organizational strategies for fostering open communication and continuous improvement. It will also provide practical methods for encouraging constructive feedback exchanges and enhancing collaboration, productivity, and employee engagement.



Register

Why Join

Skill Building: Gain valuable skills to help you excel in your current role or unlock new opportunities.

Community: Connect with colleagues across the university who share a passion for growth and learning.

Accessibility: Each session is designed for a wide range of experience levels and interests.

Mark Your Calendar

Don't miss the chance to spark new ideas and elevate your personal and professional journey this March. Keep an eye on the Futures Learning Hubs schedule and join us for the next round of Tech Tuesday and Thrive Thursday events. If you need assistance registering, [please review our job aid](#).

FUTURES LEARNING HUB UPDATES

Complete a learning course through Futures Learning Hub

At Vanderbilt University, we value professional growth and continuous learning. We want to reward you for your hard work of expanding your skills through Digital Learning Marketplace.

You don't need to **take a specific course** to be eligible for the swag box drawing. Feel free to choose any Digital Learning Marketplace course that aligns with your professional goals! Winners will be announced at Curious Bar the last Wednesday of March, April and May.

Here's How You Can Enter:

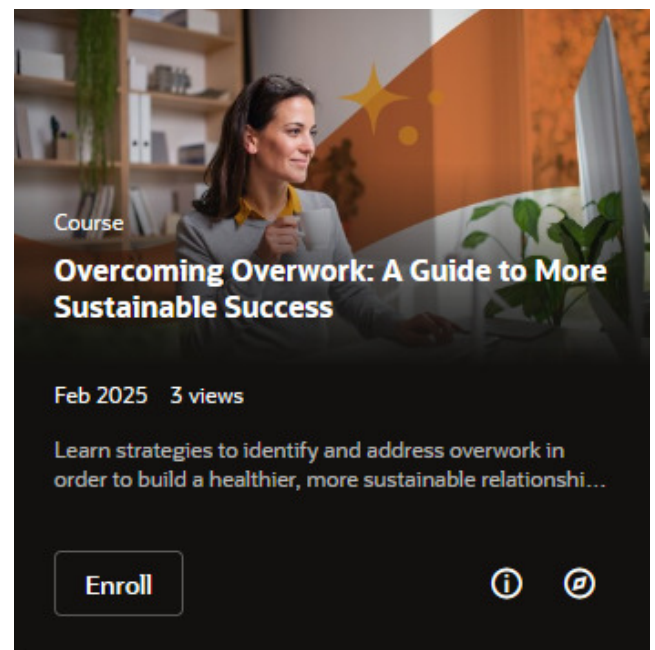
1. **Login:** Access the Learning Hub.
2. **Learn:** Complete at least one course of your choice.
3. **Win:** You are automatically entered to our drawing to receive a Vanderbilt Swag Box valued up to \$75!

Course of the Month - April 2025

Overcoming Overwork: A Guide to More Sustainable Success

What you'll learn

In this course, Malissa Clark, an expert on workaholism and overwork, shares tools to identify the type of motivation, thinking and emotional patterns, and behaviors that drive overwork and workaholism. She helps you build skills in order to address each of these four dimensions of overwork, including strategies to better define what is urgent work, rethinking work prioritization to reduce overwork, ways to develop a realistic estimate of how much time a work task will take, as well as strategies to identify and reduce rumination and to effectively recover when not working.



Register for the Course of the Month

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

University-Wide Wellbeing Champion Program Launches with 54 Champions Across 22 Divisions and Colleges

Health, Wellbeing and Belonging is excited to announce the full launch of their Wellbeing Champion Program; a groundbreaking initiative that aims to foster a healthier, more connected and engaging work environment.

With 54 Wellbeing Champions representing 22 divisions and colleges, this program is a key step in embedding well-being as a core value across the university. Each Champion has completed specialized training on university resources and key aspects of well-being, including social, emotional, physical, and financial health. This equips them with the knowledge and tools to effectively support their peers.



How Wellbeing Champions Make a Difference

Wellbeing Champions serve as on-the-ground advocates and connectors, helping bridge the gap between employees and the university's wellness resources. Their contributions include:

- Acting as ambassadors for the Center of Expertise Health, Wellbeing and Belonging
- Providing guidance and resources to colleagues looking for well-being support
- Organizing and promoting wellness-focused events and activities
- Advocating for department-specific needs, ensuring well-being initiatives reflect the unique challenges and priorities of each area.

Looking Ahead

The university-wide launch of this program marks an important step in the university's ongoing commitment to creating a healthier, more engaging community for our employees. Through collaboration and shared leadership, the Wellbeing Champion Program will help shape a campus environment where every individual feels valued, supported, and empowered to prioritize their well-being. To learn more about the program, find out how you can get involved, or recommend a colleague, please contact [Amy Silvers](#), Wellbeing Champion Program Manager.

Please join us in recognizing and celebrating our Wellbeing Champions:

Steven Auster, General Counsel
Kayla Austin, People, Culture and Belonging
Brian Bergheger, People, Culture and Belonging
Sean Castady, Student Affairs: Dean of Students
Tamara Cooley, Public Safety
Jeremy Crantek, Facilities
Balencia Sariah Crosby, Student Affairs
Jake Cummings, Administration
Sandy DeWald, Office of Research
Kelsey Driscoll, Office of Research
Alex DuBois, School of Nursing
Jennifer Ellison, SOM: Basic Sciences
Lydell Francis, People, Culture and Belonging
Lindsey Ganson, Public Safety
Heidi Hart, School of Nursing
Charity Hasty, School of Engineering
Hannah Hubbuch, Development & Alumni Relations
Donna Ingram, SOM: Basic Sciences
James T. Keen, Arts Libraries & Global Engagement
Consuela Knox, Office of the Provost
Peggy Knupp, Enrollment Affairs
Miriam Leibowitz, Public Safety
Feylyn Lewis, School of Nursing
Sidney Marshall, Student Affairs
Ally Mason, Development and Alumni Relations
Ela May, SOM: Basic Sciences
Bailey McChesney, Owen Graduate School of Management

Megan Mesco, Student Affairs
Adam Morgan, Information Technology
Morgan Morris, Student Affairs
Allie Noote, School of Nursing
Patricia Parker, People, Culture and Belonging
Joseph Passarelli, Blair School of Music
Herschel Pollard, Office of the Vice Provost
Darlene Pope, SOM: Basic Sciences
Maria Portelli, Business Services
Rashonda Ray, People, Culture and Belonging
Kellea Reeves, Public Safety
Tyler Rolling, Business Services
Hannah Schaeffer, SOM: Basic Sciences
Cassidy Slabaugh, School of Engineering
Donna A. Smith, Communications
Amy Smith, Enrollment Affairs
RC Stabile, SOM: Basic Sciences
Emily Svennevik, Business Services
Eddy Thornhill, Peabody College
Kimberly Turner, SOM: Basic Sciences
Lori Ungurait, Facilities
Ashley Wagner, Facilities
Jorge Wellman, Student Affairs
Heather White, Blair School of Music
Jarrita White, People, Culture and Belonging
Stella Wiswall, Office of Investments
Jackie Youngs, School of Engineering

[Learn more about the Wellbeing Champion Program](#)

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

February Team Step Challenge Winner - Student Affairs: Belonging & Communities

Congratulations to team Student Affairs: B&C, the winners of our February University-Wide Step Challenge! This powerhouse team - Jackie Bustillo (Captain & Top Stepper!), Cindy Martinez, Dwayne Elliott, Ally Rouff, and Jakia Propst, went the extra mile (literally!) to claim the top spot.

Reflecting on the challenge, Jackie shared: *"Coming from the VUMC side, where I was mostly sitting all day, it's been great to be on campus where I can move around and be more active. I also do Orange Theory, so staying active is important to me, and this challenge was a great way to incorporate more movement into my day. What made this experience so special was the teamwork and motivation we had for each other. It was a fun way to stay active while also strengthening our bond."*

A huge shoutout to everyone who participated, stepped up to the challenge, and made this a fun, energizing experience! Keep moving, stay active, and get ready for more challenges ahead.



Pictured left to right: Dwayne Elliott, Jackie Bustillo, Cindy Martinez, Ally Rouff, Jakia Propst

Celebrating Connections and Wellness through Community Engagement



Over the last few months, the Vanderbilt community has participated in several initiatives fostering connectedness and engagement. The recent 3-on-3 basketball tournament featured 10 teams and over 50 staff and faculty members, running from mid-January through early March. This event provided a much-needed outlet for basketball enthusiasts and those seeking to connect with colleagues.

Building on the success of Staff-Letics, Vandy Trivia & Game Night was launched, bringing together over 65 faculty and staff in a fun, energetic setting. Faculty and staff came out in full force ready to put their knowledge of Vanderbilt's history and current events to the test. The event was filled with laughter, friendly banter, and a genuine sense of camaraderie.

These initiatives, along with ongoing efforts, have been instrumental in promoting a balance of work-life balance and a sense of community, making Vanderbilt a place where everyone feels supported and empowered to thrive.

Stay tuned for more community engagement activities.

CHILD AND FAMILY CENTER

Professional Development Day at The Acorn School

The Acorn School had an exhilarating day of professional development on March 7th framed by Cierra Price, VCFC Education Director, with an interrogation of the usefulness of “provocation” to stir curiosity and wonder in children and adults. Workshops were offered in Continuity Care, the Pyramid Model for Children’s Social Emotional Development, Reggio Emilia’s Image of the Child, and Nature Education, with Classroom Team Meetings, Safety Drills, and re-certifying staff in Infant-Child First Aid and CPR rounding out the day. To reinforce collegiality for collaboration staff need to know and be known by one another across all three childcare centers therefore the adult learning framework prioritized active engagement for exploration, creativity and problem-solving in addition to time sitting in instruction.




The team received a First Look at the VCFC Staff Handbook training video – a project supported by Matt Estes and Justin Grunert. Annual training hours are required for childcare licensing compliance, as well early learning communities rely on these activities to ensure clarity, consistency, and for continuous program quality improvement. Colleagues from HWB came to welcome the Acorn teachers and staff to the PCB Team: Dr. Savion, Pam Jones, Stacey Bonner, Amy Silvers, and Lydell Francis are appreciated for encouraging the important and essential work of early childhood care and education.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND LAUNCHES

Giving Day is Thursday, April 10th!

This year's Giving Day will be part of a week-long celebration: **I  VU Week**. This exciting week is packed with opportunities to engage, volunteer, and connect with the Vanderbilt community. Throughout the week, you can participate in events like Tuesday's [I Bleed Black and Gold Blood Drive](#) and Wednesday's Faculty/Staff Appreciation Coffee Cart.



Enjoy a specialty drink, visit for a chance to win a VU-engraved YETI Rambler, and even make your gift early to support the areas that matter most to you, such as the [Employee Critical Support Fund](#), before the big day! And don't forget to stop by Alumni Lawn on Thursday for all the exciting Giving Day festivities!

Let's come together and celebrate Vanderbilt's spirit of giving as we count down to this exciting occasion. For updates and ways to get involved, visit the [Giving Day website](#)!

Staff Appreciation Focus Groups

The 2024 Employee Appreciation survey at Vanderbilt University revealed that staff's favorite initiatives include Swag, Turkey Toss, and Service Awards. The survey also highlighted a strong desire for more leadership and technical skills training opportunities. View key findings of the [2024 Staff Appreciation Survey](#).

Over 800 staff members participated in the anonymous survey, which aimed to gather insights into how staff prefer to be recognized and identify the types of learning and development offerings to prioritize. "At Vanderbilt, our staff are the heart of our community, and their voices matter. In response to the survey results, we are enhancing employee appreciation traditions and deepening our investment professional development. This is just the start of our ongoing commitment to ensuring that every staff member feels valued, supported and empowered to thrive." Sydney Savion, vice chancellor of People, Culture and Belonging.

People, Culture and Belonging will be hosting in person and virtual focus groups with volunteers to continue gathering staff feedback. These sessions will provide another opportunity for staff to share their thoughts on recognition and development needs, and help Vanderbilt continue finding ways to support staff in unlocking their potential. [Sign up to participate in a focus group](#). Staff who volunteer for a focus group will receive Vanderbilt swag.

Show Off Your Presentation Skills: Join the PCB Staff Assembly Pre-Show Contest!

Are you a dynamic presenter who loves being on stage? Do you have a talent for engaging an audience? If so, we have an exciting opportunity for you!

PCB is looking for an energetic and engaging staff member to co-present a special segment on **employee recognition** at the next **Staff Assembly Pre-Show**—and it could be YOU!

How to Enter:

Film Yourself – Record a video of yourself presenting a 5-minute video of any topic. Please remember to state your name and your department.

Show Your Energy – Bring your best stage presence and enthusiasm!

Submit by March 31st – DM us your video on Instagram ([@vupcb](https://www.instagram.com/vupcb)) before the deadline.

What's in It for You?

Join PCB live on stage at the next Staff Assembly Pre-Show

Receive premium Vanderbilt swag

Win two premium tickets to a Vanderbilt athletics event

The selected winner will join PCB live on stage to deliver a fun and engaging presentation at the next Staff Assembly Pre-Show.

Think you've got what it takes? Grab the script, hit record, and let your talent shine!

VU SUMMER CAMPS FOR 2025

Summer is just around the corner, and Vanderbilt University is offering a wide-ranging variety of summer programs for kids. Read below for a complete listing of summer youth programs that are hosted through Conferences and Events Operation.

Vanderbilt University Conference and Events - 2025 Summer Youth Programs



[Summer Discovery](#) provides students with hands-on experiences, a taste of college-level education, and a glimpse of their potential future. Students have the opportunity to explore a diverse range of immersive academics across business, leadership & entrepreneurship, medicine & health sciences, humanities, and more.

[NYLF Pathways to STEM](#) is a unique learning experience for bright, forward-thinking elementary school students who will evolve into next generation innovators, engineers, doctors, software developers, and scientists. Students learn by doing during hands-on simulations and workshops with like-minded peers. They also have the opportunity to choose the experience that is best suited for them by selecting either the six-day Residential or the five-day Day program.



[iD Tech](#) hosts both online and in-person summer technology courses for children aged 7 to 19. These courses include coding, robotics, game design and more. As of 2023, iD Tech have enrolled 50,000 students have expanded internationally, spreading their Silicon Valley startup culture around the world and online. opportunity to explore a diverse range of immersive academics across business, leadership & entrepreneurship, medicine & health sciences, humanities, and more.

[The Accelerator Summer Business Immersion](#) is a three week in person program designed to help undergraduate students or recent grads learn business by doing business. Taught by Vanderbilt faculty and practitioners, the program combines teaching, coaching and real consulting projects for real businesses to expand the student's future career potential.

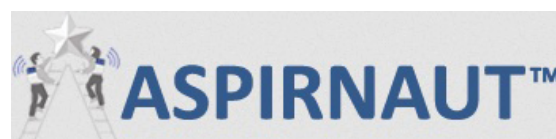


VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
Owen Graduate School of Management



Camp Tech Revolution offers some of the world's best STEM for kids and teens. This summer, [Camp Tech Revolution held at Vanderbilt University](#) will feature 40+ weekly STEM camps from June 2nd to July 18th. Each camp is filled with experiential, hands-on learning, collaboration, excitement, and tons of fun. Camp Tech Revolution's proprietary curricula is designed for beginner, intermediate, and advanced campers in all age groups

[Aspirnaut™](#) is a K-20 STEM Pipeline for Diversity with the goal of increasing the numbers and diversity of the STEM workforce. The Aspirnaut™ Summer Research Internships are 10-week hands-on and mentored laboratory experiences for high school and undergraduate students interested in a career in STEM. Participants undergo an intense research experience including crafting questions and designing experiments and developing professional skills.



VANDERBILT PROGRAMS FOR TALENTED YOUTH

[Programs for Talented Youth](#) is dedicated to aiding parents and families of academically advanced and high-achieving students as they foster the talents and abilities of their children. We offer parent support groups to help parents better understand and deal with the unique social, emotional, and cognitive needs of gifted students.

[The Nashville Skating Academy](#) offers a unique intensive summer training program for skaters all over the country. The program offers a large variety of flexible schedules on/off ice classes and three levels of training groups.



[Youth About Business](#) summer programming consists of three levels of participation: Business Economy of America (orientation and training), Summer Business Camp (a merger & acquisitions simulation camp), and Championship Camp. After each camp, by successfully demonstrating knowledge acquired and excelling in a merger and acquisition competition, students can advance to the next level.

VU SUMMER CAMPS FOR 2025



Blair School *of* Music

[Blair Academy at Vanderbilt](#) is thrilled to announce an exciting new chamber and orchestral training experience for precollegiate students! Led by the faculty of the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University, this five-day program provides an experience tailored for the most talented young musicians.

[Outset](#) is a pre-college academic summer camp for high schoolers interested in medicine. This program is geared for 9th-12th grade students interested in medicine or healthcare careers.



VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER

[The ACM Lifting Lives Music Camp](#) is a week-long residential camp designed for people with Williams syndrome who are at least 18 years old. Fun, Musical Experience Also Focuses on Social Skills and Independence. Campers celebrate music by participating in a songwriting workshop, recording session, songwriter's night, and *a live performance on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry*.

[Foundations for Teaching Economics](#) offers unique summer opportunities for outstanding student leaders. Participants will acquire a deep understanding of the economic and leadership principles that underpin the 'economic way of thinking,' enabling them to apply these concepts to both everyday decisions and those made by corporate and government leaders. This course introduces economic concepts, reasoning, and leadership theory. In a world with complex public policy challenges, preparing the next generation of leaders is crucial for future prosperity.



connect with us



vanderbilt.edu/pcb



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Curious Bar
Check website for location



Virtual Curious Bar
2nd and 4th Wednesdays

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