



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY



Tammy Wellbrock named interim alumni director

Third-generation FHSU alumna Tammy Wellbrock, who is also a university instructor and a current member of the FHSU Foundation Board of Trustees, has been named interim director of the FHSU Alumni Association, succeeding retiring Executive Director DeBra Prideaux. Wellbrock will assumed her duties on June 8.

“When President Mason reached out to me, I was honored and humbled by her request to serve,” Wellbrock said. “To return to the Alumni Association at this point in my career is an opportunity I could not refuse. I basically bleed black and gold.”

The former president of the Hays Area Chamber of Commerce, Wellbrock’s leadership garnered the Hays Chamber national recognition. She plans to spend much of this upcoming year listening and learning from alumni, donors, and the Alumni Association staff.

“If my experience and education has taught me anything, it’s that many challenges can be overcome and most strategic directions can be identified through thoughtful listening and healthy dialogue,” Wellbrock said.

After leaving her post as Chamber president, she started her own professional training and coaching business, Girl Twin Solutions, LLC, and last fall she was elected to the USD 489 Board of Education for a four-year term.

She served as the assistant alumni director at FHSU from 1997 to 2001. Since 2008, Wellbrock has served as an adjunct instructor, teaching both on-campus and online classes. She also serves on the provost’s Adjunct Faculty Advisory Committee.



Garden City Community College, FHSU begin new partnership

Students at Garden City Community College are already signing up for the new Transfer Connect program between Fort Hays State University and GCCC. The partnership began in late April.

Under Transfer Connect, coordination begins much earlier than in traditional articulation agreements to ensure smooth transferability of a student’s community college work.

“Transfer Connect is a dual advising relationship where a prospective community college student has access to an FHSU Transfer Success Coach, who proactively engages with students,” said Erica Fisher, FHSU’s articulation coordinator and recruiter.

Colin Lamb, GCCC’s vice president for student services, said the new partnership is mutually beneficial and is likely to increase GCCC’s own recruitment and retention efforts. More GCCC students transfer to FHSU to continue their studies annually than any other four-year institution statewide, he said.

Throughout their community college careers, students will have access to unofficial transcript evaluations to help keep on track; course recommendations; regular notification of events and deadlines; program exploration based on academic goals; degree completion planning; admission and financial aid assistance; and other on-boarding and enrollment guidance.

A pilot partnership for Transfer Connect began last spring at Barton Community College, and has been active throughout the current academic year. That partnership has been a success, said Fisher, with 23 students currently enrolled.

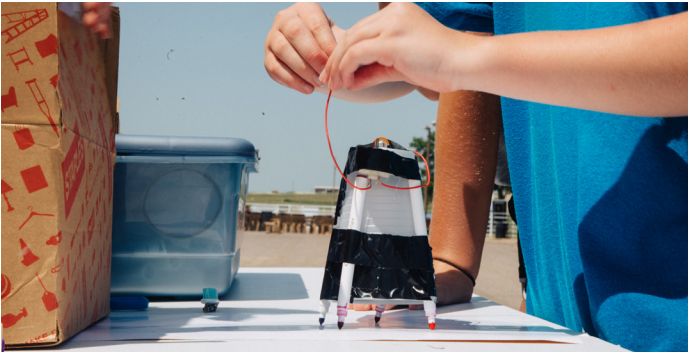
SMEI summer camps go virtual for 2020

Fort Hays State University's Science and Mathematics Education Institute is offering free virtual summer camps. SMEI was created to advance interest and inspire curiosity about the science of technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. The institute serves as a bridge between FHSU, K-12 schools and the community in western Kansas by supporting, facilitating and promoting STEAM outreach programs.

The first series of camps were hosted by Dr. Sarah Broman Miller, FHSU reading specialist. Broman Miller taught a daily activity to school-age children from June 1 through June 4, 2020, on Facebook LIVE. Students gathered supplies before each activity and joined Broman Miller to participate.

Upcoming virtual summer camp activities will be taught by G.G. Launchbaugh, Science Outreach Coordinator in SMEI and FHSU students and will include topics such as See the Stars-How to have fun observing and be a Citizen Scientist, Popsicle Stick Boomerang and Balloon Rockets.

Students and families can follow along with the SMEI virtual summer camps by following FHSU MakerSpace on Facebook at [Facebook.com/fhsumakerspace](https://www.facebook.com/fhsumakerspace).



FHSU announces phased plan for reopening

President Tisa Mason recently shared Fort Hays State University's Phased Plan Toward FHSU Employee Return and University Reopening.

"The plan aligns with our guiding principles and demonstrates our commitment to problem-solve locally and communicate centrally, said Mason. "It also incorporates the best knowledge and latest guidance we have from members of our campus community as well as federal, state, and local public health officials."

The FHSU plan comprises three phases:

- **Phase One** began on June 1 and allows for select staff to return to campus, with a focus on colleagues who are unable or limited in their ability to fulfill their responsibilities remotely.
- **Phase Two** is anticipated to begin on July 1. It will be driven by the successful implementation of Phase One and aligns with the timeline of Gov. Laura Kelly's Ad Astra Plan. In Phase Two, there may be an expansion in the number of employees returning to work on campus.
- **Phase Three**, anticipated to begin on Aug. 1, will incorporate several contingencies to help ensure we protect those most at risk, determine testing capabilities and related protocols, source adequate equipment and supplies, and establish processes and procedures so employees and students can return to safe and healthy environments.

More information on the university's reopening plan, along with other COVID-19 related communications, initiatives, and resources, is available online at fhsu.edu/covid-19-response.

Did you know?

Online programs at Fort Hays State University earned three top-10 ratings in the most recent roundup of rankings agencies.

#3 in the nation in the Best Online Master's in Liberal Arts and Sciences category.

OnlineSchoolsReport

#5 in the nation in the Best Online Bachelors in Agriculture category.

OnlineSchoolsReport

#7 in the nation in the 60 Best Online Masters in Special Education ranking.

Top Education Degrees



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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