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# CAMPUS UPDATE

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## **New policy simplifies community college transfer process**

Fort Hays State University leads the effort in Kansas to streamline the transition from community college to a university degree program. Beginning in the Fall of 2022, transfer students who have completed an Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) program at any Kansas community college will have fulfilled all FHSU general education requirements. The Kansas Association of Community College Trustees' executive director, Heather Morgan, applauded the new policy, stating:

*"Kansas community colleges are thankful that FHSU has taken significant steps to recognize the achievements of community college students and ensure that the students will not have to take any additional general education classes in pursuit of their bachelor's degree. We hope this will make the pathway to a four-year-degree more accessible for students and hope that other Kansas universities might follow FHSU's lead and implement similar forward-thinking and student-focused transfer and articulation policies."*

Transfer students who have completed an AA or AS program through the Kansas Board of Regents' Reverse Transfer Program within one year of matriculation to FHSU will have fulfilled all FHSU general education requirements upon receiving an official transcript indicating conferral of the credential.

Transfer students who have not completed an AA or AS program from a Kansas community college but have completed a minimum of 36 credit hours must complete the KBOR system-wide general education program requirements to fulfill their FHSU general education requirements.

All other transfer students will be subject to the Kansas Board of Regents system-wide general education (currently known as the TA-45) or the FHSU CORE program.

## **Social work program expansion serving more rural Kansans**

A Kansas native and first-generation college student who grew up on a farm, Fort Hays State's Dr. Timothy Davis is passionate about helping expand access to critical social services in under-resourced rural areas.



**FORT HAYS STATE**  
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Davis began working at FHSU in 2005 and has been instrumental in the remarkable growth of FHSU's undergraduate and graduate social work programs. Since its inception in 2015, the Department of Social Work has expanded from 100 undergraduate students to over 300. The department also recently added a Masters of Social Work (MSW) degree whose inaugural class of 52 students has grown to 85 in just one year with more on a waiting list. In 2021 the department placed 90 students in clinics and other social services agencies in 24 Kansas communities, with nearly 90% in rural areas.

### **Annual Student Recognition Program tour underway**

Dozens of FHSU faculty and staff are on the road again and participating in the annual 12-city Student Recognition Program (SRP) road trip across Kansas, Colorado, and Nebraska. Now in its 34th year, SRP events are designed to recognize high school and transfer students interested in attending Fort Hays State University.

The 2022 SRP series began on Sunday, January 30, in Garden City and Dodge City and will conclude in Denver on March 6. SRP locations on this year's tour are Hays, Beloit, the greater Kansas City area (Olathe), Topeka, Colby, Wichita, Salina, Great Bend, and Kearney, Neb.

Each of the 12 events will feature four scholarships with award levels ranging from \$15,000 to \$6,000 over four years or \$3,750 to \$1,500 yearly. The scholarships are not need-based, and there is no built-in award amount reduction for students who secure additional financial awards from other sources.

Fort Hays State will also offer three levels of transfer scholarship awards, ranging from \$500 to \$1,500.

### **FHSU Online earns six U.S. News and World Report national rankings**

In a report released last month, U.S. News & World Report recognized FHSU as among the best in the nation in six different online education categories.

Heading that list in 2022 was FHSU's online master's in nursing program, which was ranked in the top 30 – 29th among the top 179 schools ranked. The latest U.S. News ranking also placed Fort Hays State 31st for its online master's in education programs for veterans.

FHSU's online bachelor's in business program ranked 61st among 228 programs. Three other online programs were also recognized among the nation's best - the master's in education, bachelor's programs for veterans, and online bachelor's programs.



## **Hometown Hero**

**Dr. Jeffrey Curtis**

A Hays native and 1977 graduate of FHSU, Dr. Jeffrey Curtis was recently named the director of Health and Wellness Services in the Fischli-Wills Center for Student Success. Curtis retired in August after 19 years of service as the director of cardiology services at the Hays Medical Center.

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