FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

Nov. CAMPUS UPDATE 2023

Addressing the shortage of nursing professionals in rural Kansas

In 2022, the American Hospital Association estimated that half a million nurses would leave the field by the end of that year, bringing the total shortage to 1.1 million. According to Kansas Department of Labor data from 2022, by 2026, our state will need more than 28,000 nursing assistants and 18,000 registered nurses. The impact in rural Kansas is especially dire, and hospitals now face nursing shortages that could lead to closures.

November 7 marked day five of President Tisa Mason's Annual Media Tour of Kansas and included a stop at Garden City Community College for a breakfast forum on this urgent rural workforce issue. Co-hosted by the Garden City Chamber of Commerce, the event featured a panel discussion led by FHSU Department of Nursing Chair Dr. Jenny Manry, who spoke to an audience of local business and healthcare leaders about the crisis and how FHSU was using two recent federal grants totaling more than $4 million from the Department of Health and Human Services to train nursing professionals for work in rural settings.

One of the grants provides $20,000 per year stipends for Doctor of Nursing Practice students to cover the final three years of their training. The second grant will provide a $10,000 stipend, expanded simulation training, and onsite continuing education opportunities that prepare nursing students for service in rural areas. Both grants will be awarded solely to students who commit to working in a rural setting.





FHSU's long-standing partnerships with community colleges

Community colleges in Kansas generate an estimated $6.3 billion in economic impact. Fort Hays State University is proud of its many decades-long partnerships with community colleges across our state.

Five community colleges accounted for 240 new transfer students to FHSU this fall. The top five included Barton Community College, Garden City Community College, Hutchinson Community College, Butler Community College, and Dodge City Community College. FHSU also attracts more Phi Theta Kappa honor students than any other university in Kansas. Phi Theta Kappa is an honorary for community college students.

The top chosen majors of FHSU transfer students align with some of the state's most critical workforce needs, including Elementary Education, Social Work, Nursing, Computer Science, and Accounting.

FHSU's transfer agreement and articulation guides facilitate the transition of students with associate degrees or a minimum number of transferable hours from accredited institutions. Currently, FHSU has articulation agreements with 65 two-year and 21 four-year schools, both in Kansas and out of state. With the recent changes and updates to KBOR rules regarding systemwide transfers and the new general education program, these agreements are reviewed and updated as necessary.



FHSU hosts second annual Western Ag Summit

With the theme of "Ag Jobs," Kansas District 110 Representative Ken Rahjes, chair of the House of Representatives Ag Committee, and Dr. Grady Dixon, Fort Hays State University dean of the Peter Werth College of Science, Technology and Mathematics, for a second year, hosted the 2023 Western Ag Summit. The event, held on Thursday, Nov. 9, in the FHSU Robbins Center, was funded by FHSU as part of its mission to serve Kansas residents.

Issues and perspectives of this year's guest speakers representing several agriculture industry sectors and a legislator panel were presented throughout the day. Speakers included Kevin Swayne of High Plains Farm Credit in Hays, Derrick Tice of Evergreen Ag Solutions in St. Francis, Michael Feltman of Feltman Law Firm in Cimarron, Kevin Royer of Midland Marketing in Hays, Megan Rice of USD 214 in Ulysses, Monty Breneman of USDA NRCS in Lincoln, and Jason Taylor of Carrico Implements in Hays.



President Mason and Dr. Sophie Ano, chair, agriculture department, were interviewed on Kansas Farm and Ranch Radio.

Kansas Small Business Development Center at FHSU to host workshops

In recognition of Global Entrepreneurship Week, Nov. 13-19, the Kansas Small Business Development Center at FHSU is offering a full slate of professional development courses.

"We have so many training opportunities planned that we are spreading them over two weeks to celebrate and support entrepreneurs in Western Kansas," said Laurie Pieper, assistant state director of SBCD Kansas.

Eight workshops, webinars, and hybrid events will be offered from Liberal to Salina and on the FHSU campus. Workshop topics include:

- How to start a business: steps to take and resources for help
- How to write a business plan
- Podcasting for Profit: master the art of business podcasting
- Government contracting workshop: tips and resources
- Intro to QuickBooks
- Trademark essentials: what you need to protect your business
- How to work with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office



This year's tour included 21 stops, 5 issue-focused events, and meetings with 13 members of the media.

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