



CAMPUS UPDATE

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Docking survey offers insights on students working on and off campus

The Office of the President at Fort Hays State commissioned the Docking Institute of Public Affairs (Institute) to design and conduct a survey of FHSU Hays-area students to assess their experiences, perceptions, and attitudes toward working in Hays. Researchers developed and deployed an online questionnaire using Qualtrics online survey software to pursue this goal. Requests to participate in the study were sent to 1,765 students by email.

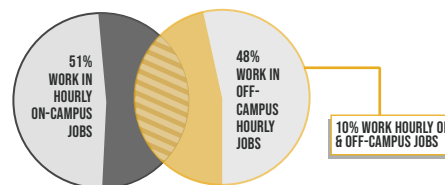
Nearly 95 percent of FHSU students work, and 60.6% receive a scholarship or grant assistance. Approximately 50 percent work in hourly on-campus jobs, and 48% work off-campus hourly jobs, while 9.6% work on and off-campus.

Seventy percent of those looking for a job or considering looking for a job agree or strongly agree that Hays employers provide student-friendly work schedules. However, 18.2% of students looking for a job say the availability of childcare limits their ability to work outside their residence.

About 50 percent reported their working hours changed or their job ended because of the pandemic. Nearly 75% said that the pandemic had not changed their school course loads, and almost 60% reported receiving stimulus funds.

Students working on campus earn around \$8.78 per hour and work 15 hours per week, and those working off-campus earn around \$13.66 per hour while working 23 hours per week.

By the Numbers Working FHSU Students at a Glance



Applied technology team 3-peats as national champion

Fort Hays State University’s chapter of the Technology and Engineering Education Collegiate Association (TEECA) continued its dominance in national competition this spring.

At last month’s annual International Technology and Engineering Education Association (ITEEA) conference in Orlando, Fla., FHSU won three of the five nationally recognized individual events to claim all-around championship honors with Purdue University. Fort Hays State became the ITEEA’s first three-peat national champion with that performance.

Tiger Nation has placed in the top two for five straight years in an “all-around” category added to the competition in 2017. Fort Hays State has won 35 individual national titles in its 37 years of competition in the event.

FHSU placed first in live manufacturing, communications team video, teaching a lesson, and the STEM showcase this year. FHSU did not field a team in the problem-solving category but also placed third in the robotics competition.

FHSU was chosen for the Outstanding Chapter Award, while two Tigers also were recognized with individual honors – outstanding undergraduate student award and distinguished technology and engineering professional. Two Fort Hays State TEECA members also were nominated to the national officer team.



FHSU freshman wins annual Faulkner Challenge

“Cow Fences,” an entrepreneurial business plan created by freshman Ethan McPherson won first place and a \$6,000 cash award at the 2022 Faulkner Challenge held in Hansen Hall on the campus of Fort Hays State University. McPherson built the Cow Fences concept as a virtual farmer’s meat market. McPherson’s business will connect beef and pork producers directly to consumers.

The Faulkner Challenge is a business plan competition designed to develop entrepreneurial imagination and innovation in university students, regardless of major or interests. It is open to any new venture in the conceptual, seed, or startup stages. Teams are evaluated on their ability to identify a market opportunity, value proposition, and sustainable competitive advantage. The challenge includes a written business plan and a 10-minute oral presentation.

The challenge was the brainchild of FHSU alum Kevin Faulkner, who created an endowed fund for the business plan challenge. The \$10,000 prize money is split among the top three teams each year. McPherson received \$6,000 in prize money, the second-place team received \$3,000, and third place won \$1,000.

McPherson and the second-place Faulkner Challenge team, SkySprayers, entered their business plans and will compete in the \$88,000 Regnier Venture Creation Challenge (RVCC) in Kansas City, Mo. The SkySprayers plan centers on the use of an autonomous lightweight drone for crop spraying.

FHSU advances in Military Friendly School Rankings

For the 15th year in a row, Fort Hays State earned the 2022-23 Military Friendly School designation for its investment in programs that improve the educational experience of the military-connected student community. FHSU earned “Silver” recognition in this year’s survey, a significant advancement over last year’s survey placement on the 2021-22 list of 747 Military Friendly Schools.

More than 1,800 schools participated in the 2022-23 survey, with 665 schools earning awards level designations in Gold, Silver, and Bronze. The 2022- 2023 Military Friendly® Schools list will be published in the May issue of G.I. Jobs magazine.

Erica Fisher, director of FHSU’s Transfer & Military Center, points to the university’s expanded investment in recent years to improve transition and academic experiences for service members, veterans, and their families.

Military-connected students at FHSU have access to an array of benefits and resources to improve their student experience. These include unofficial transcript evaluations, transfer and military credit policies, and the ability to utilize their military tuition benefits at an accredited institution.



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