



# FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY



## Next Generation Professional and Continuing Education at FHSU

Plans are underway at FHSU to deliver professional, continuing, and workforce development education experiences - PCE - that would award alternative credentials. Western Kansas businesses, as well as alumni and current students, will benefit from these new professional opportunities.

Alternative credentials, including certificates, industry certifications, and digital badges, are focused, take less time to earn, and can be delivered in person or online, in workshops/seminars or modular course formats. These programs can be offered for immediate delivery, can be self-directed, and learners can earn a credential in a much shorter time frame.

Just under 400,000 Kansans fall into the educational experience category "some college/no degree." PCE programs can be designated non-credit or combined into stackable learning pathways for academic credit and folded into existing degree pathways. This approach is especially attractive to non-traditional working adults. Best of all, employers in rural communities will upscale their operations with a more highly skilled workforce.

## PCE at Fort Hays State University will

- Focus on serving the workforce development needs of Kansas businesses and employers in our uniquely large service area;
- Leverage our years of experience in virtual education and connection to Kansas rural community economic development;
- Provide collaborative programming with our newly affiliated technical colleges to increase credentials for entrepreneurs and people working in skilled trades industries; and
- Build upon our relationships with our established partners, including the Small Business Development Center and the Robbins Banking Institute, to serve rural businesses' needs and improve skills for employees in rural areas.

## Our Pathway Forward

We plan to launch this initiative by completing a comprehensive needs analysis of Kansas businesses and workforce development initiatives to determine the PCE needs of employers and alumni. This needs analysis will help us identify opportunities to develop high-quality virtual and in-person credentialed professional development experiences most needed by employers and their employees.

The PCE group at FHSU will create programs that align with our key institutional strengths in entrepreneurship, leadership development, management, and employer-endorsed industry certifications that improve employee training and retention across Kansas.

## The Bottom Line

PCE at FHSU will drive enrollment growth in an area we have only begun to explore: non-credit PCE to degree completion academic programs that incorporate stackable pathways and prior learning credit.



## SAVE THE DATE

FHSU and Kansas Community Colleges  
Guaranteed nursing program admission announcement  
Where? Kansas State Capitol in Topeka  
When? Thursday, January 18, 9:00 A.M.

### Office of the President

Sheridan Hall 312  
600 Park Street  
Hays, KS 67601-4099  
785-628-4231

### Jennie Adams Rose

Legislative Liaison  
785-554-0850  
jennieadamsrose@gmail.com

[www.fhsu.edu](http://www.fhsu.edu)

785-628-FHSU