

February 2024

Congratulations, Brandon Williams!

Congratulations, Eric Haskins!

March 2024

Eric McConnell

Eric McConnell is the Leadership Program's March Student of the Month. Eric Organizational Leadership major from Kansas City, KS. Eric, who works for the railroad industry, has had many great leaders who have given him the confidence to excel in life. Through his BS in Organizational Leadership, Eric wishes to pass the same energy on to others in his field. Eric's favorite class has been LDRS 310: Fieldwork in Leadership Studies with Dr. Lori Kniffin. When Eric is not traveling for work, he loves trying different coffee beans, hiking, and visiting family and Texas. Congratulations, Eric!

Johnny Kuntz

Congratulations, Johnny!

Bryant Yao Yu

Bryant Yao Yu is the Leadership Program's International March Student of the Month. Bryant is from Jiang Xi, China, and is currently studying finance. Bryant got involved with Leadership Programs to better manage team relationships and help them to reach their maximum potential. Bryant's favorite class was Leadership and management. In his free time, Bryant enjoys playing basketball and digital peripherals. Congratulations, Bryant!

April 2024

Chloe Chesney is the Leadership Programs April On-Campus Student of the Month! Chloe is a freshman from Salina, KS, and is currently studying in the Criminal Justice and Military Science programs. Chloe got involved in the Military Science Leadership minor with the encouragement of CPT Byun and Dr. Kastle. Chloe's favorite class has been MIL 302: Holistic Health and Fitness because of CPT Byun's interests in her students' goals and its mix of classroom and physical activity. Chloe would like to join the Kansas Army National Guard in the future. Outside of school, Chloe is a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority, Criminal Justice Club, Concert Choir, and Encounter Bible Studies. Congratulations, Chloe!

Shane Musgrave is the Leadership Programs April Online Student of the Month! Shane is an online student from Alaska and is in his third and final year of his MPS in Organizational Leadership. Shane, who will graduate in December, chose to get involved in Leadership Programs after witnessing both effective and ineffective leadership in the workplace and wanting to improve upon his own. He hopes that with his prior 15 years of experience and education to become a great administrator. Shane has enjoyed all his leadership classes because of the vast challenges each course brings. Through his education, he has learned that no idea or solution will work for every organization or individual, and that the knowledge he has obtained will help him flourish and achieve his long-term goals. Outside of school and work, Shane enjoys all outdoor activities and loves to grow his own garden each summer. Congratulations, Shane!

Haoji Fang (Lucifer) is one of the Leadership Programs April International Students of the Month! Lucifer is originally from Liaoning Dalian, China, and is in their second year with FHSU. Lucifer is currently majoring in international trade and business and has taken an emphasis in leadership. They decided to take leadership courses because they believed that it is a critical skill that can make a positive impact in a variety of areas. In the future, Lucifer hopes to apply the leadership theories and skills they have learned to the field of international trade and economy. Outside of school, Lucifer enjoys listening to music, playing table tennis, playing basketball, writing calligraphy, playing chess, and exercising. Congratulations, Lucifer!

Joy Zhang ZengYiWen is one of the Leadership Programs April International Students of the Month! Joy is from Shenyang Liaoning, China and is currently studying finance with a certificate in leadership studies. Joy got involved in Leadership Programs because of her interest in interpersonal relationships and psychological knowledge. Her favorite course has been Introduction to Leadership Behavior because it expanded her understanding and knowledge of leadership concepts. Outside of school, Joy volunteers with Chinese teenagers. This campaign is dedicated to helping people in need such as the elderly and disabled. This volunteering has allowed Joy to be more involved in her community and has taught her many social skills. Congratulations, Joy!

Russel Shuo Liu is one of the Leadership Programs April International Students of the Month! Russel is from Shenyang, China, and is currently studying Marketing Management. Russell chose to get involved with Leadership Programs because he was interested in learning how to manage and lead others. Russel is an outgoing person and loves to negotiate and make friends with others. Russel's favorite professor has been Dr. Aurther Ma because of his energetic and patient nature. Russel would like to one day work for a multicultural organization. Russel has been involved in Chinese culture club and badminton club. Outside of school, Russel enjoys visiting the library and reading novels and history books. Congratulations, Russel!

Congratulations, Elena!

Congratulations, Flores!

Congratulations, Clara!

Congratulations, Shelley!

May 2024

Luis Mejia is the Leadership Programs May Online Student of the Month! Luis is from Lima, Peru and is currently studying Information Networking and Telecommunications while pursuing a Minor in Leadership Studies. Luis chose to get involved with Leadership Programs because of his desire to learn and grow. He sees the value in expanding his knowledge, gaining fresh perspectives, and refining his skills, and engaging with Leadership Programs has allowed him to do so. He has found that participating in these programs has let him connect with a diverse range of leaders to exchange insights and enrich his own leadership journey. Luis's favorite class has been LDRS 670: Leadership and Personal Development as Dr. Donnette Noble has provided a unique approach to theory and real-world applications as well as her dedication to empowering students to explore their own personal leadership. Outside of school, Luis enjoys partaking in boxing, running, and anything to do with motorcycles. **Congratulations Luis!**

Curtis Lindsey is the Leadership Programs May Student of the Month! Curtis is from Cross Plains, TN, and is currently working towards his master's in professional studies in Organizational Leadership. Curtis decided to pursue his MPS because of his belief in the power of effective leadership. Ultimately, Curtis has a long-term goal of landing an executive leadership position for an organization. Curtis's favorite classes were Ethical Leadership and Leadership and Personal Development. Ethical Leadership taught him the importance of integrity, consistency, honesty, and transparency in his leadership approaches and Leadership and Personal Development challenged him to take deep inward looks at his behaviors as a leader. Curtis has been married to his lovely wife for 10 years and they have four amazing children. When he is not at work or school, Curtis enjoys spending time with his family, watching football, and spending time outdoors. **Congratulations, Curtis!**

Justin Baosen Ni is one of the Leadership Programs May International Students of the Month! Justin is from Shenyang, China and is currently working towards his degree in Organizational Leadership. Justin chose to be involved with the Leadership Programs as it provides skills that are essential to his desire to pursue a future career as a lawyer. Justin is passionate about leadership as he believes it is vital for achieving social justice as well as making an impact in any field. Within the university, Justin takes part in entrepreneurship activities as well as working in the Youth League Committee's publicity department. Justin's favorite leadership class has been LDRS640: Principles of Civic Leadership, where he learned about the significance of nonprofit organizations and was inspired by their commitment to social justice and addressing various human needs. Outside of school, Justin enjoys studying the history of the Chinese legal system as it provides insights into the development and evolution of legal principles and practices in China. **Congratulations, Justin!**

Kael Xiaobing Wang is one of the Leadership Programs May International Students of the Month! Kael is from Shenyang City, Liaoning Province, China and is currently working towards his degree in Organizational Leadership. Kael chose to be involved with the Leadership Programs because it will help in his future studies and work as well as giving him a better grasp of leadership knowledge overall. His favorite leadership class has been LDRS640: Principles of Civic Leadership where he

was able to better understand nonprofit organizations. He enjoyed having Dr. Arthur Ma as a professor as he provided vivid explanations which furthered his understanding of leadership. Some activities that Kael has gotten involved with are various survey's relating to college student's psychological problems as well as English speaking proficiencies. Outside of school Kael enjoys playing table tennis with his friends and exercising! **Congratulations Kael!**

Hannah Ziao Xu is one of the Leadership Programs May International Students of the Month!

June 2024

Derrick Yu Hao is one of the Leadership Programs June International Students of the Month!

Trevor Yifeng Wang is one of the Leadership Programs June International Students of the Month! Trevor is from Liaoning Shenyang and is currently working towards his degree in Finance with a minor in Global Leadership. Trevor chose to be involved with the Leadership Programs because of the opportunities provided to enhance skills in communication, decision-making, and team management. He also chose to be involved because it offered chances to network with like-minded individuals and expand professional connections. His favorite class has been LDRS310: Fieldwork in Leadership Studies with Dr. Arthur Ma where he was able to learn a lot about leadership and develop many friendships. Outside of school Trevor enjoys playing basketball! **Congratulations Trevor!**

Tony Donghai Liu is one of the Leadership Programs June International Students of the Month! Tony is from Shenyang City, Liaoning Province, China and is currently working towards his degree in International Economics and Trade, a Leadership Certificate, and has plans to pursue his Masters in Leadership as well. Tony Chose to be involved with the Leadership Programs because of his desire to have a deeper understanding of leadership in order to improve his ability to enter the workplace in the future. His favorite class has been LDRS306: Leadership and Team Dynamics where he has realized the importance of team and the limitation of the individual. Outside of school Tony is involved in a comedy club called "Windy Day". He is also a big fan of US football since he used to play running back in high school. **Congratulations Tony!**

Andy Zibo Lin is one of the Leadership Programs June International Students of the Month! Andy is from Zhejiang Wenzhou and is currently working towards his degree in Marketing with a minor in Leadership Studies. Andy chose to be involved with the Leadership Programs because of his belief that leadership skills are crucial to achieving success in the business world and for making a positive impact. His favorite class topic has been Strategic Leadership where he has been able to gain in-depth knowledge and practical strategies for leading teams effectively. The class also made the learning very engaging and applicable. Andy has gotten involved in the Marketing Club as well virtual community activities related to business innovation. Outside of school Andy enjoys reading business books, playing computer games with his friends and playing basketball! **Congratulations Andy!**

September 2024

Sierra Smith

Sierra Smith, sophomore majoring in Cybersecurity, is one of our September Students of the Month. Sierra is currently pursuing a Leadership Studies certificate. Sierra got involved with Leadership Programs after hearing about our certificate program in a general education class. She wanted to fill some of her electives while also learning how to become a better leader. Her favorite class is currently LDRS 302: Introduction to Leadership Behaviors.

“My instructor is really engaging and allows us to try out our work we are studying instead of just taking notes and a test. I have been able to really immerse myself in the topic with class discussions and it is overall a great class that I would recommend to everyone.”

Sierra is the president of the FHSU Cybersecurity Club and a Community Assistant in Victor E. Village. Her hobbies include gaming, finding and listening to new music, traveling, and journaling.

Congratulations, Sierra!

Katy Harris

Katy Harris, sophomore majoring in English Writing, is one of our September Students of the Month. Katy is currently working on her Certificate in Leadership Studies. Katy chose to get involved with Leadership Programs because of her previous experience with the Girl Scouts of America. Her favorite course has been LDRS 302: Introduction to Leadership Behavior. She enjoys this course because it allows her to learn techniques and processes through in class activities.

Outside of class, Katy is a member of Sigma Tau Delta, and LLC Pal for Career Ready Tigers, and the secretary of the Esports club. She also enjoys reading, watching TV, writing screenplays, and crocheting.

Congratulations, Katy!

Logan Konrade

Congratulations, Logan!

Rebecca Stegman

Rebecca Stegman, 2nd year graduate student, is one of our September Students of the Month. Rebecca is currently working on her MPS in Organizational Leadership. She chose to get involved with Leadership Programs because the program offered a unique opportunity to develop skills, enhance her confidence, and learn from diverse perspectives. She also wanted to challenge herself to step outside her comfort zone and take on new responsibilities.

“Every class has offered different insights, skills, and perspectives that I’ve been able to apply in various situations. I truly value the journey I’ve been on, and I look forward to continuing to grow through these classes.” -Rebecca Stegman

Outside of school, Rebecca is passionate about giving back to her community. She volunteers with Second City Canine Rescue and Journeys—The Road Home. Both experiences have taught her the value of compassion and community. She also enjoys discovering new places, immersing herself in different cultures, trying local foods, and meeting new people.

Congratulations, Rebecca!

Jiani Song (Jenny)

Jiani Song (Jenny) is one of the Leadership Programs' International Students of the Month for September 2024. From Shenyang, Liaoning Province, China, Jenny is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership with a minor in Finance. In the future, she hopes to start her own company. Jenny is actively involved in the Student Council Management Department. Outside of school, she enjoys a wide range of activities including playing the piano, skating, ballet, and Taekwondo—where she earned her black belt just last year.

“I chose to participate in the Leadership Programs because I wanted to enhance my leadership skills and make a positive impact on my community,” Jenny explains. “I understand that effective leadership is crucial in today’s world. The program’s emphasis on social responsibility and teamwork resonated with me, and I was eager to learn from experienced leaders.”

Jenny’s favorite course so far has been LDRS 670: Leadership and Personal Development. She appreciated the opportunity to explore various leadership styles, such as transformational and transactional leadership, and their effects on organizational culture. Jenny found the instructors to be both knowledgeable and engaging, and the course deepened her understanding of EQ (Emotional Intelligence) leadership principles, helping her learn how to motivate others more effectively.

Congratulations, Jenny!

Biyao Wang (Crystal)

Biyao Wang (Crystal) is one of the Leadership Programs' International Students of the Month for September 2024. From the Henan Province, China, Crystal is majoring in finance and pursuing a certificate in Global Leadership. Crystal is active in the Innovation Association and English Corner. Outside of school, Crystal enjoys watching the stock market and talking to overseas students. Crystal’s favorite class has been LDRS 670: Leadership and Personal Development. This class has taught them about emotional intelligence and understanding cultural differences.

Congratulations, Crystal!

Xuanlin Wang (Jason)

Xuanlin Wang (Jason) is one of the Leadership Programs' International Students of the Month for September 2024. From Harbin Heilongjiang Province, China, Jason is pursuing a major in Marketing and a certificate in Global Leadership. Jason is actively involved in English Club and English Corner where he improves his spoken English and communication skills. Along with this, Jason enjoys various fitness activities such as strength training, aerobics, yoga, Pilates, and high-intensity interval training (HIIT).

“My favorite leadership course was taught by Professor Ma, which not only provided practical methods for enhancing leadership but also helped me better understand and apply the core concepts and skills of leadership through specific cases and real-world experience.” -Jason

Jason got involved with Leadership Programs came from his desire to enhance his leadership and management skills. He views leadership as an interdisciplinary subject that transcends the boundaries of traditional academic disciplines. For Jason, leadership is not just about occupying a position but about preparing to handle responsibilities and challenges in both professional and personal life.

Congratulations, Jason!

Zhe Gong (Alexander)

Congratulations, Alexander!

October 2024

Paige Lamatsch is one of the Leadership Programs October Students of the Month! Originally from Hoisington, KS, Paige is a freshman majoring in Medical Diagnostic Imaging and Leadership. She joined Leadership Programs to expand her leadership skills, and her favorite class so far has been LDRS 300: Leadership Concepts with Dr. Lori Kniffin.

“Lori is such a great professor making the class even more enjoyable.” -Paige Lamatsch

Outside of classes, Paige is active in Catholic Tigers and intermural sports. She enjoys working out, cooking, baking, reading, watching documentaries, cleaning, and hanging out with friends.

Congratulations, Paige!

Isabella Renfro

Congratulations, Isabella!

Landon Lane

Congratulations, Landon!

November 2024

Novi Kusumaningrum is one of the Leadership Programs November Students of the Month. Novi is a first-year graduate student from Jakarta, Indonesia. Novi is currently working towards her MPS in Organizational Leadership. Novi has been fortunate to be a part of an organization that has slowly grown her leadership skills for the last 10 years. She feels that studying leadership will give her a better structure in how she observes and makes decisions at work. Leadership Programs have also helped her to define what kind of leader she is and how that affects her team and organization.

“In terms of course materials, I really enjoyed LDRS 802, Organizational System, Change, and Leadership. This was my very first class in the program and I was overwhelmed with all the new things I needed to be familiar with to get the learning going. However, I immediately see many similarities to the leadership practices I have experienced and leaving with many ideas that I can implement at work. The applied final project was a system review of a unit in my organization, and I presented it to the unit. They are now reviewing and updating a policy based on my paper. I am very proud that even from my first class in the program, I can produce a document that I can actually use to improve my organization.”

Coming from a family of brilliant cooks, Novi enjoys cooking in her free time. Along with this, she reads books in both English and Indonesian. Since beginning the MPS program, she has tried reading more books in Indonesian to give her brain a break. Congratulations, Novi!

Addyson Brown

Congratulations, Addyson!

Kasheia Peterson

Congratulations, Kasheia!

Steven Adams II

Congratulations, Steven!

December 2024

Breanna Reynolds

Breanna Reynolds is the Leadership Program's December Student of the Month! Brenna is a graduate from Russell High School, and previously lived in Hays and Hector, Arkansas. Breanna is currently majoring in Business Administration in Management with a concentration in Human Resource Management. She decided to take leadership courses to develop the skills and knowledge that it takes to make a meaningful impact in her community and professional life. She hopes to grow personally by enhancing her communication, decision-making, and problem-solving skills!

“My favorite leadership class has been Introduction to Leadership Behavior. This interdisciplinary course provided a comprehensive foundation in understanding the tasks, strategies, and skills essential for effective leadership. What made it stand out was its emphasis on moving from theory to practical application, allowing students to directly engage with real-world leadership processes. The course balanced the exploration of basic concepts for personal skill development with an in-depth look at organizational leadership behavior, making it both relevant and impactful. It not only equipped me with valuable tools for leadership but also deepened my understanding of how to inspire and guide others effectively.”

Outside of school, Brenna and her husband enjoy exploring and spending time in nature. They also enjoy attending air shows, hockey games, and NASCAR races! Congratulations, Brenna!

Harper Lubbers

Harper Lubbers is the Leadership Program's December Student of the Month! Harper is a Sophomore from Wichita, Kansas. She is currently majoring in Business Management with a Certificate in Leadership Studies and working towards a Master of Business Administration. Harper is involved in Alpha Kappa Psi as the Vice President of Fundraising, the Fort Hays Honor Society as the Academic Event Coordinator, and International Business club as the secretary. Harper chose to take leadership courses to learn how to become a better leader in the classroom setting.

“So far, my favorite leadership class has been LDRS 300, Introduction to Leadership Concepts. I found all the theories so fascinating and applicable to real life situations. The in-class activities were so helpful and engaging!”

Harper loves to run, lift weights, bake, cook, listen to music, get creative, and spend time with friends and family. Congratulations, Harper!

Jasmine Jennings-Rentz

Jasmine Jennings-Rentz is the Leadership Program's December Student of the Month! Jasmine is a first-year student from Detroit, Michigan. She is currently taking individual leadership courses

as a Graduate Non-Degree seeking student. She is a committee member for the NASPA (National Association of Student Personnel Administrators) Mid-level Administrators Steering Committee. She was also a Big Sister in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program, and a GED Course instructor for the Dallas Public Library! Jasmine wants to pursue a doctoral degree in leadership studies starting Fall 2025. A colleague of hers went to FHSU as an undergraduate and spoke highly about the Leadership Program. This recommendation encouraged her to look at FHSU as a place she could start her journey with leadership studies!

“Dr. Whitaker suggested that I take Theoretical Foundations of Leadership (LDRS 801) as a path for me to learn about leadership studies based on my professional and academic interests. It was such a great decision to take this course because it has truly taught me new things about leadership while also affirming the knowledge that I already have. This course has prepared me to facilitate leadership education at TXST while also getting me excited for next semester’s course.”

Jasmine loves watching historically influenced and time-period television shows, as well as reading autobiographies and memoirs. She and her Husband spend the weekends roller skating, going to movies, and going to community-oriented events. Congratulations, Jasmine!

Austin Baker

Congratulations, Austin!