



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

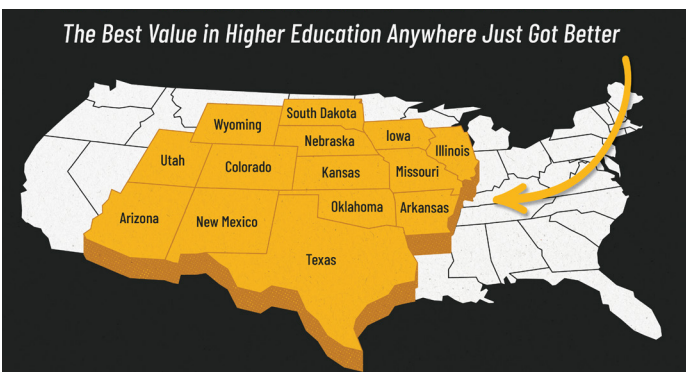


FHSU's new 13-state regional tuition program

Fort Hays State recently strengthened its commitment to providing high-quality and accessible education by introducing a new regional tuition program. Beginning in the fall of 2022, students from Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming will pay the same tuition and fees as Kansas students.

Students who enroll at FHSU from any of the 13 states in the region can expect to pay \$5,443 in tuition and fees annually versus the regional average of \$8,852. This amounts to a cost savings of more than \$3,409 annually, according to data from the National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education.

"This regional tuition program highlights the value of the FHSU experience and attracts more students to FHSU. We expect many of these students to remain in Kansas after they graduate and become the civic, professional, and business leaders of tomorrow," FHSU President Tisa Mason said.



SBDC helps Kansas businesses navigate the pandemic

With a team of seven, the Kansas Small Business Development Center (SBDC) contributes to economic development by serving hundreds of businesses in northwest and north central Kansas. The SBDC has helped businesses obtain over \$30 million in capital investment over the past five years.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the SBDC established a remote contingency plan and continued to assist business owners throughout the 29 counties in the SBDC's service area. In the first four months of the pandemic alone, center staff committed 950 hours helping 158 business owners understand and access the many new types of emergency and disaster aid that became available, including CARES Act funding.

SBDC Service Highlights

- Assisted 27 businesses access \$6,363,350 in funding
- Helped nine entrepreneurs achieve their dream of business ownership
- Directly assisted 1,078 employees at 147 businesses in developing marketing, financial management, human resources, process design, and other critical business skills
- Delivered 116 training events for over 240 attendees
- Helped western Kansas businesses increase sales by \$11.6 million



Dr. Hendratta Ali named President's Distinguished Scholar

Dr. Hendratta Ali, associate professor of geosciences, is the 2021 President's Distinguished Scholar.

"She has 15 peer-reviewed publications, over 100 refereed abstracts, and

presented both nationally and internationally. Recently, she has secured two National Science Foundation grants that total near \$500,000," said Dr. Jill Arensdorf, provost and vice president for academic affairs and emcee of ceremonies at the 2021 FHSU fall convocation.

The President's Distinguished Scholar Award was first conferred in 1989. Nominees for this honor are evaluated by analysis of their performance in the categories of research and creative activities, service, and instruction.

Ali has also started an appointment as a National Science Foundation "rotator" program officer for its Hydrologic Sciences Program. The program supports the research in how water interacts with the landscape and ecosystem and how the water cycle and its processes are altered by land use and climate. She will continue to be employed by FHSU, but NSF pays 90% of her state salary.

FHSU's federally funded COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive Program

On Friday, August 13, FHSU announced an incentive program to encourage COVID-19 vaccinations. Funded by federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds, all students and employees of the university are eligible to receive \$400 in incentive funds for being fully vaccinated. Participants need to show documentation that they have completed the full COVID-19 vaccine sequence to receive the payment.

The FHSU program will be a direct \$400 payment to students and employees. These are dollars that, when spent, can immediately contribute to the vibrancy of the local economy at a time when many businesses are struggling to recover from the pandemic.

The incentive program's goal is to get as many people vaccinated as possible. Unlike other programs at colleges and universities in Kansas and across the nation, FHSU's incentive program does not involve any form of sweepstakes or prize drawing. The funds are also not provided to students as scholarship dollars or tied to future enrollment.



Trinity Wagner

Junior; Glen Elder

This summer, Trinity Wagner completed an internship with the Concordia Chamber of Commerce supported with funding from the Dane G. Hansen internship program. Her work with the chamber included developing digital content and expanding and enhancing the chamber's website. Each year, the Hansen Foundation sponsors 25 internships in a 26-county service area.



**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