



# CIVIC LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

## FEB & MARCH 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

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# Empowering Education: The Culinary Revolution in Education

We are delighted to present an exclusive feature in our newsletter, spotlighting Jessica Phelen's groundbreaking experiential grant project! As an esteemed assistant professor in the Health and Human Performance department, Jessica's venture into revolutionizing nutrition education for freshmen has captured our attention.

In the realm of academia, where theory often dominates, Jessica's approach breathes life into learning. With a keen eye for innovation and a passion for health promotion, she embarked on a mission to bridge the gap between knowledge and action. a classroom transformed into a culinary haven, where students embark on a flavorful journey of discovery.



This vision became reality through Jessica's tireless efforts and the support of the Student Success Center. Together, they transformed a modest kitchen into a vibrant space for exploration and growth.

The objective was to empower students with not just textbook knowledge, but tangible skills they can carry into their daily lives. From mastering knife techniques to crafting nutritious dorm room meals, Jessica's classes, with the invaluable guidance of Chef Alexandra Reynolds, became a playground for learning and experimentation.

The numbers speak volumes: with around 50 eager participants per semester, Jessica's project ignited a spark of curiosity and excitement among students. However, as with any ambitious endeavor, challenges emerged. Space constraints posed a temporary setback this semester, yet Jessica remains steadfast in her commitment to reignite the culinary flame in the fall.



The impact of Jessica's project extends far beyond the confines of the classroom. By dismantling barriers to healthy living and fostering a culture of hands-on learning, she has



empowered students to make informed choices for their well-being.

Amidst the triumph of Jessica Phelen's experiential grant project, generously provided by Fort Hays State University, we pause to extend our sincere gratitude to the Student Success Center. Their unwavering commitment to education has been instrumental in bringing this vision to life. From equipping the kitchen with essential tools to providing ongoing support, the Student Success Center has been a cornerstone of this transformative initiative. We are deeply appreciative of their dedication to fostering a culture of learning and growth within our institution. The Student Success Center has been a beacon of support and inspiration for students and educators alike.

In the realm of academia, the experiential grant project shines as a symbol of innovation and dedication. Through her efforts, she nurtures minds and fosters a brighter, healthier future

# Black Student Union: A Pillar of Inclusivity and Advocacy

As Fort Hays State University (FHSU) celebrated Black History Month (February), the spotlight falls on the Black Student Union (BSU), a vibrant organization that has been fostering inclusivity and cultural awareness on campus. Led by President Star Parham, the BSU has been instrumental in creating a "home away from home" for African American and African-based students at FHSU.

The BSU's mission is to provide an inclusive environment for students to discuss a variety of activities, and personal life issues, and to contribute positively to the community. President Parham, who has been involved with the BSU since her freshman year, has been steering the organization through a series of events that celebrate Black culture and encourage community involvement.

Guided by the on-campus advisor Heather Posey VanDyne, the BSU has been active for over six years, according to TigerLink, FHSU's student organization platform. The team behind the BSU organized events such as ice cream socials, movie nights, hair care events, and a ball last November. They have also used social media to highlight interracial couples and African American culture.



The BSU's commitment to advocacy was recently demonstrated when members, including President Parham, attended the black legislative day at the Capitol in Topeka, Kansas. There, they engaged with legislators on important issues like the Crown Act, which seeks to prevent discrimination in the workplace based on hair.

President Parham extends an invitation to all students interested in learning about the black community to join the BSU. The organization meets every Monday from 5 to 6 PM, and there is no obligation to join upon attending a meeting. The BSU is a place for networking, learning, and sharing in a culturally driven yet inclusive environment.

Meet the President



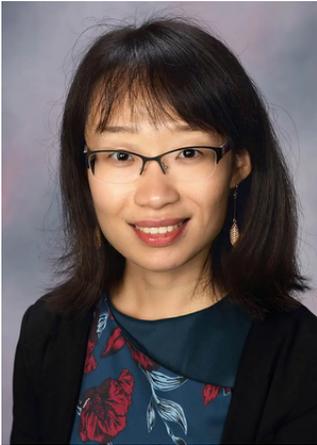
**STAR PARHAM**

**President of BSU**

President Star Parham's leadership and vision for the BSU are celebrated. As a psychology major and campus tour guide, President Parham brings a unique perspective to her role, advocating for more representation and understanding across campus.

Her dedication to creating an inclusive and supportive environment at FHSU is highlighted, showcasing her role not just as a president but as a shining example of student advocacy and engagement.

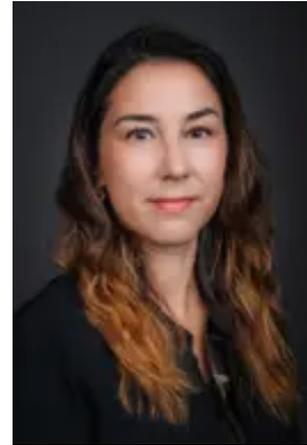
# Experiential-Learning Innovation Grant Fall 2023 Awardees (Spring 2024 Projects)



**Dr. Ziwei Qi**  
Criminal Justice



**Dr. April Terry**  
Criminal Justice



**Dr. Sophie Ano**  
Agriculture



**Karen Thal**  
Applied Business  
Studies



**Dr. Wendy  
Rohleder- SOOK**  
Communication  
Studies, Law, and  
Political Science



**Ran An**  
Communication  
Sciences and  
Disorders

# Experiential-Learning Innovation Grant Fall 2023 Awardees (Spring 2024 Projects)



**Dr. LeAnn Brown**  
Management



**Dr. Michael  
Gruenstaeudl**  
Biological Sciences



**Luke Kriley**  
Health and Human  
Performance



**Dr. Rachel  
Dolechek**  
Business  
Communication

## Application Deadline

Experiential Learning Grant applications for summer and fall 2024 projects and Service-Learning Fellows applications for AY 23-25 are due April 10, 2024. [Additional information can be found in InfoReady.](#)

# Dr. Chris Leupold Delivered Keynote Address on Agile Learning and Leadership Effectiveness at the Black and Gold Academy -March 3, 2024



**Professor of Psychology, Isabella Cannon Leadership Professor,  
Faculty Fellow for Law and Leadership, & Faculty Athletics  
Representative**

Dr. Chris Leupold, an accomplished industrial/organizational (I/O) psychologist, commands respect as the Isabella Cannon Professor of Leadership at Elon University. With a wealth of expertise in leadership assessment, development, and organization dynamics, Dr. Leupold's career trajectory has been marked by significant contributions to both academia and corporate sectors.

Having previously collaborated with prestigious entities like Personnel Decisions International and The Home Depot, Dr. Leupold's professional journey reflects his commitment to excellence in leadership across diverse industries. His association with Fortune 500 companies underscores his profound impact on executive coaching and organizational development strategies.

Since his tenure at Elon University commenced in 2003, Dr. Leupold has played a pivotal role in nurturing young minds through his teaching engagements in Psychology, MBA, and School of Law programs. His dedication extends beyond the classroom, as evidenced by his active involvement in academic research and editorial responsibilities for esteemed journals like the European Management Journal and the Journal of Leadership Education.

## Educational Journey

Dr. Leupold's academic journey is illustrious, with degrees from renowned institutions:

- Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, University of Notre Dame
- Master of Arts in Industrial/Organizational Psychology, University of North Carolina, Charlotte
- Doctorate in Industrial/Organizational Psychology (with a concentration in Measurement & Statistics), Wayne State University

## Current Endeavors

Dr. Leupold's ongoing projects reflect his dedication to scholarly pursuits and cutting-edge research:

- Investigating perceptions of working conditions and work-related stress among senior government officials
- Developing a conceptual model of empathetic emotional exchanges between leaders and followers



## CONTACT INFORMATION

For any inquiries, information, or assistance, please feel free to reach out to the Civic Learning & Engagement Administrative Team

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