



# Leadership News

~ Fort Hays State University Department of Leadership Studies ~



Greetings from the Department of Leadership Studies at Fort Hays State University. We appreciate you taking time to learn about the Department's opportunities and accomplishments over the past year. This year has presented many challenges to higher education in general, but it's been inspiring to see our students, faculty, and staff respond to these circumstances to keep our mission alive. As our society navigates these challenging times, the need for leadership and the value of education in our discipline is clear. Your support makes this worthwhile mission possible, and we thank you. Please follow us on social media for regular updates. Our departmental website ([www.fhsu.edu/leadership](http://www.fhsu.edu/leadership)) features a 'giving' tab on which you can learn more about various ways in which you can support our students. Thank you for your continued support of Leadership Studies.

~ Brett Whitaker, Ph.D., Chair, Department of Leadership Studies

## Facing Change in Leadership Education



Gentry Benjamin, Esq. is currently an Assistant Professor of Leadership Studies at Fort Hays State University teaching at the Zhengzhou Sias University in China. Gentry spent more than 16 years in South Florida practicing law before pursuing her MBA and is currently seeking her Ph.D. in Global Leadership from the Indiana Institute of Technology. As an attorney, she always felt a sense of unrest. As a teacher, Gentry knew she had found her passion. Currently, her favorite class to teach is LDRS 300: Introduction to Leadership Concepts because she appreciates opening students' eyes to the different theories of leadership. In January, Gentry was faced with a huge challenge while on vacation in the United States. As the pandemic hit and travel restrictions were put into place, many of her belongings were left in China and she did not have a place to live in the United States. Instantly, she was faced with financial, health, and work challenges. One of the biggest barriers was transitioning from teaching her students on-campus in China to teaching them virtually from the United States. Her daily routine

has changed from teaching students face-to-face to answering students' emails and messages, grading, and monitoring the Blackboard sites for her classes. Additionally, Gentry has instituted 1 ½ hour live sessions where she utilized the Zoom polling feature, Zoom breakout rooms for groups, and completed games and crossword puzzles to interact with her students. One of Gentry's proudest moments during the last few semesters is receiving student emails regarding their appreciation for her efforts and the positive feedback for her live sessions. She says, "My main goal as an instructor is providing a quality education for my students. And when they show me that they appreciate my efforts, it confirms I am meeting the goals that I have set out to achieve." Nonetheless, Gentry overcame these challenges by maintaining a positive attitude, leaning on friends when necessary, and using wisdom and discernment on how to appropriately resolve unprecedented issues. Additionally, she shared her struggles with her colleagues in the Department of Leadership Studies and their support and suggestions were instrumental in helping her strive for success. Gentry's advice to someone going into international leadership is to 'learn, understand, and respect the culture of the country or area you are in. Being open to others' viewpoints and ideas is a key point to this.' Thank you for your dedication to the Department of Leadership Studies, Gentry!



**FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY**  
DEPARTMENT OF LEADERSHIP STUDIES

Scan the code with your phone or click on the link to learn more about our department!



<https://youtu.be/npXv8X0hmBM>

# New Faculty and Staff



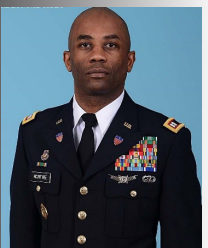
**Dr. Lori Kniffin** ~ *Assistant Professor of Leadership Studies*

Lori's passion for leadership education stems from her own experience studying and practicing leadership as an undergraduate. She minored in leadership studies and participated in many civic leadership programs at Kansas State University. Her educational and professional background drives her research interests in collective leadership, civic leadership, leadership development, critical leadership studies, and qualitative methodology. In her free time she enjoys spending time reading, watching Netflix, playing softball, and walking her dog, Jack.



**Mrs. Rachel Cronn** ~ *Student Engagement Advising Center Advisor*

Rachel Cronn is originally from Boise, Idaho, but has resided in Kansas for the past 10 years. She and her husband reside in Hays, KS with their 6-month-old Labahoula puppy, Penny. She is pursuing an MPS with a concentration in Organizational Leadership. Previously, she worked as a Degree Analyst at Fort Hays State University. She enjoys reading, traveling, dabbling in make-up, and spending time with friends and family. Rachel is passionate about working with students, and she is excited to help students reach their goals and dreams.



**CPT Lonnie McIntyre** ~ *FHSU Officer Candidate School Coordinator*

CPT Lonnie McIntyre began his military career by serving as a Petroleum Supply Specialist for the North Carolina National Guard. He went on to serve in the Active Duty Army, United States Marine Corps, Air Force Reserve and U.S. Army Reserve before receiving his commission through the Army National Guard Officer Candidate School. He has served in the military for over twenty-five years. His civilian education includes a Master of Arts in Executive Leadership from Liberty University and a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts from Ashford University.



**Mrs. Dacia Haselhorst** ~ *Graduate Assistant*

Dacia Haselhorst is a second-year graduate student pursuing a master's degree in Organizational Leadership. She previously earned a General Studies degree from FHSU. Dacia is passionate about giving back to her community and serves as a CASA volunteer, advocating for abused and neglected children. Earlier this year, she obtained her nursing home administrator license, with dreams of one day helping both the elderly and foster children. When she is not studying, Dacia enjoys spending time with her husband and their four daughters.



**Mrs. Haley Moon** ~ *Graduate Assistant*

Haley Moon previously earned her Bachelor's in Psychology and is now pursuing a Master's of Science in Clinical Psychology. Haley is passionate about research and uses that passion to fuel her own research interest as well as the undergraduate students she serves in a lab she manages - The Mindfulness and Attention Research Studies Lab (MARS). Haley enjoys attending conferences, creating relationships with various faculty and students throughout the University, and traveling with her husband, Cody, and fur-baby, Macy.



**Ms. Abby Kennemer** ~ *Student Office Assistant*

Abby Kennemer was born and raised in Hays, KS. She is an Organizational Leadership major, with a minor in Psychology. Abby is currently a VALUE Scholar for the Department of Leadership Studies. She is leaning toward the field of student affairs in higher education as a future career path. She is involved in many FHSU bands and is currently the trumpet section leader for the marching band. In her free time, she enjoys playing and watching sports, especially soccer, basketball, and tennis.

## 2020-21 VALUE Scholars

**Kelli Arnold**  
Hays, KS

**Jeanae Brungardt**  
Ellsworth, KS

**Sally Dinkel**  
Garden City, KS

**Meleny Jacome-Banuelos**  
Johnson City, KS

**Abby Kennemer**  
Hays, KS

## Kastle Earns Prestigious Award



Seth Kastle, Assistant Professor of Leadership Studies, and a retired Army first sergeant, was granted the 2020 Max Gabriel Veterans Mental Health Award from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). The award recognizes a veteran who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the mental health needs of other veterans. He was recognized for his efforts to address Combat-Related Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and its symptoms to children whose parents have served our nation. Specifically, Kastle wrote the children's book, "Why Is Dad So Mad?" and its sequel, "Why Is Mom So Mad?" to make the topic relatable. The books are available through the Amazon store, and Kastle's website, [www.kastlebooks.com](http://www.kastlebooks.com). They also are available at Barnes & Noble, as well as electronically through iBooks, Google Play, Kindle, and Nook. Seth has taken on the additional role of Director of Military Program Innovation at Fort Hays State University.

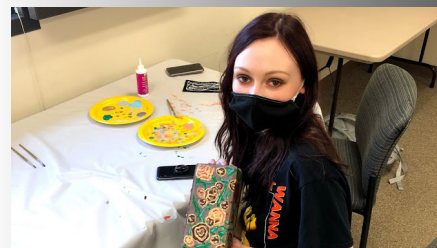
## Barten Sparks Hard Conversations



Jaryth Barten, a senior Organizational Leadership and Communications major from Woodbine, Kansas, utilized his time in the Voss Advanced Leadership Undergraduate Experience (VALUE) Program to develop and pilot a series of Leadership Communication trainings with Kansas 4-H. This led to a grant that enabled his team to start a project called "Stories Matter." The Stories Matter series incorporates three components: Conversation Boot Camp, Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS), and Community Conversations. Conversation Boot Camp is an introductory training with research-based segments on topics such as empathy, active listening, and conflict styles. In addition, a partnership with the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art and Kansas 4-H allows youth and adult participants to lead conversations around pieces of art that elicit diverse opinions in groups. From the National Issues Forums provided by the Kettering Foundation, Barten helps groups choose topics that might not always be comfortable such as mass shootings, bullying, mental health, and safety and justice for Community Conversations. Specifically, this project targets underrepresented and under served groups and communities in Kansas. Barten created this project specifically because, "There is a strange divide in our country, and I find that we avoid or compete on controversial topics instead of finding common ground. There are opportunities for collaboration, compromise, and middle ground and that's where progress starts to occur. Leadership brings people with different perspectives together to address controversial issues and create action steps to initiate change." Jaryth continued the project as his internship for the Leadership Studies Program over the summer and worked up to 25 hours a week in the fall semester as the Stories Matter Coordinator. "The VALUE Program provided peer learning and support during the early part of my project. As I transitioned into my internship, my relationship with my leadership mentor and the classwork helped me adapt and structure my goals to transition the project online." Jaryth encourages that anyone interested in learning more about the program contact the Kansas 4-H office. More information about "Stories Matter" can be found by going to <https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/personal-development/Stories-matter.html>. During his time at Fort Hays, Jaryth developed a collegiate 4-H organization and has been apart of several organizations on campus. The Department of Leadership Studies is proud of Jaryth and wishes him luck in his future endeavors.

## L3: Live. Learn. Lead. Social Events

The L3: Live. Learn. Lead. Learning Community has welcomed 21 new freshman to Fort Hays State University. A learning community is a group of 14 to 28 first-year students who share common interests, take classes together, live on the same floor in Victor E. Village, and participate in activities together throughout the year. It is a place for students to connect, become engaged in all Fort Hays State University has to offer, and belong to a supportive community. The group is led by Dr. Justin Greenleaf, Associate Professor of Leadership Studies, and peer mentor, Aundrea Haberer. Justin has worked with L3 students since August of 2012. He says, "This cohort includes talented students who are creative with craft projects. I have been so impressed with this cohort and their ability to support each other and build positive relationships, despite the setbacks of COVID-19." In the fall, students participated in various social events while abiding by the COVID-19 guidelines. Their events included Paint-A-Brick, pumpkin carving, and a holiday celebration. This spring, L3 students will participate in events such as bowling and complete a local service project with LDRS 310: Field Work in Leadership Studies Teams. To learn more about Fort Hays State University Learning Communities, please visit, <https://www.fhsu.edu/lc/> or contact our department for more information!



## LET US KNOW THE UPDATES IN YOUR LIFE

Rarick Hall 235      [www.fhsu.edu/leadership](http://www.fhsu.edu/leadership)  
Hays, KS 67601      [fhsuleaders@fhsu.edu](mailto:fhsuleaders@fhsu.edu)  
785-628-4303      Facebook: FHSU Leadership Studies

Alumni, please visit:  
<http://www.fhsu.edu/leadership/graduates/>

Stories Written By: Allison Muth, Brett Whitaker, Abby Kennemer, Donnette Noble  
Newsletter Designed By: Allison Muth & Abby Kennemer

# Center for Civic Leadership

~ Where Passion Meets Action ~



The Center for Civic Leadership (CCL) is a nationally recognized institute for civic engagement and leadership development that provides high-quality co-curricular and educational programs and initiatives to enhance civic leadership skills and personal development. The goal of which is to nurture a new generation of engaged, dedicated citizens who have the capabilities to act on behalf of the greater public good and facilitate positive change. The CCL is home to the American Democracy Project (ADP) and Tigers In Service (TIS).

The CCL is looking forward to moving into the new Fischli-Wills Center for Student Success (FWCSS) next fall when the construction is complete. The FWCSS was named in honor of a husband and wife alumni duo. Richard Fischli and Dolores Wills-Fischli both earned bachelor's and master's degrees from FHSU in the 1950s before moving to Southern California. Upon their retirement, they returned to their Kansas roots in Logan. While they are no longer with us, their legacy of positively impacting students' lives will live on. The FWCSS is an innovative learning environment for student development that will nurture a vibrant educational community to facilitate co-curricular programming and services. The first floor services are concerned with academic and career support. The CCL will share the second floor with the Student Government Association, Student Engagement, and the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The second floor is intentionally designed to provide experiential opportunities to develop engaged global citizen-leaders. The third floor of the FWCSS is dedicated to connecting all areas of student health – body, mind, and soul through preventative education and physical and mental health care.

## Noble Attends Rice University

Donnette Noble, Director of Civic Learning and Engagement and associate professor in the Leadership Studies Department, attended the Consortium Meeting: Improvements in Leadership Education and Development at Rice University's Doerr Institute for New Leaders in January 2020. The group of 32 leadership experts met to discuss standards for an elective classification through the Carnegie Foundation for leadership programs in higher education. Discussions were broken down into three main categories: research, education, and development. Donnette served in the category of education. At the end of the three-day period, all 32 members convened to assemble an in-depth classification proposal to present to the Carnegie Foundation.

In August of 2020, 100 scholars and practitioners were invited to review the Leadership for a Public Purpose Classification application. This spring (2021), 11 institutions are piloting the classification application and conducting examinations of the related activities on their respective campuses. To learn more about this initiative, please visit <https://news.rice.edu/2020/02/03/doerr-institute-spearheads-leadership-education-effort/?fbclid=IwAR1VHoyA5pZErACXzg7>



Dr. Donnette Noble

For more information and ways to get involved, please contact:

Center for Civic Leadership at <https://www.fhsu.edu/ccl/> or [CCL@fhsu.edu](mailto:CCL@fhsu.edu) or 785.628.5592

American Democracy Project at [adp@fhsu.edu](mailto:adp@fhsu.edu) or 785.628.5399

Tigers In Service at [service@fhsu.edu](mailto:service@fhsu.edu) or 785.628.5537



**FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY**  
CENTER FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP

*Forward thinking. World ready.*

## 2020-2021 CCL Essay Contest

The goal of the Center for Civic Leadership (CCL) is to nurture a new generation of engaged dedicated citizens who have the capabilities to act on behalf of the greater public good and facilitate positive change. In an effort to help students understand civic engagement, the Center for Civic Leadership announced an essay competition for all Fort Hays State University students. The author of the selected essays will receive a \$250.00 scholarship and their essay will be published on the CCL website. Honorable mention essays will be selected periodically, and those authors will receive a \$100.00 scholarship. Students may not receive more than one award in each category per academic year. The topic for the first 2020 CCL essay competition is: *What is civic engagement and why does it matter?* Check the CCL website for more information!

## ALE Awards

### Outstanding Poster Award

Civic Investment in 21<sup>st</sup> Century America: A Call to Action  
Donnette Noble, Jeni McRay, Haley Jones  
Fort Hays State University



### ALE Program Award

Voss Advanced Leadership Undergraduate Experience (VALUE)  
Fort Hays State University



Not only did the Voss Advanced Leadership Undergraduate Experience (VALUE) program receive the outstanding program award at the 30th annual conference of the Association of Leadership of Educators (ALE) in July 2020 (a virtual event this year), Drs. Donnette Noble and Jeni McRay and graduate assistant, Haley Jones, received an outstanding poster award that highlighted the work of the CCL in addressing the critical issue of community engagement. Between the 2015 and the 2020 ALE conference, the CCL hosted 385 separate events involving 13,876 students in addition to facilitating more than 100 community partnerships while logging more than 17,000 service hours.

The CCL is grateful for the continued financial support of the Voss family as they honor the life and legacy of FHSU alumnus and former Board of Trustees member for the FHSU Foundation, Omer G. Voss. Their generosity has helped support the important work of the CCL and the Leadership Studies Department since 2003. To learn more about Omer Voss visit <https://www.fhsu.edu/ccl/omer-voss/index>.

## 2020-2021 Center for Civic Leadership Fellows



Madison Crabtree

The CCL welcomes two new Fellows for the 2020-21 academic year, Madison Crabtree and Sidney Sullivan. Madison, a freshman, is an Organizational Leadership major from Spring Hill, KS, and Sidney, also a freshman, is a Political Science major with a pre-law emphasis from El Dorado, KS. The Fellows Program was launched last year and is designed to provide freshman and sophomores with hands-on experience creating a variety of materials, developing activities, recruiting volunteers, and participating in CCL hosted events.

Fellows commit five hours each week while school is in session (October through May) to work with the Student Project Coordinators to learn more about the CCL and its projects, and to contribute to the identified activities stated above. Additionally, Fellows will receive support and mentoring for the development or refinement of personal, professional, and leadership skills. Fellows who successfully complete the terms of service will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship and will receive priority consideration for paid student employment within the CCL as openings arise. Current CCL student employees, Emma Worthington and Erica Barwick, were Fellows during the 2019-20 academic year.



Sidney Sullivan

Fellows are chosen at the beginning of the fall semester each year. Each candidate will be expected to fill out an application and participate in an interview. If you are interested in joining as a fellow, please contact the Center for Civic Leadership. The CCL extends its thanks and gratitude for the dedication and service of past and current participants as it awaits future students to join us in continued efforts of community building and leadership development.