



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY



FHSU ranked 10th in nation for adult learners

Among the 100 U.S. colleges and universities judged by The Washington Monthly as the Best Four-Year Colleges for Adult Learners out of 1,124 across the nation, Fort Hays State University was ranked 10th.



The ranking was announced in the magazine's September-October issue, available online at <https://washingtonmonthly.com>.

Fort Hays State was also ranked No. 25 of 385 universities in the 12-state Midwestern region for a category called Best Bang for the Buck. The five regions covered 1,488 institutions.

The adult learner rankings were based on nine criteria aiming at a measure of social mobility, including ease of transfer, flexibility of programs, services for adult students, percentage of students over the age of 25 (31 percent at FHSU), and graduation rate of part-time students (80 percent at FHSU). Other data included college loan repayment rates and net price of attendance for families below \$75,000 income.

"It is extremely gratifying to see someone give priority to measuring the things that really matter, and for our success in them to be recognized," said FHSU President Tisa Mason.

Forsyth Library gets leadership grant

A National Leadership Planning Grant of \$49,997 was awarded to Fort Hays State University's Forsyth Library from the Institute for Museum and Library Services.

Claire Nickerson, a faculty librarian, is the principal investigator for the grant and Dr. Gordon Carlson, associate professor of communication studies, is the co-principal investigator.

The Forsyth Library team is building a prototype of a smart classroom. In a smart classroom, said Nickerson, students could, for instance, stand inside 3D models and manipulate data across multiple screens at once.

"It will also enable the library to offer more interactive exhibits, where students can walk through history or a virtual art gallery," said Nickerson.

Fort Hays State will provide \$11,892 in matching funds to develop programming for a replicable, modular smart classroom kit that provides access to new technology and teaches data literacy.



The kit will make it possible for smaller institutions, particularly in rural areas, to provide access to smart classroom technology such as interactive data visualization and life-size 3D models.

Sternberg fossils now available online

After two years of work, the Sternberg Museum of Natural History has launched for the first time a database showcasing pictures and information about the fossils that are housed at the museum.



“Museum paleontology specimen data are now available to educators, students, researchers and the general public around the world,” said Dr. Laura Wilson, curator of paleontology at the Sternberg.

Funding came from a National Science Foundation grant awarded to Wilson. She said data accessibility is one of the main goals of the foundation.

Christina Byrd, paleontology collections manager, and students from FHSU worked, to customize the database software for the Sternberg Museum’s relational database, meaning each specimen’s data is stored in tables, and those tables are linked together by common information.

This is helpful when researching because with one search you can pull more relevant information. Wilson said. “Overall, a relational database is more easily searchable and makes data more accessible.”

The database can be found at <https://sternbergca.fhsu.edu/> and is available to the public.

FHSU Singers perform in Austria, Germany and a Philadelphia diner

Austria and Germany, countries historically known for their rich music culture, this summer hosted the Fort Hays Singers, Fort Hays State University’s top choral ensemble. The singers joined four other choirs from the United States to take part in the American Celebration of Music.

But one of their most interesting stories came during a flight layover in Philadelphia. During the layover, group leader Dr. Terry Crull, wearing a Fort Hays State branded shirt, went into a Philly cheesesteak diner for lunch.

The waitress saw his FHSU shirt and said, “I go there!” She told him she is an online student in hospitality and tourism. Later he took the whole FHSU choir into her restaurant and they sang the University Hymn for her.

The 20 singers and the group traveled to Munich, Germany, and Salzburg and Vienna in Austria.



Did you know?

- The Institute of Museum and Library Services, in addition to its grant for FHSU’s Forsyth Library, also awarded \$24,478 to FHSU’s Sternberg Museum to support its geology collection.
- Dr. Robert Lloyd, assistant professor of management, and Dr. Michael Martin, associate professor of marketing, won first place from the MidAmerican Business Deans Association for their case study on strategic selling.
- Seventeen FHSU students from multiple majors traveled to Costa Rica this summer for a teacher education course to experience teaching in a different culture.
- FHSU recently signed two more articulation agreements, one with Dodge City Community College and one with Garden City Community College, to ensure smooth transitions for community college graduates in a total of 37 degree programs.



**FORT HAYS STATE
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