

CAMPUS UPDATE

Meeting the need for K-12 educators in Kansas

A leader in teacher education, Fort Hays State University responds to a looming shortage of teachers in Kansas in many ways. The FHSU teacher education program graduates approximately 200 students per year. More than 85% teach in Kansas – approximately 50% in western Kansas, often in rural areas where teaching positions have proven difficult to fill.

Additionally, Fort Hays State's transition to teaching (T2T) program is making a significant impact. The program allows professionals outside the field of education who have a bachelor's or master's degree – or equivalent coursework in a content area they want to teach – to fill middle and high school teaching vacancies through an alternate route to teacher licensure. As an online program, T2T caters to the needs of adult learners looking to switch into the teaching profession.

Initiated in 2003, T2T started with just four students. It has grown every year to its current total of 323. The program added 163 new students in 2021, the largest cohort to date, and has continued participation from more than 300 students each year for several years. Today, more than 1,200 FHSU licensed "Tiger" teachers have completed the transition to teaching program serve in districts across the state of Kansas.



FHSU hosts 3rd annual Future Educators Day

In October, Fort Hays State University's Admissions Office and the Department of Teacher Education hosted the third annual Future Educators Day. The goal is to inspire the next generation of teachers through personal interactions, discussions, and examples of dynamic teaching.

This year's event brought more than 70 students and guests from 17 area high schools to the FHSU campus. These potential future educators had the opportunity to observe and interact with the Kansas Teacher of the Year (KTOY) team, learn about teacher preparation at FHSU.



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FHSU launches MBA in agribusiness

Fort Hays State University once again addresses the demands of students, the agricultural industry, and regional workforce needs with the launch of a new Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree with a concentration in agribusiness.

This innovative online and on-campus program was developed by the Robbins College of Business and Entrepreneurship (RCOBE), working in partnership with the Department of Agriculture in the Peter Werth College of Science, Technology and Mathematics.

“This will prepare students for management and leadership roles in one of the most critical, fast-moving, and high-tech industries in the world – agriculture,” said Dr. Muhammad Chishty, dean of RCOBE. “The new courses in agribusiness were created by faculty from the agriculture department who are specialists in the discipline. Our program is unique in combining the MBA degree with an agribusiness concentration.”



Agriculture is the single largest economic driver in Kansas, contributing nearly \$65.7 billion annually to the Kansas economy and generating more than 254,000 jobs through direct, indirect, and induced-effect careers.

The MBA in agribusiness option provides a seamless pathway for traditional students to complete an MBA – some completing a bachelor’s and MBA in only five years through FHSU’s Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) to MBA program.



Hometown Hero

Mandy Kern, FHSU Program Specialist
Kansas Wetlands Education Center

FHSU Program Specialist Mandy Kern received the newly created Pivot Award from the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE). This award honors individuals, groups, or organizations that demonstrated outstanding adaptability to deliver environmental education programs despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. Kern

developed new programs and changed delivery methods to virtual options, including a virtual tour of Cheyenne Bottoms.

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