



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY



Thank you for supporting education

I and everyone here at Fort Hays State offer our thanks to the Kansas legislators who have shown their support for higher education in the budget they just approved for the next fiscal year.

Access to a quality college education is critical in meeting the requirements of the Kansas workforce and economy, and it is gratifying to see that the Kansas Legislature recognizes the work that all the Regents institutions are putting into addressing the needs of Kansas workers and employers.

We also want to thank Gov. Laura Kelly and the Kansas Board of Regents for their vigorous support and advocacy for the state's public two-year and four-year institutions.

Respectfully,

Dr. Tisa Mason
President, Fort Hays State University



Retention success by design

Retention of first time, full time freshmen at the university reached a five-year high this past academic year of 73.1%. Credit for this 8.5% overall increase in fall-to-fall semester student retention goes to several university initiatives that are distinctive features of the Fort Hays State University experience. Learning communities offer students an opportunity to live, learn (take academic courses together), and create tight-knit communities. In a campus study, students participating in LC's felt a deeper connection to their academic faculty, had a greater sense of campus support and a higher GPA than non-LC students.

Another key driver of retention success is the expansion of renewable scholarships. These awards provide a significant financial incentive for determined Tigers to excel in the classroom and stay on track to complete their degree. This revised scholarship model has been instrumental in a nearly 6% increase in retention among scholarship awardees.

The university's rapidly growing Honors College is another example of an innovative and challenging program whose rapid expansion is contributing to overall retention success. The addition of 41 new honors students next fall marks a 30% increase over last year.





Leadership in service to community

Students in the long-standing, innovative LDRS 310: Fieldwork in Leadership Studies class at Fort Hays State University raised \$35,000 for Hays community organizations through their class projects this spring.

That's the largest amount raised in one semester since the start of the 310 class more than 15 years ago. The sections were taught by Dr. Seth Kastle and Dr. Christie Brungardt in the Department of Leadership Studies.

Six teams were involved in fundraising. In Defiance of Cancer (\$3,000); ARC Park (\$10,000); Dancing Together for DSNWK (\$13,259.55); Salvation Leadership Team, working with the Salvation Army of Ellis County (\$3,000); a team working with the United Way of Ellis County (\$2,500); and a team working with the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center (\$3,000).

"It is important to note that this only represents the financial portion of what these teams contributed," said Kastle.

"They additionally recruited volunteers for multiple nonprofits in Hays and the surrounding communities, assisted in filling a scholarship hall on FHSU campus, and developed partnerships which will help nonprofits be funded year around."

Journey Campaign update

Fort Hays State University is in the midst of the largest, most ambitious, fundraising campaign in school history – the Journey campaign. FHSU's goal for the five-year effort is to raise \$100 million by Homecoming 2021 and we are grateful and humbled to have raised more than \$68 million at the end of 2018.

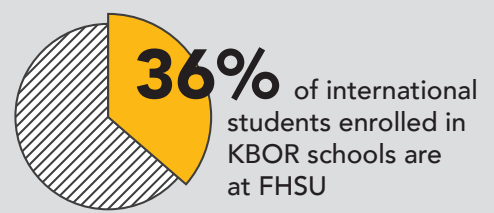
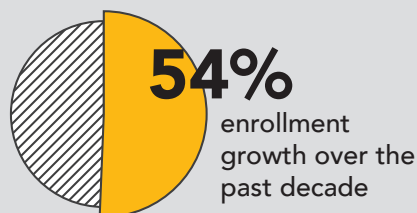
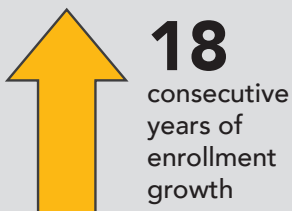
The Journey campaign features four target areas for alumni and friends to support:

- \$45 million for scholarships.
- \$39 million for academics whether it be programs throughout FHSU's academic colleges, the Sternberg Museum of Natural History, the FHSU Alumni Association or Forsyth Library.
- \$8 million for athletics.
- \$8 million for student life.

Access to a quality college education is not only critical for FHSU students, but also in ensuring that Fort Hays State meets their responsibilities to the Kansas workforce and economy. Fort Hays State University consistently ranks among the top 10 public institutions in the nation with the lowest in-state tuition. Private donations help FHSU keep its tuition among the most affordable in the nation, which is vital in the 21st-century economy.



Did you know?



**FORT HAYS STATE
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Forward thinking. World ready.

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