



FORT HAYS STATE
UNIVERSITY



DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS PRIORITIES

2023-2024 REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for taking time to engage with Fort Hays State University. In spring 2023, as I began thinking about the 23-24 year, it was clear that within the Division of Academic Affairs we needed to have some focus on key priorities in alignment with the University strategic plan. These key priorities were not to supersede the entire plan in any way, but align with the plan and give focus for our collective work. Leaders in Academic Affairs worked together to identify three key priorities for the 23-24 academic year. Those three priorities were as follows: Enhancing a Results-Oriented Culture, Focused Efforts on Community Engagement, and Maturation of Data Management and Usage. This report highlights a snapshot of achievements and developments in these priority areas across our academic community over the past year. This report also serves as a testament to the dedication, work ethic and excellence of our talented faculty, staff, and students. On behalf of FHSU, thank you for your continued support and collective commitment to excellence for our students and community.



JILL ARENSDORF

**Provost and
Vice President
for Academic Affairs**

DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The Academic Affairs Division at Fort Hays State University plays a pivotal role in shaping the academic experience and ensuring the institution's commitment to excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service. The division is responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of academic policies, programs, and initiatives that uphold the University's mission and strategic goals. Key responsibilities of the division include development and oversight of curriculum and academic programs, recruitment and retention of faculty, faculty development, accreditation and assessment, and data reporting. Through its comprehensive programs and initiatives, the division supports the university's mission to create engaged global citizen-leaders and contribute meaningfully to society. Academic Affairs remains committed to continuous improvement and adaptation to meet the evolving needs of the academic community and the world beyond.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024 STATISTICS

FACULTY (FULL AND PART TIME)	702
STAFF (FULL AND PART TIME)	292
TOTAL ENROLLMENT	16,925
SCHOOLS/DEPARTMENTS	25
DEGREE PROGRAMS	82

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP



Dr. Angela Pool-Funai, Assistant Provost for Academic Programs and Dean of the Graduate School

Dr. Jeni McRay, Assistant Provost Internationalization and Strategic Initiatives



Dr. Andrew Feldstein, Assistant Provost Teaching Innovation and Learning Technologies

Dr. J. David Macey, Dean College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences



Dr. Melissa Hunsicker Walburn, Interim Dean Robbins College of Business and Entrepreneurship

Dr. Paul Adams, Dean College of Education



Dr. Jeff Briggs, Dean College of Health and Behavioral Sciences

Dr. P. Grady Dixon, Dean Peter Werth College of Science, Technology and Mathematics



Ms. Ginger Williams, Dean Forsyth Library Services

Dr. Patricia Griffin, Director Academic Advising and Career Exploration



Ms. Kristi Mills, Director Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Improvement

Mr. Christian Conroy, Interim Director Kansas Small Business Development Center



Priority One

ENHANCING A RESULTS-ORIENTED CULTURE

This broad priority emphasized taking ownership of individual and unit roles and responsibilities, fostering accountability, and driving continuous improvement to enhance student success and institutional effectiveness.

The First Responder Arts Collaboration Training (FACT) initiative, led by Amy Schmierbach, draws upon the creative, scholarly, and pedagogical expertise of Art and Design students and faculty. It fosters closer connections between first responders and individuals with intellectual or development disabilities throughout western Kansas. FACT is supported by the inaugural Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Innovation Grants in the college.

Art and Design Program



Program Review – FHSU completed the Kansas Board of Regents program review process and is working to develop new internal processes at FHSU to align with Kansas Board of Regents academic program review initiatives.

Leadership Development – Fifty FHSU faculty and staff participated in the first cohort of leadership development through the Kansas Leadership Center. A second cohort of 50 faculty and staff began in Fall 2024. The FHSU Senior Leadership Team has also participated in the leadership development.



FHSU Academic Advising Model Report and Plan – FHSU engaged the global advising organization, NACADA, to assess and evaluate the FHSU undergraduate advising model. Fall 2024 is the formal launch of the faculty to student mentoring component of the FHSU advising model.

Higher Learning Commission (HLC) – FHSU's accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission was reaffirmed in February 2024.



New Bachelor of Science Degree Approved – FHSU used data from Gray DI, an academic program system, and regional employer feedback to inform a decision to create an interdisciplinary Bachelor of Science in Criminalistics degree. Concentrations in Crime Mapping & Spatial Analysis, Forensic Biology, and Forensic Chemistry are available.

Robbins College of Business and Entrepreneurship (RCOBE)



- RCOBE Re-designed Master of Professional Studies (MPS) concentrations in Workforce Development, Web and Mobile Development, Cybersecurity, and Computer Networking.
- The Tourism and Hospitality major within the Department of Applied Business Studies was redeveloped to the "Degree in Three." This program can now be completed in three years.

Priority Two

FOCUSED EFFORTS ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This priority emphasized actively collaborating with local, regional, and global communities to address societal needs, enrich student learning, and foster reciprocal partnerships that contribute to the public good.



Leadership For Public Purpose Carnegie Classification

FHSU was one of the first 25 institutions in the nation and the first in Kansas to earn the Leadership for Public Purpose Carnegie Classification. This prestigious classification honors the remarkable work that FHSU does as a regional comprehensive university and steward of place to advance leadership in pursuit of the public good.



Community Engaged Carnegie Classification

Significant data collection took place to complete the application for the Carnegie Community Engaged Classification. Over half of the academic departments added language to their tenure and promotion guidelines reflecting the recognition of community engagement in teaching, scholarship, and/or service.



The **Global Citizen-Leader Program** initiative provided **Global Affairs** with an opportunity to tag 90 courses with three institutional definitions and begin a co-curricular program for students that requires them to synthesize and articulate what it means to be an engaged global citizen-leader.

Department of Social Work

Spring 2024 Practicum Placements

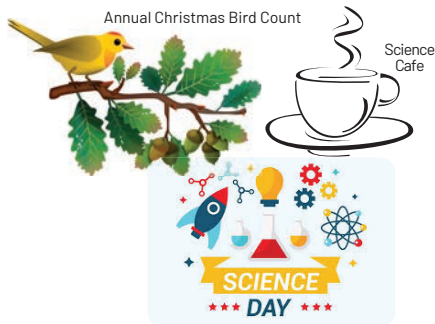
Field of Practice	Students
Mental Health	52
Child Welfare	24
Schools	20
Healthcare	10
Community Agencies	9
Addictions	8
Criminal Justice	2

125 total number of BSW and MSW students engaged in social work practicums - spring 2024

- **96** in Kansas
- **59** in Western Kansas
- **37** in Eastern Kansas
- **72** in non-metro areas
- **24** in metro areas

58 total number of communities served - spring 2024

- **34** in Kansas
- **18** in Western Kansas
- **16** in Eastern Kansas



The **Department of Biological Sciences** hosted:

- Science Day for Roosevelt Elementary School. Elementary students rotated through several stations set up in Albertson Hall and the greenhouse to participate in biology-related activities.
- Faculty are frequent presenters at the Science Café.
- Dr. Medhavi Ambardar hosted the Annual Christmas Bird Count that engages the public in bird watching and data collection.



The **Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders** regularly engages in providing support to the community, both onsite and offsite through the Herndon Clinic and the department. Examples include:

- Hearing screenings at schools and daycares;
- Specialized swallow evaluations at skilled nursing facilities; and
- Various speech and language-based support services within multiple local schools.

Priority Three

MATURATION OF DATA MANAGEMENT AND USAGE

This priority involved developing and utilizing sophisticated systems for collecting, analyzing, and leveraging data to inform decision-making, enhance academic and administrative efficiency, and drive strategic initiatives.

The **College of Education (COE)** successfully completed an accreditation visit in February 2024. The initial report was affirmed by the CAEP Accrediting Body and the Kansas Department of Education, indicating there were no areas for improvement. COE's success is directly related to data collection, analysis, and action. Utilization of three data streams (COE, Institutional Effectiveness, and University Assessment) was critical to the college's success.



The Graduate School utilizes these various platforms to collect and analyze data for admissions, Graduate Council, and research/grant applications.

Data Sources Used:

- Hubspot
- Info Ready
- IRBNet
- Workday
- Mainstay
- IEQI Office



EAB Navigate - FHSU signed a contract with EAB to utilize EAB Navigate. EAB Navigate is a student success tool. Multiple faculty and staff from across the institution have been involved in the design and implementation. Components of EAB Navigate launched in Fall 2024.



Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Improvement (IEQI) has worked with Academic Council to develop **multiple data dashboards** for the University community's use. The first dashboards are using Academic Year reporting data and were launched in Fall 2024.



FHSU signed a contract with **Gray DI** which is a program review system. Tools now available to academic program leaders at FHSU focus on economics and external market data, program data, and a management dashboard. These robust tools will allow leaders to utilize this system when considering program changes and institutional performance.



The **Robbins College of Business and Entrepreneurship** launched an Alumni Survey to ascertain how alumni perceive the value and effectiveness of a business degree. The survey is being used to shape unit and college strategy.

Forsyth Library conducted a General Collection Review project in 2023 using data points to analyze books in the collection. The data included duplicates held, books published prior to 2013, and books that have not circulated in the past 10 years. This data gave 32,425 titles to review and 25,451 titles were identified for removal.

19.5%

Reduction in the size of the overall general collection.

Institutional Effectiveness (IEQI)

- Developed and created standardized data dashboards to meet the information needs of both internal and external stakeholders.
- Collaborated with technology services to build an integrated data storage system to combine cloud data with legacy data, streamlining relational queries and reports for both current and historical data.
- Systematized processes to provide consistent baseline metrics for assessing student learning.

Global Affairs

The development of a comprehensive operational tool for enrollment and section projections has provided a much more efficient and streamlined way to look at past enrollment data, along with current projections and registrations. This data allows FHSU to be more proactive with staffing and improved efficiencies in the cross-border international programs.

ACADEMIC UNITS

COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (CAHSS)

The College houses the School of Criminal Justice, Leadership, and Sociology; the School of Visual and Performing Arts; and the Departments of Communication Studies, Law, and Political Science; English and Modern Languages; and History and Philosophy.

The College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences develops the creative, critical, and practical skills that graduates will use throughout their lifetimes—and across multiple careers—in a rapidly changing world.

ROBBINS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (RCOBE)

The W.R. and Yvonne Robbins College of Business and Entrepreneurship includes the Departments of Applied Business Studies; Economics, Finance, and Accounting; Informatics; and Management.

The mission of the Robbins College of Business and Entrepreneurship is to offer highly engaging educational experiences and to prepare and support students and alumni for professional success in a dynamic, global environment.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (COE)

The College includes the Departments of Advanced Education Programs and Teacher Education.

The College is committed to offering quality programs that prepare those interested in a wide spectrum of educational services so they can meet – and exceed – state and national standards. These programs offered through the College have been accredited through the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) and the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES (CHBS)

The College consists of the Departments of Allied Health, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Health and Human Performance, Nursing, Psychology, and Social Work. It is also home to the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Program.

The mission of the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences is to empower students to become skilled, empathetic professionals who are committed to making an impact as inspired practitioners, scientists, health care providers, educators, managers, and policy makers.

WERTH COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MATHEMATICS (WCSTM)

The Werth College includes the Departments of Agriculture, Applied Technology, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geosciences, Mathematics, and Physics. The College also manages the Sternberg Museum of Natural History and the Kansas Wetlands Education Center.

The mission of the college is to foster and facilitate world-changing experimentation, innovative inspirations and advanced thinking that leads to great evolution of science, technology, and mathematics.

ACADEMIC UNITS

ACADEMIC ADVISING AND CAREER EXPLORATION (AACE)

The Academic Advising and Career Exploration Center serves exploratory majors, non-degree seeking students, students looking to confirm their current major, and students who are on academic probation or academic suspension. The Center also supports professional academic advisors, faculty mentors and staff by providing academic and career advising resources.

FORSYTH LIBRARY (FL)

Forsyth Library is a campus leader in guiding students and faculty in their pursuit of knowledge to develop engaged global citizen-leaders.

Forsyth Library values student success, equal access to information, intellectual curiosity, academic freedom, inclusivity, intellectual and cultural diversity, civic engagement, and lifelong learning.

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL (GS) AND OFFICE OF SCHOLARSHIP AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS (OSSP)

The Graduate School and Office of Scholarship and Sponsored Programs is the central unit for organizing and supervising the graduate instructional programs. It also facilitates and coordinates the research/scholarly activities of the university. The School has the primary objective to combine graduate instruction and research into mutually supporting programs with integration into the curriculum of the University.

INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (IEQI)

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Improvement supports the University's mission, values and core commitments by serving as the official source of comprehensive information about and data for the University. It provides analytical support to the University's planning, assessment, and decision-making processes.

KANSAS SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER (KSBDC)

The Kansas Small Business Development Center network is a statewide, inter-institutional program designed to enhance economic growth in Kansas by providing management, marketing, and technical assistance to small businesses. Professional business advisors are available in Small Business Development Regional Centers and several outreach centers across the state.

TEACHING INNOVATION AND LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES (TILT)

While serving a lead role in advancing institutional goals and digital transformation, Teaching Innovation and Learning Technologies collaborates across the University to foster an environment of data-informed innovation, equitable online learning, and comprehensive faculty development. TILT provides expert instructional design, cultivates a dynamic digital teaching and learning ecosystem, and offers strategic support to enhance student success and engagement across all learning modalities.

PROVOST'S OFFICE STAFF

Located in Sheridan Hall, the Office of the Provost staff manages a range of administrative tasks within Academic Affairs including: commencement, course management, dean's honor roll, faculty development funding, faculty and unclassified staff handbook, faculty orientation, service-learning grants, tenure and promotion, university committees, university catalog, and other various activities.



Cynthia Cline
Executive
Administrative
Specialist



Janet Kohl
Administrative
Specialist

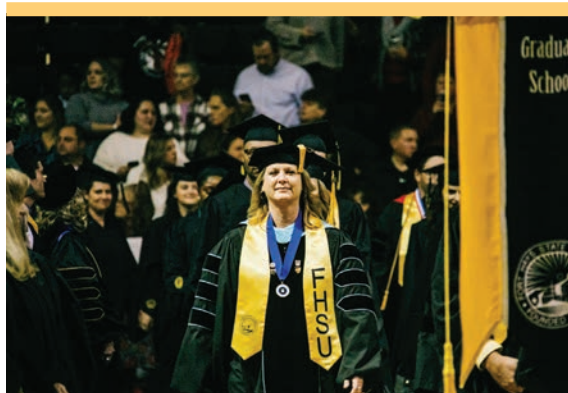


Pam Groff
Academic
Program Specialist

MOVING FORWARD

Where do we go from here? The path forward at Fort Hays State University involves embracing innovation, enhancing academic excellence through high quality programs and teaching, fostering belongingness, and strengthening community partnerships. This will prepare students for a dynamic future and to contribute meaningfully to society. During Fall 2024, the University launched a new three year strategic plan. The entire institution will have an integral role in seeing the plan through to fruition. In Academic Affairs, we will continue to focus on results, data informed decisions through new data systems, and building community within and outside the institution.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Aensdorf".



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