



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY



Social work program expands to serve more Kansans

Fort Hays State University is one of only a handful of universities in the United States – and the only one in Kansas – to offer the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) online. FHSU also is the only university in the state to offer the Master of Social Work (MSW) online.

Over the past five years, enrollment in FHSU’s BSW and MSW programs has more than doubled. Due to the exceptionally high interest in the program, the department recently increased the number of full-time faculty, including seven who are primarily dedicated to the MSW program.

Experiential learning, or “learning by doing,” is a key element in FHSU academics. Social work students from Fort Hays State are now on the job and serving their communities as part of their practicum or field experience requirement.

This academic year, FHSU placed 143 BSW and MSW students in clinical settings and professional environments in 24 Kansas communities, where the students are putting into practice what they are learning. Practicum students will work in mental health, child welfare, K-12 education, hospital, addiction center, and criminal justice system settings.

FHSU awarded \$1.25 million grant to support de-escalation training for law enforcement professionals

The Fort Hays State University Department of Criminal Justice and University Police Department were awarded a \$1.25 million grant from the Department of Justice’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. The Community Policing Development Program grant will support the Regional De-Escalation Training Center that was established in August of 2020.

The center at FHSU is one of several in a national network of regional centers under the direction of the National De-escalation Training Center (NDTC).

“This is essential training for today’s law enforcement professionals here in Kansas and across the nation,” FHSU President Tisa Mason said. “We are immensely grateful to Sen. Jerry Moran and the Justice Department for their work in bringing this federal grant to Fort Hays State University, and we look forward to expanding the university’s important work and leadership in this emerging field.”

The training provided by FHSU places the university at the forefront of this vital law enforcement training initiative. Dr. Tamara Lynn, department chair and an associate professor, serves as president of the NDTC’s Executive Council – responsible for coordinating all regional training centers.

“This award will allow the regional training centers to provide advanced de-escalation training to law enforcement across the U.S. at little to no cost,” Dr. Lynn said.

FHSU brings home international partnership award

At a recent meeting of the Midwest American Chemical Society, Fort Hays State University received the ACS Partners for Progress and Prosperity Regional Award. Making up the FHSU team were the Werth College of Science, Technology and Mathematics; the Department of Chemistry; and the university's early college program – the Academy of Math and Science. FHSU shared the award with its international partner, the Daejeon Science High School for the Gifted, South Korea, for their 2017-2020 science camp partnership.

The selection committee was impressed by the collaboration that brought South Korean high school students and teachers to FHSU's campus, where they worked with faculty and students for a one-week Photovoltaics (converting light into electricity) research program. FHSU students and faculty also visited Daejeon, South Korea, as part of the exchange program.

The award includes a special Partners for Progress and Prosperity silver/gold medallion and a framed certificate of recognition (one for each partner representing an entity or organization). To promote the continuation and expansion of the partnership, awardees will also equally divide up to \$1,000 in grant funding.

FHSU's response to the federal vaccine mandate

President Biden's executive order of Sept. 9, 2021, instituted a vaccine mandate for employees of federal contractors, including public universities, where federal contract language includes a vaccine mandate requirement clause. In close coordination with the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) and peer KBOR universities, Fort Hays State University is evaluating if and how our institution may fall under this mandate.

FHSU has not identified any federal contracts that include such a clause. The primary reason lies in FHSU's federal research profile, which is quite different from the research institutions in the KBOR system.

Based on an analysis of the issue, FHSU will not implement a vaccine mandate for employees at this time. However, the critical incident policy group and university leadership will continue to monitor this issue carefully and will be prepared to shift course if necessary.

It is still early in the implementation process of the executive order, and FHSU may yet secure one or more federal contracts that include the vaccine mandate language in the future. FHSU plans to evaluate each contract on an individual basis and respond accordingly.



Dr. Arvin Cruz

*Chair & Associate Professor of
Physical Inorganic Chemistry*

This summer, Dr. Arvin Cruz, Chair and Associate Professor of Chemistry, earned his U.S. citizenship. He has been with FHSU for nine years and is in charge of the KAMS and Daejeon Science High School partnership recognized this year by the Midwest American Chemical Society.



**FORT HAYS STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Office of the President
785-628-4231
Sheridan Hall 312
600 Park Street
Hays, KS 67601-4099

www.fhsu.edu
785-628-FHSU