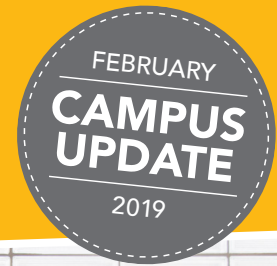




FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY



Hansen grant helps expand social work outreach into Northwest Kansas


With a \$95,000 grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, Logan, the Department of Social Work at Fort Hays State University is expanding its Bachelor of Social Work cohort program to Colby Community College and, through Colby's outreach program, to Norton.

The grant will help fund three years of operations at Colby, beginning in the fall 2019 semester. The Fort Hays State cohort program began as a creative way to begin correcting shortages of Licensed Bachelor's Social Workers (LBSWs) in rural Southwest Kansas.


The Department of Social Work partners with local community colleges to enable students to complete degrees after earning an associate's degree locally. The local community college then provides space for FHSU to teach the core social work classes on site.

"This provides an option for western Kansans to earn an FHSU Bachelor of Social Work degree, fully accredited by the Council of Social Work Education, in their local communities," said Dr. Tim Davis, chair of FHSU's Department of Social Work.

The department currently has cohorts at Garden City Community College, Dodge City Community College and Seward County Community College, Liberal. Classes, evening and online, are completed over a three-year



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period. Students take courses from both core faculty members at FHSU and local professional social workers serving as adjuncts. A full-time cohort coordinator is hired to provide for student recruitment, advisement, and to coordinate ongoing needs.



Students in a cohort start and go through the three-year cycle together.

Additional legislative funding is being sought to expand the program and, said Davis, "If this is granted, we will have funding for additional cohorts, taking the BSW program online and launching a Master of Social Work program focused on training clinical social workers to meet the need for well-trained mental health practitioners in our service area."

The BSW cohort model has been operated successfully in Southwest Kansas since 2006. They were designed to be delivered in the local community so that non-traditional students and students who were established and committed to their home communities would be able to complete their degrees and maintain their community roots.

"The first three Garden City cohorts graduated 30 BSW students, the majority of whom have remained in Finney County to practice," said Davis.

"These students now make up over half of the LBSWs in the county."

FHSU part of study on Kansas youth

Fort Hays State University is part of a project titled "Our Town, Our Kids," aimed at helping prevent youth from entering the criminal justice system.



Over the next two years, project members will work with 22 rural western counties plus urban Wyandotte County, selected for comparison, to collect data and provide analysis in fostering collaborative support of youth and families.

The project was awarded funding by the Kansas Department of Corrections and the Kansas Advisory Group.

Dr. April Terry, associate professor of criminal justice, said rural Western Kansas is often overlooked. It is important to have a study in which 22 of the 23 counties are in rural areas of the state. She said there is very little research in rural areas or on juveniles.

"We hope that this project will result in a national initiative to look at other rural areas," she said.

The university's Docking Institute of Public Affairs will collect and analyze data.

The study group plans to develop a tool kit to assist communities in serving the needs of their youth.

Grants fund nursing labs, scholarships

Nursing education at Fort Hays State University has been helped by two separate grants from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, Logan. The Department of Nursing was granted \$250,000 for equipment for its simulation lab and \$150,000 for scholarships that will place graduates in Northwest Kansas.

Among the equipment for the simulation lab are 20 Reality Works Babies, which mimic infants and track how often they are fed, and their diapers changed.

Additional equipment included a fetal heart monitor, a 24-week newborn manikin and funding to record activities in the simulation lab. The video system will allow students to visualize themselves in practice and get feedback on ways to improve performance.

The scholarship program's \$150,000 is designed to help place graduates from the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, the Registered Nurse to BSN program, the Master of Science in Nursing and the Doctor of Nursing Practice program into positions in Northwest Kansas.



Students will be able to apply the final year of their programs by submitting letters of employment from an employer in Northwest Kansas and a letter from their advisors.

Did you know?

- Posters on research by eight undergraduate researchers from Fort Hays State University will be on display in the Capitol on Feb. 20 as part of the Kansas Undergraduate Research Day.
- Dr. Hendratta Ali, associate professor of geosciences, has been awarded a \$97,000 Geoscientists Without Borders Grant by the Society of Exploration Geophysicists Foundation to map aquifers and drill water wells in rural Cameroon.
- In 2019, for a third year in a row, the 58 bachelor's degree programs offered online through the Fort Hays State University Virtual College have been ranked best in Kansas by U.S. News & World Report.
- Fort Hays State launched a redesigned website on Feb. 5, to provide a modern, clean and attractive aesthetic and clear and simple site navigation to strengthen the brand reputation and lead recruitment and revenue growth.



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