

CAMPUS UPDATE



Pictured left to right: Rep. Bill Clifford, Garden City; Rep. Jim Minnix, Scott City; Sen. John Doll, Garden City; Rep. Ken Rahjes, Agra; and Sen. Mary Ware, Wichita.

Kansas legislators discuss agricultural issues at FHSU forum

Kansas District 110 Representative Ken Rahjes and Dr. Grady Dixon, Dean of the Peter Werth College of Science, Technology and Mathematics at Fort Hays State University, hosted a day of discussion on the future of agriculture in Kansas, and especially western Kansas on the campus of Fort Hays State University. The November 14 forum focused on the critical role agriculture plays in the lives of Kansans. The legislators discussed property tax relief, water concerns, and potential markets to move commodities during the panel discussion.

“If you live in Kansas, no matter what your occupation or your hobbies or interest, you are doing ag in one way or another,” Dixon said in his welcome to the group of approximately 50 attendees. “We should be better about getting everybody involved. So, we hope to get the conversations going today.”

Representative Rahjes led a legislative panel at the close of the day’s presentations and spoke about the value of sharing ideas.

“We wanted to highlight what is going on in Kansas,” Rahjes said. “And give stakeholders a chance to interact with legislators. A real opportunity for them to hear from you.”

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Moody’s Investors Services affirms Fort Hays State University’s A1 ratings

On December 6, Moody’s Investors Service released a statement affirming FHSU’s A1 rating. The following includes excerpts from the release:

Moody’s Investors Service has affirmed Fort Hays State University’s (KS) A1 issuer and A1 revenue bond ratings. The affiliation of Fort Hays State University’s A1 issuer rating reflects its importance to the State of Kansas (Aa2 stable) as a provider of education, as well as its strong fiscal discipline to manage expenses amid enrollment declines. Total cash and investments also support credit quality and reached \$177 million in fiscal 2021, including the impact of some federal pandemic relief. The university benefits from a diverse student base, with around 40% of its enrollment online, and the remaining enrollment split between its location in China and its primary campus in Hays, Kansas. Consistent support from the state aids credit quality and helps the university maintain its modest financial leverage, with strong 5.4x annual debt service coverage at fiscal year-end 2021. Additionally, the university benefits from a very low pension liability.

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Moody's Investors continued

The stable outlook reflects Moody's expectations that despite demographic headwinds, FHSU will continue navigating the shifting enrollment landscape by exercising solid expense management and producing at least break-even operating performance with stable liquidity. It also reflects expectations that overall enrollment may decline through fall 2023 but exhibit more stability thereafter. (Moody's 2022)

Hometown Hero



Jackson Piper

Jackson Piper, a junior from Overland Park, is the first student to join the FHSU Officer Candidate School program. He began basic combat training this month and will move on to advanced individual training in January.

He will begin phase one of the Officer Candidate School program in the summer of 2024.

Photo courtesy of Master Sgt. William Bart



Pictured from left to right: FHSU mens wrestling coach Erik Wince; FHSU student Clarissa Sheahan; 2019 World Champion and 2020 Olympic wrestler, Jacarra Winchester; FHSU Director of Athletics Curtis Hammeke; FHSU President Tisa Mason; and MIAA Commissioner Mike Racy.

Fort Hays State University makes history with the launch of new intercollegiate Women's Wrestling program

At a November 2 press conference, Fort Hays State University President Tisa Mason announced the addition of women's wrestling as a varsity sport in athletics, set to begin competition in 2024-25.

Fort Hays State will be the first NCAA school in Kansas to offer the sport as a varsity program in intercollegiate athletics. FHSU will also be the first school in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) to add the sport.

Women's wrestling is an NCAA Emerging Sport. There are currently 63 women's wrestling programs at NCAA member institutions that are either established or in the process of being added. Kansas is one of the fastest-growing states in the nation for girls wrestling. Last year, more than 1,400 girls in Kansas wrestled at the high school level. This year will mark the fourth year the state activities association will hold a state championship for girls wrestling. All classifications were included in the inaugural state championship three years ago, but there have been two championship classifications with 5-6A classes combined and 1-4A classes combined for the past two years.



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