



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

NOVEMBER
**CAMPUS
UPDATE**
2019



Kansas Army National Guard opens office at Fort Hays State University

Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the Kansas adjutant general, and President Tisa Mason, president of Fort Hays State University led FHSU faculty, staff and members of the public in opening a new Kansas Army National Guard office on the university campus in October.

The office, which will be staffed by members of the KANG's Recruiting and Retention Office, will provide members of the Fort Hays State community with information on the educational and professional benefits of enlisting in the Kansas National Guard.

"These partnerships between the Kansas National Guard and our state's community colleges and universities are mutually beneficial," said Tafanelli. "The men and women who attend these institutions are smart, eager and committed to improving their state and communities; they're just the sort of people we want in the Guard."

He continued, "And the students receive great educational benefits as members of the Guard, not just in terms of tuition, but also because of the many great career opportunities we offer."

President Mason welcomed the expansion of the university's relationship with the Guard.

"We take great pride in being able to support these men and women whose sacrifice, dedication and selfless service inspires us all," she said. "I think what makes us attractive as an education partner is the high-quality programs, unmatched affordability, and dedicated and caring faculty and staff we offer."

FHSU opens Virtual Literacy Center

Expanding the opportunities to foster literacy in rural areas, the Department of Teacher Education at Fort Hays State University has opened the Virtual Literacy Center, which will make the high-quality, scientific-based tutoring services available to school districts in approximately 25 counties in Northwest Kansas.

Dr. Sarah Miller, assistant professor of teacher education, Dr. Beth Walizer, professor of teacher education, and Hannah Frazer, a pre-service teacher, collaborated to develop and pilot the program with USD 407 in Russell.

"In the past, Northwest Kansas has been grossly underserved simply because of logistics and the challenges of physically getting the proper help to the children who need it most," said Miller. "However, with innovation and technology, the miles between students and tutors have been overcome."

Both Miller and Walizer have watched young people who struggle with illiteracy encounter roadblocks as they seek to advance in education or the workforce.

"I have seen first-hand the extremely difficult struggles of children who cannot read," said Walizer.

The Virtual Literacy Center will equip educators with the latest tools and programs to identify specific reading difficulties in children and develop custom-designed interventions and strategies to help each child.

All that is required to use the center is the Internet and a reliable computer with a webcam.



Fort Hays State named 2020 Best College for Veterans

Moving up this year from the No. 2 slot last year, Fort Hays State University now ranks No. 1 among the 27 Kansas colleges and universities reviewed by College Factual.

Innovative programs – like a new associate’s degree program in leadership studies and technology that awards up to 36 credits for military leadership training and experience, a program that provides a one-year pathway to a strong professional development credential – serve as evidence of the university’s innovative approach to learning solutions for service members and veterans.

University President Tisa Mason welcomed the new accolade.

“This is an especially gratifying recognition for our university,” she said.

“College Factual has recognized that our focus on generating quality outcomes, introducing affordable and flexible learning options, and expanding student support to military service members is fast becoming the model for Kansas and the nation.”

College Factual Rankings

Each year, College Factual releases its Best Colleges for Veterans Rankings. This ranking of four-year colleges and universities in the United States uses a distinctive methodology that focuses on objective measures of academic program quality and student success.

The rankings are also distinctive in what they do not focus on, such as peer surveys that are subjective, acceptance rates that can be arbitrarily inflated, and alumni salary information that can benefit colleges that focus on producing graduates in traditionally high-paying fields like engineering and medicine.



Dixon named President’s Distinguished Scholar

Dr. Grady Dixon, professor of geosciences and interim dean of the Peter Werth College of Science, Technology and Mathematics, is the recipient of the 2019 President’s Distinguished Scholar Award –

the top faculty honor bestowed by Fort Hays State University.

Dixon’s work on tornado climatology stands out among his peers. His use of distributive lag nonlinear modeling rewrote the modern understanding of tornado frequency, location, and severity.

With over 40 published scholarly works to his name, his research topics involve applying weather data to “real-world problems across multiple disciplines.” Dixon’s research on weather and climate provides insight into the relationship between weather and suicide and the effects of weather on wildlife.

Dixon credits opportunistic collaboration and mentoring for his success. His high impact teaching practices are memorable learning experiences for all involved – such as his yearly travel through the Great Plains region chasing tornadoes.

DID YOU KNOW: TOP TEN COUNTIES FOR FHSU ENROLLMENT

VIRTUAL COLLEGE F2019		ON CAMPUS F2019	
SEDGWICK	625	ELLIS	860
ELLIS	339	SEDGWICK	262
JOHNSON	335	BARTON	152
SHAWNEE	233	SALINE	145
DOUGLAS	150	FINNEY	130
SALINE	133	FORD	97
RENO	125	JOHNSON	97
FORD	120	SHAWNEE	96
FINNEY	114	ROOKS	70
BUTLER	92	RENO	69



**FORT HAYS STATE
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Forward thinking. World ready.

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