



# FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

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CAMPUS  
UPDATE  
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## Open house at FHSU's nursing hall shows off renovation, new lab equipment

An open house and ribbon-cutting at Stroup Hall on the Fort Hays State University campus celebrated new lab spaces and equipment in a rebuilt section of the building.

A \$250,000 grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation funded the renovation, which was a partnership between the FHSU Department of Nursing and HaysMed.

"Today, we celebrate the opening of the Stroup Hall Simulation Center made possible by our partnership with HaysMed, part of the University of Kansas Health System, and the generous support of the Dane G. Hansen Foundation," said FHSU President Tisa Mason.

"The Stroup Hall Simulation Lab brings together resources and community partners in order to provide an innovative education that meets the needs of students, our region, and world," she said. "Together, we are putting learning into action to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving workforce and empowering students with the skills and experience to thrive."

Edward Herrman, HaysMed president and chief executive officer, also praised the partnership on display at the open house.

"For us, as the only tertiary healthcare facility in western Kansas, we have a commitment and responsibility to our community to provide care at an excellent level," said Herrman.

"For us to really do that, we know that our best resource is western Kansas kids, and the best place

for them to get educated is right here at Fort Hays State. We enjoy our relationship with the university and appreciate everything that they provide our community. This project and our partnership benefits all of us. We end up with better prepared nursing staff and more students who are exposed to looking at nursing or IT in healthcare as careers."

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



Other funding was for a pediatric manikin named Hal that has facial movements, cries, sweats, suffers seizures

and produces heart and lung sounds. 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 renovation included constructing observation and control spaces with one-way windows to allow faculty to control the functions of the manikins as students are working in the examination and hospital room labs.

## Hays, Bird City & Assaria business plans win Faulkner Challenge money at FHSU

A team of four Fort Hays State University students won the \$6,000, first-place prize at the recent Faulkner Challenge business plan competition. The SafeDrop team created a business plan for a gunshot detection software application.

The second place award, \$3,000, went to Wright Enterprises, LLC. Dennis and Donna Wright, farmers from Bird City, have started their own line of sunflower oil products.

Kalliope, LLC, a cosmetic company started by Kristin Blomquist, Assaria, won third place and \$1,000. Blomquist's company sells high-quality lotions, soaps and other skincare products.

The competition is hosted by the university's Center for Entrepreneurship in the W.R. and Yvonne Robbins College of Business and Entrepreneurship.

The SafeDrop members are Pablo Garcia, Lakin graduate student; Hayden Hutchison, Hays senior; Haley Jones, Clay Center junior; and Adam Schibi,



Hays senior. Their software application is designed to detect gunshots, notify law enforcement and warn users of the app who are in the active-shooter area.



## NW Kansas gets a cohort of future social workers

Thanks to a \$95,000 grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, Fort Hays State

University's social work cohort program is expanding into Northwest Kansas, with the first group beginning work this fall.

The cohort program provides an opportunity for individuals in Northwest Kansas to complete a Bachelor of Social Work degree after earning an associate's degree through Colby Community College. With support from Valley Hope Inc. and Colby Community College's outreach center, the program will also be available in Norton.

"This provides an option for western Kansans to earn a 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 the department.

Classes, held evenings at the community college and online, are completed over a three-year period. Students in a cohort start and complete the three-year cycle together, taking 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 for site coordination.

### Did you know?

- A gift of \$20 million from the estate of alumni and supporters Earl and Nonie Field is the largest single gift in FHSU history. Following their wishes, the funds are intended to be used exclusively, and in perpetuity, for scholarships, half for athletics and half for art and music students.
- Approximately 1,100 students from 67 schools are expected for the 45th annual FHSU University Department of Art and Design High School Art Exhibition on April 17 in Gross Memorial Coliseum. The exhibit is open to the public from 10 a.m. to noon.
- Record enrollments at FHSU have continued for an 18th consecutive spring with a 20th-day enrollment of 126,947 credit hours and 13,291 students, which is 164 students higher than last spring's 13,127. The count includes 7,500 Kansas students, up from 7,334 in spring 2018.
- FHSU Virtual College degree programs earned seven top-10 recognitions through March, in art and art history, marketing, sports management MBA, nursing (from two different agencies) for affordability and history, and an overall top-10 for best universities for non-traditional students.



**FORT HAYS STATE  
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*Forward thinking. World ready.*

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