



# OUR MISSION

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

We are excited to announce that in December of 2021 the Docking Institute moved to a new custom-designed operations suite on the first floor of FHSU's newly remodeled Rarick Hall! The suite design facilitates the ongoing work of the Institute in its call, data entry, and print survey processing center, and enhances the constant, ongoing team-based interactions between professional research staff, student research staff, and policy fellows necessary to meet client needs. In the first half of 2021, we welcomed a new administrative specialist to the Docking Institute, Marisa M. Johnson – a return of sorts as Marisa was the Institute's graduate student assistant while completing her MBA degree. With the start of the Fall 2021 semester, we promoted student researcher Leslie Watson-Divittore to graduate research assistant. Leslie is pursuing her Master's in Experimental Psychology.

We at the Docking Institute enthusiastically embrace the interesting and challenging work to realize our mission of facilitating effective public policy decision-making among governmental and nonprofit entities. We invite you to review our list of annual activities in this report.

If you are visiting Hays, please stop by our offices in Rarick Hall 160 on the beautiful campus of Fort Hays State University. As always, if the Docking Institute can be of service, please do not hesitate to call.

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



SCAN ME

## 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.

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|--|---|---|
| <b>Paul Adams, Ph.D.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>College of Education   | <b>Deborah Ludwig, M.L.S.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Forsyth Library      | <b>Samuel Schreyer, Ph.D.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Economics, Finance &<br>Accounting |
| <b>Micki Armstrong, M.S.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Coordinator/Mediator<br>Family Development Services<br>(Retired) | <b>Jean Majercin, M.P.S.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Sociology             | <b>Kevin Shaffer, M.S.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Informatics                           |
| <b>Emily Breit, Ph.D.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Economics, Finance &<br>Accounting                                  | <b>Mary Martin, Ph.D.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Applied Business Studies | <b>Kevin Smith, J.D.</b><br>University of Kansas<br>University Libraries                          |
| <b>Keith Campbell, Ph.D.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Sociology  | <b>Kate McGonigal, Ph.D.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Sociology             | <b>Michael A. Smith, Ph.D.</b><br>Emporia State University<br>Political Science                   |
| <b>Melissa Dixon, B.F.A.</b><br>Hays Convention &<br>Visitors Bureau   | <b>Alexandra Middlewood, Ph.D.</b><br>Wichita State University<br>Political Science | <b>Morgan Steele, Ph.D.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Criminal Justice                     |
| <b>Larry Dreiling, M.S.</b><br>Freelance Journalist  | <b>Patrick R. Miller, Ph.D.</b><br>University of Kansas<br>Political Science        | <b>Jay Steinmetz, Ph.D.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Political Science                    |
| <b>Robert Duffy, M.A.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Drug & Alcohol Wellness<br>Network                                  | <b>Claire Nickerson, M.L.I.S.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Forsyth Library  | <b>April Terry, Ph.D.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Criminal Justice                       |
| <b>Thomas Johansen, Ph.D.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Economics, Finance &<br>Accounting                              | <b>Lori Peek, Ph.D.</b><br>University of Colorado-Boulder<br>Sociology              | <b>Greg Weisenborn, Ph.D.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Management                         |
| <b>Scott R. Jones, Ed.S.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Applied Business Studies   | <b>Wendy Rohleder-Sook, J.D.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Political Science |   |
| <b>Becky Kiser, M.S.</b><br>News Reporter<br>Hays Post/Eagle Radio   | <b>Chapman Rackaway, Ph.D.</b><br>Radford University<br>Political Science           |   |
| <b>Richard Lisichenko, Ph.D.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Geosciences  |   |   |

## SENIOR FELLOWS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Joseph Aistrup, Ph.D.</b><br>Auburn University<br>Professor – Political Science<br>Docking Institute Director, 1999-2001              | <b>Preston Gilson, Ph.D.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Emeritus – Finance  |
| <b>Mark Bannister, J.D.</b><br>Boise State University<br>Dean – College of Business & Economics<br>Docking Institute Director, 1993-1998 | <b>Larry Gould, Ph.D.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Chair – Political Science<br>Docking Institute Founder & Director, 1984-1991 |
| <b>Gary Brinker, Ph.D.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Professor – Sociology<br>Docking Institute Director, 2008-2017               | <b>Leslie Paige, M.S., Ed.S.</b><br>Fort Hays State University<br>Director – Office of Scholarship<br>and Sponsored Projects (Retired)  |

## STUDENT ASSISTANTS

- Student Research Assistants*
- Wesley Davis
  - Spencer Manning
  - Leslie Watson-Divittore
  - Cierra Hill
  - Margaret Withers

# 2021

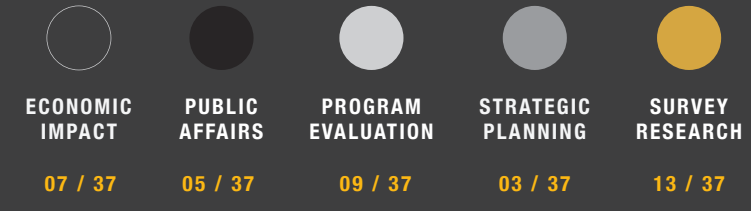
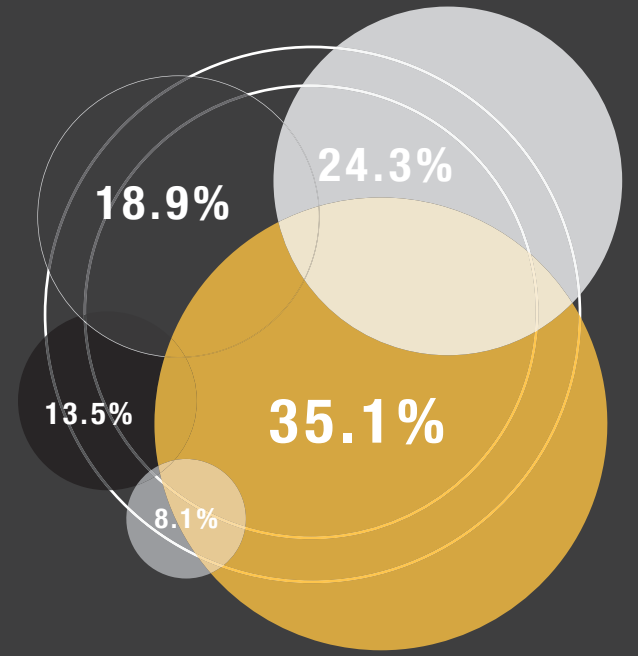


## Annual Report

Fort Hays State University  
Docking Institute of Public Affairs  
[www.fhsu.edu/docking/](http://www.fhsu.edu/docking/)  
(785) 628-4197

## SERVICE OUTPUT

**2021** Survey & Focus Group Research, Feasibility Studies, Strategic Planning, Program & Grant Evaluation, Labor & Migration Studies, Grant Facilitation, Needs Assessments, Cost-Benefit Analyses, Economic Impact Analyses, and Public Affairs Programming



Hays,  
Kansas  
**FHSU**



# SURVEY RESEARCH

## *Survey and Focus Group Research*

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

### **KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION TOPEKA, KANSAS**

Online survey to measure current health plan benefits, priority features, satisfaction with options, and use of and attitudes toward optional wellness program among State employees/retirees

### **UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 214 ULYSSES, KANSAS**

Mail survey to measure voters' opinions about and levels of support for prospective bond initiatives

### **KANSAS SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER TOPEKA, KANSAS**

Financial impact and satisfaction assessment of small businesses served by Kansas SBDC, using an online survey

### **KANSAS SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER FOR NORTH DAKOTA SBDC**

Online survey to measure cybersecurity knowledge and behaviors among North Dakota SBDC clients and business owners

### **WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY**

Online survey on attitudes, perceptions, and practices about writing assignments in undergraduate courses

### **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

### **OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY**

Hays area FHSU student work online survey

### **KANSAS MEDICAL SOCIETY (KMS) TOPEKA, KANSAS**

Online survey of adult Kansans on a broad set of healthcare perceptions/attitudes/self-reported behaviors

### **UNIVERSITY SUPPORT STAFF (USS) AND UNCLASSIFIED PROFESSIONAL STAFF (UPS)**

Online survey of Coalition of Kansas Board of Regents Universities University Support Staff (USS) and Unclassified Professional Staff (UPS) employed at six universities: Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, University of Kansas, Pittsburg State University, and Wichita State University covering topics of satisfaction with work assignments, wages, benefits, and opportunities for advancement; changes in workloads; holding or looking for second jobs; and additional work-related issues

### **INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (IEQI) FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY**

Faculty assessment on perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors regarding assessment of student learning using an online survey

### **KANSAS SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY**

Analysis of potential gaps in Retail Goods and Services for its 29-county service area, using mail and online surveys

### **KANSAS SPEAKS POLL DOCKING INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY**

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

### **KANSAS SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER TOPEKA, KANSAS**

Online survey to measure cybersecurity knowledge and behaviors among Kansas SBDC clients and business owners

# PROGRAM EVALUATION

## *Program Evaluation*

Conducting an assessment of program implementation and program outcomes is indispensable for agencies to make informed decisions about effectiveness of their programs. Government and nonprofit organizations often need tangible documentation of a program's effectiveness to receive or maintain funding.

### **KANSAS ACADEMY OF MATH AND SCIENCE (KAMS) FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY**

Formative evaluation, including an online survey of KAMS students and parents and focus group with students

### **KANSAS HEALTH FOUNDATION WICHITA, KANSAS**

Reflective assessment to provide a third-party review of three entities to support the Kansas Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Project

### **STATE LIBRARY OF KANSAS TOPEKA, KANSAS**

Evaluation Services for the Kansas State Library conducting site visits, focus groups and questionnaires

### **HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICES-COUNSELING (FORMERLY KELLY CENTER) FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY**

Third-party evaluation of the Health and Wellness Services-Counseling Suicide Prevention grant

### **DEPARTMENT OF ADVANCED EDUCATION PROGRAMS FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY**

Third-party evaluation using online surveys for the Discovery Research PreK-12/National Science Foundation project (SCOLP)

### **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, NOYCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP GRANT PROGRAM FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY**

Formative evaluation, including online surveying, interviews, and focus-groups of participants as they pursue their science degrees and begin teaching in high needs areas

### **ARIZONA SUPREME COURT PHOENIX, ARIZONA**

Multi-survey data processing and analysis for the Arizona Judicial Performance Review Program

### **DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY**

Third-party evaluation using online surveys and interviews to assess the Cameroon Program

### **DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY**

Reflective assessment of a leadership development program for women of the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Community

# PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## *Public Affairs / Grant Writing*

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

### **KANSAS COUNTY TREASURER'S ASSOCIATION**

Vetting and certification services for KCTA's training program

### **KANSAS COUNTY TREASURER'S ASSOCIATION**

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

### **ARTS & MEMORIES MUSEUM RILEY, KANSAS**

Grants research and facilitation services for a building project

### **SMOKY HILLS PBS BUNKER HILL, KANSAS**

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

### **LOCAL CANDIDATE DEBATES**

Collaborated with FHSU Student Government Association, American Democracy Project, and Hays Chamber of Commerce to coordinate election year local candidate debates

# ECONOMIC IMPACT

## *Economic Impact / Cost-Benefit / Feasibility Analysis*

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. 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 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. Feasibility analysis estimates the monetary benefits of a potential project and compares those benefits to cost criteria. This analysis provides a base for a projection of a costs-to-benefits scenario useful to leaders and funders in determining whether to pursue a project.

### **SALINA AIRPORT AUTHORITY SALINA, KANSAS**

Analysis to estimate economic impact of Project Rise, a major retention/expansion project for Salina and the State of Kansas

### **SALINA AIRPORT AUTHORITY SALINA, KANSAS**

Economic impact analysis of Salina Regional Airport and Airport Industrial Center, using online and mail surveys

### **CITY OF HAYS HAYS, KANSAS**

Housing needs analysis

### **CITY OF SALINA SALINA, KANSAS**

Economic impact on Saline County related to two new housing projects in compliance with federal, state, and local regulations

### **SHAWNEE TOWN 1929 SHAWNEE, KANSAS**

Economic impact analyses

### **PHILLIPS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PHILLIPSBURG, KANSAS**

Housing needs analysis

### **KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TOPEKA, KANSAS**

Economic impact analysis of STAR Bond projects

# STRATEGIC PLANNING

## *Strategic Planning*

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.

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

Ottawa, Kansas

### **NEX-TECH WIRELESS**

Hays, Kansas

### **THE CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP (HANSEN HALL)**

Fort Hays State University

# LABOR STUDIES

## *Labor and Migration Studies*

Based on government labor data alone, firms considering relocation or expansion may often conclude incorrectly that there is not sufficient qualified labor to meet their needs. A labor study assesses the labor supply, availability, and skill level of a region. Additionally, labor studies determine the working status, education, training levels, willingness to commute, desired wages, and benefits of people looking for employment for the right opportunity.