

2023 Service Output

17% Economic Impact

8% Housing Studies

8% Strategic Planning

33% Survey Research

14% Public Affairs

20% Program Evaluation



Policy Fellows

To facilitate effective public policy decision-making, the Docking Institute has distinguished policy fellows from industry, academia, and government. The Docking Institute assembles the right team of experts to find real-world solutions to real-world challenges.

Paul Adams, Ph.D.
Fort Hays State University
College of Education

Micki Armstrong, M.S.
Fort Hays State University Coordinator/
Mediator
Family Development Services (Retired)

Emily Breit, Ph.D.
Fort Hays State University
Economics, Finance & Accounting

Keith Campbell, Ph.D.
Fort Hays State University
Sociology

Melissa Dixon, B.F.A.
Hays Convention & Visitors Bureau

Larry Dreiling, M.S., F.A.A.E.
Freelance Journalist

Robert Duffy, M.A.
Fort Hays State University
Drug & Alcohol Wellness Network

D. Nicole English, Ph.D.
Fort Hays State University
Sociology

Thomas Johansen, Ph.D.
Fort Hays State University
Economics, Finance & Accounting

Scott R. Jones, Ed.S.
Northwest Missouri State University
Computer Science & Information Systems

Becky Kiser, M.S.
Hays Post/Eagle Radio
News Reporter

Richard Lisichenko, Ph.D.
Fort Hays State University
Geosciences

Deborah Ludwig, M.L.S.
Fort Hays State University
Forsyth Library (Retired)

Jean Majercin, M.P.S.
Fort Hays State University
Sociology

Kate McGonigal, Ph.D.
Fort Hays State University
Sociology

Mary Martin, Ph.D.
Fort Hays State University
Applied Business Studies

Alexandra Middlewood, Ph.D.
Wichita State University
Political Science

Patrick R. Miller, Ph.D.
University of Kansas
Political Science

Luis Montelongo, M.B.A.
Educational Management Solutions
National Market Coordinator

Claire Nickerson, M.L.I.S.
Fort Hays State University
Forsyth Library

Lori Peek, Ph.D.
University of Colorado-Boulder
Sociology

Chapman Rackaway, Ph.D.
Radford University
Political Science

Wendy Rohleder-Sook, J.D.
Fort Hays State University
Political Science

Samuel Schreyer, Ph.D.
Fort Hays State University
Economics, Finance & Accounting

Kevin A. Shaffer, M.S., CCAI
Fort Hays State University
Informatics

Michael A. Smith, Ph.D.
Emporia State University
Political Science

Morgan Steele, Ph.D.
Fort Hays State University
Criminal Justice

Jay Steinmetz, Ph.D.
Fort Hays State University
Political Science

April N. Terry, Ph.D.
Fort Hays State University
Criminal Justice

Greg Weisenborn, Ph.D.
Fort Hays State University
Management

Message from the Staff

We design for you!

In our surveying, program evaluation, planning facilitation, grant writing, and public affairs programming, Docking Institute fits the activities to an organization's specific situation and programming needs. We are committed to tailored design! Throughout the year, Docking Institute staff and policy fellows worked with each client, using an iterative approach and a mix of methods and techniques, to help each achieve their unique project objectives. Whether we design from scratch or adapt existing, best-practice protocols, we invite the collaborative process of getting it right to meet client needs on time and within budget. We invite you to review the projects and client list in our 2023 Annual Report, visit our website for more details about the activities that interest you, follow us on LinkedIn for posts that amplify the successes of organization/community initiatives, and never hesitate to reach out to us for conversation about how Docking Institute might assist your organization.

Sincerely,

Brett Zollinger
Brett Zollinger, Ph.D.
Director

Jian Sun
Jian Sun, Ph.D.
Assistant Director

Michael Walker
Michael Walker, M.S.
Research Scholar

Marisa M. Johnson
Marisa M. Johnson, M.B.A.
Administrative Specialist

Leslie Watson-Divittore
Leslie Watson-Divittore, M.S.
Research Coord. Admin. Spec.

Senior Fellows

Joseph Aistrup, Ph.D.
Auburn University
Professor - Political Science
Docking Institute Director, 1999-2001

Mark Bannister, J.D.
Boise State University
Dean - College of Business & Economics
Docking Institute Director, 1992-1999

Gary Brinker, Ph.D.
Fort Hays State University
Professor - Sociology
Docking Institute Director, 2008-2017

Preston Gilson, Ph.D.
Fort Hays State University
Emeritus - Finance

Larry Gould, Ph.D.
Fort Hays State University
Chair - Political Science
Docking Institute Founder &
Director, 1984-1991

Leslie Z. Paige, M.S., Ed.S., NGSP
Fort Hays State University
Director - Office of Scholarship &
Sponsored Projects (Retired)

Student Staff

Hannah Cross
Wesley Davis
Graduate Research Assistants

Brenna Schwien
Jenna Welsby
Mengna (Lisa) Zhao
Student Research Assistants



Docking Institute of Public Affairs

ANNUAL REPORT
Docking Institute of Public Affairs
Fort Hays State University
Hays, Kansas
www.fhsu.edu/docking
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2023



Docking Institute of Public Affairs



Our Mission
To facilitate effective public policy decision-making among governmental and nonprofit entities.

The Docking Institute provides professional survey design, data gathering, and data analysis services. Docking Institute researchers confer with clients to select the most appropriate survey methodology based on the client’s needs, goals, and budget.

Survey Research

Survey & Focus Group Research

Available survey methods include telephone surveys (using a 10-station CATI system), mail surveys, online surveys, personal interviews, and focus groups.

BBA ALUMNI

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

Online survey of BBA alumni who graduated up to 40 years ago

CYBERSECURITY BUSINESS SURVEYING

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

Mail survey to survey Kansas businesses with fewer than 300 employees on cybersecurity awareness, attitudes/perceptions, and behaviors

STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2027 HORIZON PRIORITIES SURVEY

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

Online survey to assist in identifying priorities for FHSU’s 2024-2027 Strategic Plan

THE LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES WITH WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY AND UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Online survey of League of Kansas Municipalities members, with results used directly by LKM and in regional meetings across the state to inform LKM’s next strategic plan priorities

KANSAS GROUND WATER ASSOCIATION

SAWYER, KANSAS

Online survey of membership on attitudes about potential licensing and regulatory changes

FACULTY SENATE

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

Online survey of morale among FHSU faculty members

PARSONS POLICE DEPARTMENT

PARSONS, KANSAS

Data entry and data analysis from a community survey on policing issues

WESTERN COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

WAKEENEY, KANSAS

Mail survey to compare WCE’s occupation-specific wage rates to other organizations in their employment area

KANSAS SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

TOPEKA, KANSAS

Online survey of the satisfaction of the clients served by the Kansas SBDC

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, OFFICE OF PRIMARY CARE AND RURAL HEALTH

TOPEKA, KANSAS

Telephone, mail, and online surveys to collect workforce data from primary care, mental health, and dental practice sites

KANSAS SPEAKS SURVEY

DOCKING INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY AND WICHITA JOURNALISM COLLABORATIVE

Online survey of Kansans to assess opinions and attitudes about public policy, public affairs issues, and elected representatives

LOCAL MUNICIPAL FOOD SYSTEMS

DOCKING INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

Interviews and online surveys of city administration in Kansas on the extent of municipal support for local food systems

Conducting an assessment of program implementation and program outcomes is indispensable for agencies to make informed decisions about the effectiveness of their programs.

Process & Outcome

Government and nonprofit organizations often need tangible documentation of a program’s effectiveness to receive or maintain funding.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

Online survey of science and math secondary teachers in the State of Kansas

KANSAS ACADEMY OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE (KAMS)

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

Formative evaluation, including online surveys of KAMS students and parents and a focus group with students

HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICES-COUNSELING

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

On-campus student survey measuring self-reported use of alcohol and other substances

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Multi-survey data processing and analysis for the Arizona Judicial Performance Review Program including survey protocol redesign and process improvement

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, NOYCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP GRANT PROGRAM - GRADUATE PROGRAM

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

Third-party evaluation of the “Science Teachers for Rural America – A Post-Baccalaureate STEM Teacher Licensure Program,” including online surveys, in-person interviews, cataloging recruitment activities and promotional items, and assessing program progress

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, NOYCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP GRANT PROGRAM - UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

Third-party evaluation of the “Recruiting, Preparing, and Retaining STEM Teachers for Western Kansas” program, including online surveys, focus group, in-person interviews, cataloging recruitment activities and promotional items, and assessing program progress

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, DISCOVERY RESEARCH K-12

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

Third-party evaluation of the “Developing the Science Comprehensive Online Learning Platform (SCOLP) for Rural School Science Teacher Development” program, including online surveys, key informant interviews, cataloging recruitment activities and promotional items, reviewing outcomes, and assessing program progress

Through public affairs programming, the Docking Institute provides critical resources for today’s public leaders to plan for a successful future.

Public Affairs

Public Affairs & Grant Writing

ARTS & MEMORIES MUSEUM

RILEY, KANSAS

Grants research and facilitation services for a proposal submission

KANSAS COUNTY TREASURERS’ ASSOCIATION

Vetting and certification services for KCTA’s training program

KANSAS COUNTY TREASURERS’ ASSOCIATION

Annual maintenance of online course instruction related to the duties, responsibilities, and the operation of a county treasurer office

SMOKY HILLS PBS TELEVISION STATION

BUNKER HILL, KANSAS

Moderating LIVE call-in program “The Kansas Legislature” featuring Kansas Senators and Representatives discussing state issues during the legislative session

LOCAL ELECTION FORUM

HAYS, KANSAS

Collaborated with FHSU Student Government Association, American Democracy Project, and Hays Chamber of Commerce to coordinate local candidate debates for the Hays City Commission and USD 489 Board of Education elections

Policy assessment often requires an economic impact analysis of existing and proposed activities or programs. Government agencies and nonprofit organizations can use economic impact assessments to determine the total monetary benefit of their activities in a local or regional economy.

Economic Impact

Economic Impact, Cost-Benefit, & Feasibility Analysis

Our researchers have analyzed the economic impact of manufacturers, service organizations, hospitals, correctional facilities, institutions of higher learning, business incubators, infrastructure upgrades, and other existing and potential programs and projects. Decision-makers often turn to cost-benefit analysis (CBA) as a tool for understanding whether benefits of a program/project exceed the costs. The purpose of a CBA is to comprehensively identify and measure all relevant economic costs and benefits that accrue to a program and can be used for a projection of whether income streams will achieve sufficient thresholds.

SALINA AIRPORT AUTHORITY/SALINA REGIONAL AIRPORT

SALINA, KANSAS

Economic impact analysis of the construction and operational phases of an airport hangar purposed for maintenance, repair, overhaul (MRO), and painting

HADLEY REDEVELOPMENT LLC

HAYS, KANSAS

Feasibility study that includes a break-even analysis and a capital budgeting analysis

BARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

GREAT BEND, KANSAS

Economic impact analysis of the direct, indirect, and induced impacts of BCC on Barton County

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY SALINA AEROSPACE AND TECHNOLOGY CAMPUS

SALINA, KANSAS

Analysis estimating total direct, indirect, and induced economic impact of K-State Salina on Saline County and the State of Kansas

HAYS ARTS COUNCIL

HAYS, KANSAS

Economic impact of HAC activities

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

Academic year impact report to assess university impacts on economic prosperity at community, regional, and state levels

Effective decision-making and planning are dependent upon valid and reliable information. Federal and state granting agencies require accurate survey/assessment data to authorize funding for projects vital to communities, cities, and counties of all sizes.

Housing Studies

Needs & Trends

Businesses are increasingly looking at features such as housing quality, availability, and affordability for their workers when selecting new site locations. With up-to-date housing information, site selectors can accurately evaluate your community, city, and/or county as being acceptable for their labor force and, consequently, locate their operations in your area. With correct and accurate housing information, public officials can correctly determine housing needs and trends, and can apply scarce public funds in an efficient and effective manner.

CITY OF LITTLE RIVER

LITTLE RIVER, KANSAS

Housing needs analysis to document key characteristics of the housing stock in Little River, providing appropriate statistics of housing trends and comparative analyses to facilitate decisions/actions for promoting adequate housing in Little River

CITY OF HILL CITY

HILL CITY, KANSAS

Housing needs analysis to document key characteristics of the housing stock in Hill City, providing appropriate statistics of housing trends and comparative analyses to facilitate decisions/actions for promoting adequate housing in Hill City

EDWARDS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

KINSLEY, KANSAS

Housing needs analysis to document key characteristics of the housing stock in Lewis, providing appropriate statistics of housing trends and comparative analyses to facilitate decisions/actions for promoting adequate housing in Lewis

Visionary leadership begins with a plan that strategically prioritizes scarce community or organizational resources. The Docking Institute has worked with more than 60 entities, including state agencies, school districts, educational institutions, museums, communities, economic development organizations, and chambers of commerce to conduct strategic planning. The Docking Institute customizes the strategic planning process to meet each organization’s requirements.

Strategic Planning

Environmental Scan, Goals, Objectives, & Strategies

LOCUST GROVE VILLAGE AND RUSH COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

LA CROSSE, KANSAS

KANSAS FOOD BANK – CARGILL CARES COMPLEX

WICHITA, KANSAS

THE LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES WITH WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY AND UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Facilitated regional comment sessions in Hays and Dodge City to present statewide survey results and collect comment on LKM’s next strategic plan priorities