



# FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY



## Strategic Affiliation Initiative Update

In January, Fort Hays State University, North Central Kansas Technical College, and Northwest Kansas Technical College proposed a new affiliation partnership to provide stronger, forward-looking educational programs and services to rural central and western Kansas people, businesses, and communities.

Significant progress has been made in bringing our shared vision forward. On January 11, The Area of Board Control, the governing body for Northwest Tech, approved the affiliation plan in a unanimous vote. The NCK Tech Board of Trustees unanimously approved the affiliation plan on January 16. And on January 18, the Kansas Board of Regents also unanimously approved the plan.

On February 3, House Bill 2290 was introduced in the Kansas Legislature.

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## FHSU's regional workforce development efforts on the rise

### The Robbins Banking Institute

The Institute provides classroom training based on real-world observation from banking professionals. Its

internship program enhances relationships with bank professionals, leading to job opportunities. With an aging population of bankers and an increasing number of job openings, the institute expedites the training of students to fill banking positions.

### The Cybersecurity Institute and Technology Incubator (CITI)

Thanks to generous funding from the Kansas legislature, this new program launched last fall. The FHSU Department of Informatics is leading this effort and working with the Small Business Development Centers, CITI staff, and local businesses to identify micro-internship opportunities for FHSU students this spring and summer. Student interns will work on special cybersecurity projects that develop essential technical and entrepreneurial interpersonal skills. Regional small businesses will benefit from the infusion of new talent and state-of-the-practice cybersecurity expertise.

### Social Work

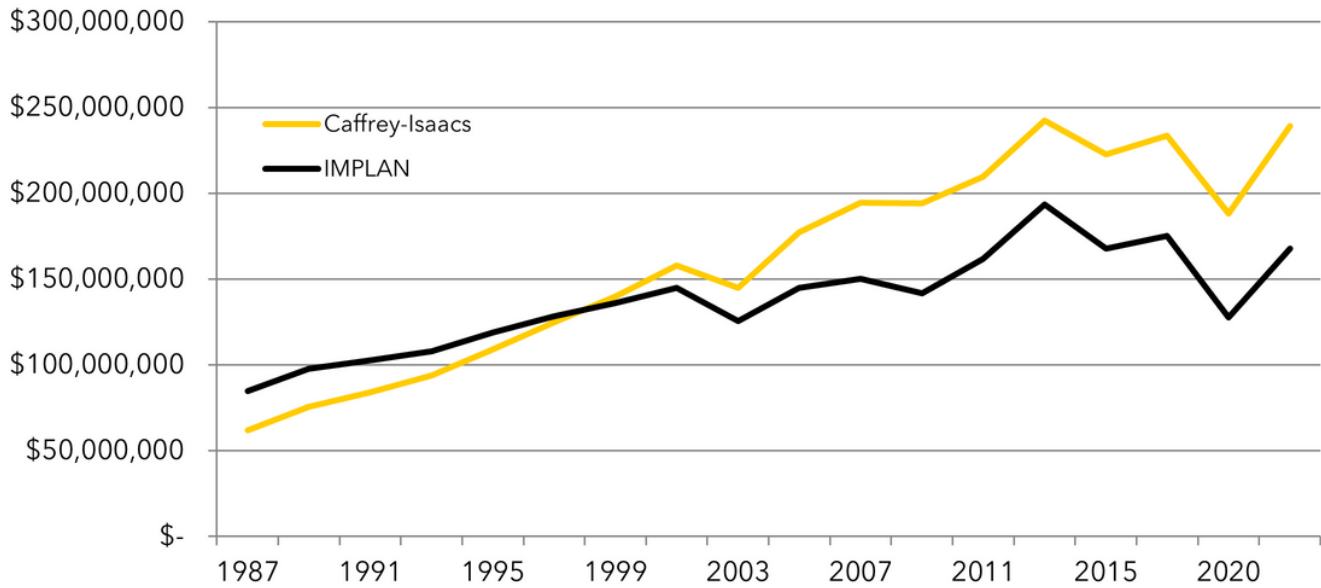
FHSU's social work cohort programs in southwest Kansas were designed for students already established and engaged in their local communities. The cohort model enables students to complete a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree without frequent travel or relocation to Hays.

## FHSU's 2022 regional economic impact exceeds pre-pandemic levels

The Docking Institute of Public Affairs' 2022 Economic Impact report evaluated the impact of Fort Hays State University on the Ellis County economy and the benefits that the university generates. Based on data collected via the two statistical analysis methods used in the study, the university's overall economic impact exceeded pre-pandemic levels in Fiscal Year 2022 (the fiscal year starting July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022). The bounce-back from pandemic-driven 2020 economic impact numbers ranged from \$40-\$51 million.

The Docking Institute uses two different methods of measuring economic impact. The Caffrey-Isaacs method focuses on spending and location-related economic activity. The economic impact, as estimated via this method, was \$239,200,242. The second method the institute draws on in its reporting is called IMPLAN. This approach considers the flow of expenditures through industries and institutions in a regional economy. The estimated economic impact of FHSU using this method was \$167,862,253.

### FHSU Total Economic Impact



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