



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY



photo taken in 2016



NASA grant to fund STEM workshops at FHSU

A new grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will fund the development of new Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) educator workshops in Fort Hays State University's College of Education.

The grant proposal submitted by Dr. Paul Adams, dean of the College of Education, is titled "High-Altitude Balloon Launch System to Support Teacher and Student Research." The \$14,722 grant will support FHSU's efforts as a member of the NASA Kansas Space Grant Consortium (KSGC) teacher workshop program.

"High altitude balloons as a research tool have the 'cool' factor of being something that cannot be explored in the classroom. When we fly up to 100,000 feet (over 18 miles high), we enter a part of our world outside our experience," Adams said. "The excitement and innovation of preparing, flying and recovering something flown to near space to answer a question is an achievement for every student involved."

Workshops for middle school and high school teachers currently under development in FHSU's College of Education cover a broad spectrum of topics, including:

- GLOBE Weather
- OpenSciEd
- Operation Primary Physical Science
- Modeling Instruction in Physics and Chemistry
- Matter and Energy for Growth and Activity

More information is available at [FHSU.edu/smei/high-altitude-balloon/index](https://www.fhsu.edu/smei/high-altitude-balloon/index).

FHSU's Kastle recognized by NAMI

A Fort Hays State University professor was recently honored for his work to promote mental health for military veterans.

Dr. Seth Kastle, assistant professor of Leadership Studies and a retired Army first sergeant, won the 2020 Max Gabriel Veterans Mental Health Award from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Each year, NAMI recognizes individuals and organizations that advance NAMI's mission to improve the lives of people affected by mental illness.

The Max Gabriel Award recognizes a veteran who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the mental health needs of other veterans. The award is named after Max Gabriel, a decorated Vietnam Veteran from Buffalo, New York who served as the first chair of that state's NAMI Veterans Committee.

Kastle was honored because of his children's books, "Why Is Dad So Mad?" and "Why Is Mom So Mad?" and subsequent speaking engagements after the books were published. The books focus on explaining to children why their parents act the way they do when struggling with Combat-Related Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and its symptoms.

"To be recognized by NAMI as a leader in the effort to improve the mental health of our veterans is humbling," Kastle said. "I feel like it is the responsibility of every veteran to give back to our brothers and sisters in arms."

FHSU professor to lead national law enforcement training initiative

The Fort Hays State University Department of Criminal Justice and University Police Department signed a final agreement on Aug. 7 to join an expanding national network of regional de-escalation training centers that teach law enforcement officers techniques that can help resolve potentially dangerous confrontations. The agreement will establish the only regional training center in Kansas at FHSU.

The de-escalation model expands the police officers' effectiveness by giving them the tools to defuse potential situations that otherwise may escalate to the use of force. The training is designed to function seamlessly as a supplement to other proven models of intervention and de-escalation, ultimately helping them better protect and serve their communities,

Dr. Tamara Lynn, department chair and an associate professor of criminal justice, was named president of the National De-Escalation Training Center's Executive Council and is responsible for coordinating all regional training centers' activities. In her new role, Lynn will work to secure funding for the NDTC and other regional centers. Her current focus is on securing the funding necessary to train faculty in the Department of Criminal Justice and officers from the University Police Department to become trainers in advanced de-escalation techniques.

The establishment of a regional training center at FHSU positions the Department of Criminal Justice to provide de-escalation training to law enforcement officers from a multi-state region, including Kansas, Colorado, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

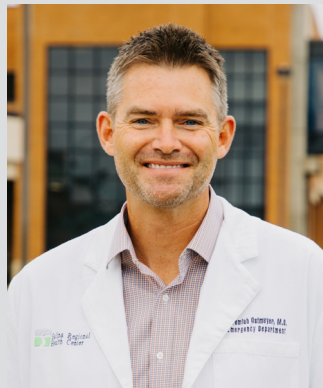


Quality of life evaluated in 2020 Kansas Speaks survey

When asked to rate the quality of life in Kansas, more than 80 percent of those who participated in the annual Kansas Speaks survey rated the state a good, very good or excellent place to live. Respondents were also asked where they expected to be living in five years, and approximately 85 percent shared that they plan to remain in Kansas. Slightly more than 15 percent shared they believed they would relocate to a state other than Kansas. However, 44% of respondents were concerned or very concerned about future affects of the economy on their family's welfare.

The primary mission of Fort Hays State University's Docking Institute of Public Affairs is to facilitate effective public policy decision making among governmental and non-profit entities. Today, a variety of programs and services targeted toward regional development and growth fulfill the Docking Institute of Public Affairs' mission.

For more information on the Docking Institute and to review the full 2020 Kansas Speaks Survey, go to: FHSU.edu/docking.



Jeremiah Ostmeyer '01

Bachelor of Science in Chemistry

Dr. Jeremiah Ostmeyer, a native of Quinter, is on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic as an emergency medicine specialist at Salina Regional Hospital. His dedication, skill and resilience are put to the test daily in the care of our fellow Kansans.



**FORT HAYS STATE
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