



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY



FHSU Department of Agriculture launches new degree programs

Fort Hays State University is once again addressing the needs of students and tomorrow's workforce by developing three new degree programs in agriculture. Beginning immediately, FHSU will offer degree program emphases in Agronomy Business, Agricultural Leadership and Agricultural Communication.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, current trends show a national shortage of college graduates in agricultural sciences and predicts an overall growth in agricultural and natural resource occupations. Fort Hays State graduates, known for their resilience and ability to adapt and apply cutting-edge technology in real-world situations, will be positioned to become leaders in the agricultural workforce of tomorrow.

The degree program in Agronomy Business has its roots in FHSU's constant commitment to innovation and ensuring students are equipped with the knowledge, skills and experience they need to make a difference in today's rapidly changing agriculture industry.

The new degree program emphasis in Agricultural Leadership is a partnership between the FHSU Departments of Agriculture and the highly regarded FHSU Department of Leadership Studies. It provides students with a versatile program of study designed to develop students for leadership positions in local, state, regional and national agriculture organizations.

The agricultural communication degree program will prepare students to understand and communicate specialized agriculture science information through advertising, public relations, journalism, graphic design and telecommunications.

2020 Alumni Award winners recognized

Seven alumni and friends of Fort Hays State University were honored at the Alumni Awards and Recognition Celebration on Oct. 1 during the week of Homecoming.

The **Alumni Achievement Award**, the association's highest honor, was established in 1959 to recognize graduates who have made outstanding contributions in service to their community, state or nation as public citizens, professionals, or through philanthropic work.

This year's five Alumni Achievement Award recipients are Lynda "Lyn" (Beck) Fenwick '66, Macksville; Dr. R Douglas Hurt '69, '71, West Lafayette, Ind.; Charlie Riedel '83, Overland Park; Marla (Schmidt) Staab '73, Hays; and Dan Weller '93, Lenexa.

The **Young Alumni Award** is presented to graduates in 10- to 15-year reunion classes. The award recognizes alumni, early in their careers after college, who have made an impact in their professions and in their communities through outstanding professional and educational achievements, community service and by earning significant honors and awards. The Young Alumni Award recipient for 2020 is Aaron Bernasconi '10, Washington, D.C.

The **Nita M. Landrum Award** recognizes a graduate or friend of the university who has demonstrated a continuing commitment to advancing humanity on a universal, national, state, or community level. Ashley Adorante '01, Overland Park, is this year's Nita M. Landrum Award winner.

For profiles on our 2020 Alumni Award winners, see [FHSU.edu/homecoming-honorees](https://www.fhsu.edu/homecoming-honorees).



KAMS student making the most out of early college experience at FHSU

Anaia Johnson, Kansas City, Kan., is a second-year student in the Kansas Academy for Math and Science (KAMS), the state's premier early college residential program for high school juniors and seniors on the Fort Hays State

University campus. Anaia was recently named a scholar for the College Board National African American Recognition Program after scoring in the top 3 percent of her class on the PSAT test last year.

Each year, that national program honors about 5,000 academically outstanding African American students across the United States who have taken the PSAT, the standardized test of the College Board for high juniors and seniors.

Anaia is the second member of her family to take advantage of the opportunities that KAMS has to offer. Her older sister, Aalijah, completed the program earlier in 2020.

Established in 2009, KAMS is the state's premier early college residential program. To date, 230 students from 54 Kansas counties have completed the STEM-focused curriculum.

FHSU trio places 4th in national financial planning competition

Fort Hays State University's financial planning challenge team has returned to prominence among the best in the nation, finishing fourth in the 2020 Financial Planning Association's National Financial Planning Challenge. The challenge is a rigorous, months-long, three-phase competition where the teams create a detailed written financial plan for a hypothetical client.

FHSU seniors Thomas Powell, Hays, and Alejo Villegas, Great Bend, along with sophomore Ethan Lang, Hays, won the quiz bowl portion of the finals, propelling them into fourth place overall.

This marks the second top-eight performance in the challenge for FHSU the past three years. FHSU secured its place among the best of the best in the competition from 2001 to 2011, bringing home 11 top-five overall finishes from the competition, including first-place finishes in 2001, '02 and '11.

After a six-year absence from the competition, FHSU placed seventh in 2018 and barely missed making the "Elite Eight" last year.



Hometown Hero



Sylvia Arias '09

Master of Social Work Student

Sylvia serves as a counselor and advocate for foster care families in Garden City. She finds her work rewarding because she knows that one phone call, one discussion or one intervention can empower people who often feel they have little control over their lives.



**FORT HAYS STATE
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Forward thinking. World ready.

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