



# FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY



## Transition to Teaching program sets records

The Transition to Teaching program from Fort Hays State University's Department of Advanced Education Programs is breaking enrollment records year after year.



Currently, the program has more than 180 new teachers who have been hired by Kansas schools in 90 district. They are beginning FHSU's alternative licensure program for the 2018-2019 school year.

With those who began last year, this puts the total numbers at more than 300 professionals who are seeking to change careers to teaching.

These teachers have bachelor's degrees or higher, a major in a content area or the equivalent, and have passed a content exam. They work under a restricted teaching license while taking the education courses over a two-year period to qualify for their full license.

The T2T program seeks to fill the need across the state for more teachers.

Each summer, the program hosts a four-day induction class on campus which serves as a "boot camp" to prepare the teachers to step into the classroom. It also provides a great opportunity for attendees to make connections with other teachers that will be teaching their subject area and other teachers hired for this program in their school district.

## Learning communities provide unique experiences for students

Nicholas Glassman thought he was going to Fort Hays State University to earn a degree. Little did he know that he would be traveling 1,200 miles into the Caribbean Sea to the island of St. Maarten.

Glassman's trip to the Caribbean was made possible by a learning community, one of many unique opportunities provided by FHSU.

Learning communities are a way for first-year students to connect with one another, belong to a supporting community and become engaged in all that FHSU has to offer through common interests.

Fort Hays State offers 17 different learning communities, which are groups of 15 to 30 students who take classes together based on common interests, live on the same floor in a residential hall and participate in activities together throughout the year.

The various communities provide FHSU students several opportunities, including: ready-made study groups with other members of the communities, early move-in before the arrival of the rest of the freshman class and the ability to form relationships with faculty mentors outside the classroom.

The major goals are to increase student satisfaction and retention; reducing the number of changes in major, reducing the time it takes to earn a degree and less student debt.

The overall intention is that with these advantages, more students will graduate.

## Gift adds new exhibits to KWEC

New exhibits are now available at the Kansas Wetlands Education Center in Great Bend, made possible through a \$220,000 gift from the Dorothy M. Morrison Foundation to renovate the Koch Wetlands Exhibit Hall.

The KWEC, overlooking Cheyenne Bottoms, the largest inland marsh in the U.S., northeast of Great Bend, is managed by Fort Hays State University.

The new, interactive exhibits will allow visitors to experience and discover more about the animals and plants that call the wetlands of Cheyenne Bottoms home.

In the 10 years of its existence, the KWEC has become a popular and important destination, showcasing the wildlife and wetlands unique to this region and providing educational programming for all ages.

Completed by Bang! Creative out of Carlsbad, Calif., the exhibit features 12 new exhibit pieces, including an interactive floor projection system, an augmented reality sandbox to simulate a water drainage basin, a magnifying glass table to explore aquatic macroinvertebrates, and a children's activity area.



## Perseverance pays off in Virtual College

Haley Wilcoxson decided at 14 years old that she would deal with and overcome the challenges put before her and gain what her parents had not – a college education.

Now 29, Wilcoxson graduated from Fort Hays State University in May 2018 with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

While visiting with financial aid counselors about receiving aid to attend FHSU, she met Robyn Brungardt, a financial aid counselor who hired her as a student worker in the financial aid office.

Haley also pointed to another service at FHSU that proved beneficial to her – the Kelly Center, which offers counseling, academic support and tutoring services.

Active duty with the Army Reserve interrupted her education, so after eight years of service to the Army Reserve with the rank of sergeant, Wilcoxson decided not to re-enlist. She decided it was time to finish her degree through FHSU's Virtual College.

"The Virtual College created so many options for me," she said, "so that I could continue to work and fulfill my course work requirements."

## Did you know?

- In 2017-2018, FHSU students received \$85,525,485 in total aid through federal grants; student employment; student loans; institutional and outside, private and state grants; private loans; and outside jobs.
- Kelly Center Director Gina Smith received the Margo Schutz Gordon Award for Excellence in Field Supervision from the KU School of Social Welfare, and The National Society of Leadership and Success Excellence in Service to Student Award from FHSU.
- The FHSU Foundation Journey campaign ended the 2018 calendar year with more than \$68 million of the \$100 million capital campaign scheduled to conclude in the fall of 2021.
- FHSU boasts 69,928 graduates living in Kansas, the United States and throughout the world, and 49.9 percent of them live and work in Kansas, providing an educated work force to advance the economic needs of the state.



**FORT HAYS STATE  
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