



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY



New FHSU art center named for Schmidts

The legacy of Bob and Pat Schmidt now lives on in a beautiful new building at Fort Hays State University.

The the Kansas Board of Regents approved naming it the Schmidt Foundation Center for Art and Design. The two-story, 43,000-square-foot building opened its doors to students at the start of the fall 2019 academic semester.

“Bob and Pat Schmidt were not only avid supporters of Fort Hays State University, but they also loved art and those who create it,” said Gary Shorman, president of the Schmidt Foundation.

The foundation’s \$2.5 million gift to Fort Hays State made the naming opportunity possible.

The Schmidt Foundation Center provides lab spaces for graphic design, interior design, drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, art education, art history and photography. The facility also includes departmental office space, a multi-purpose lab, a traditional classroom, woodshop, graduate studios, commons area and a ceramics kiln yard.

A native of La Crosse, Bob Schmidt attended what was then Fort Hays Kansas State College, where he met his future wife, Pat, who was also a student. He graduated in 1950 and went on to become a renowned broadcaster and eventual owner of KAYS Inc.

Learning community takes a good idea and makes it better

The faculty sponsors of the College of Education learning community at Fort Hays State University have taken the concept and expanded it by a year and extended its reach.

Students live together, take courses together, and participate in activities together. Learning communities were conceived as a way to support freshman students and improve on the numbers of freshmen who return for a sophomore year. But once the freshman year is over, so is that particular community of students.

In their sophomore year, said Dr. Elodie Jones, advanced education programs, “they would express a feeling of being lost, of feeling as if they’d lost a valuable connection to their peers and FHSU.”

The solution hit upon by Jones, advanced education programs, and Dr. Betsy Crawford, teacher education, was to continue the community into a second year. The 2018-2019 students stayed with Jones for a second year, and Crawford took over this year’s Opportunity Through Education freshmen.

“We have found that bridging two communities s helpful for supporting both sets of students,” said Jones. An added benefit is that the sophomore community serves as valuable mentors to Crawford’s freshmen.

“Going forward,” said Crawford, “The plan is for me to move up next year with the sophomores, and Elodie will take the new class of freshmen.”

Voter registration initiative wins national award

Student leaders involved in the “All In” campaign, a nationwide effort sponsored by Campus Democracy Challenge, learned that perseverance in pursuit of a meaningful cause pays off. The FHSU “All In” team recently earned the Gold Seal award from the American Democracy Project for driving overall student voter participation past the 40-percent mark during the last midterm election cycle.

The team’s efforts to expand student voter participation started with a comprehensive registration drive. Kaytee Wisley, Wichita senior, Alex Rea, Topeka junior, and their student colleagues were able to register 72.5 percent of the student body to vote in the 2018 midterms, a 16-percent overall increase from the previous cycle. “I love getting people to care about politics not just every four years, but in every election cycle,” said Wisley.

Wisley and Rea are both political science majors. One of the biggest challenges faced by Wisley and Rea was a knowledge gap. “Before I took the position I did not realize how many people did not know how to register to vote or how important local elections are to the community,” said Rea.



Students benefit from new FHSU partnership

High Plains Farm Credit has partnered with Fort Hays State University to offer eight students the opportunity to serve on a student advisory board for High Plains. These students will gain leadership skills by participating in an academic/corporate agriculture finance experience.

Alan Deines, director of the Robbins Banking Institute at Fort Hays State and an instructor of finance, is the primary advisor for the High Plains Student Board. Jeremy Ryan, instructor of agriculture, serves as the second advisor for the group.

“The students give advice to High Plains Farm Credit on how they can work with the University to make a better networking connection,” Ryan said. “This will establish an outlet for High Plains to utilize our students and Fort Hays State to utilize their possible career opportunities.”

The student board members are able see how business is conducted and what issues they might be confronted with. Many may also be future borrowers or finance employees.

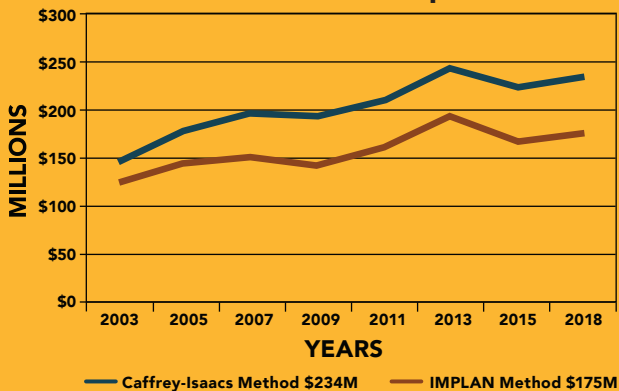
Students were selected through a hiring process and will meet with High Plains employees once a month in Hays. During the meetings, students are invited to give advice and share their opinions with the lenders at High Plains on how they can improve their business and better serve their customers.

Did you know?

FHSU’s Impact on the Regional Ellis County Economy

The full report is available online at <https://fhsu.edu/president/state-of-the-campus/index.html>.

FHSU Total Economic Impact



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Office of the President

785-628-4231
Sheridan Hall 312
600 Park Street
Hays, KS 67601-4099

www.fhsu.edu

785-628-FHSU