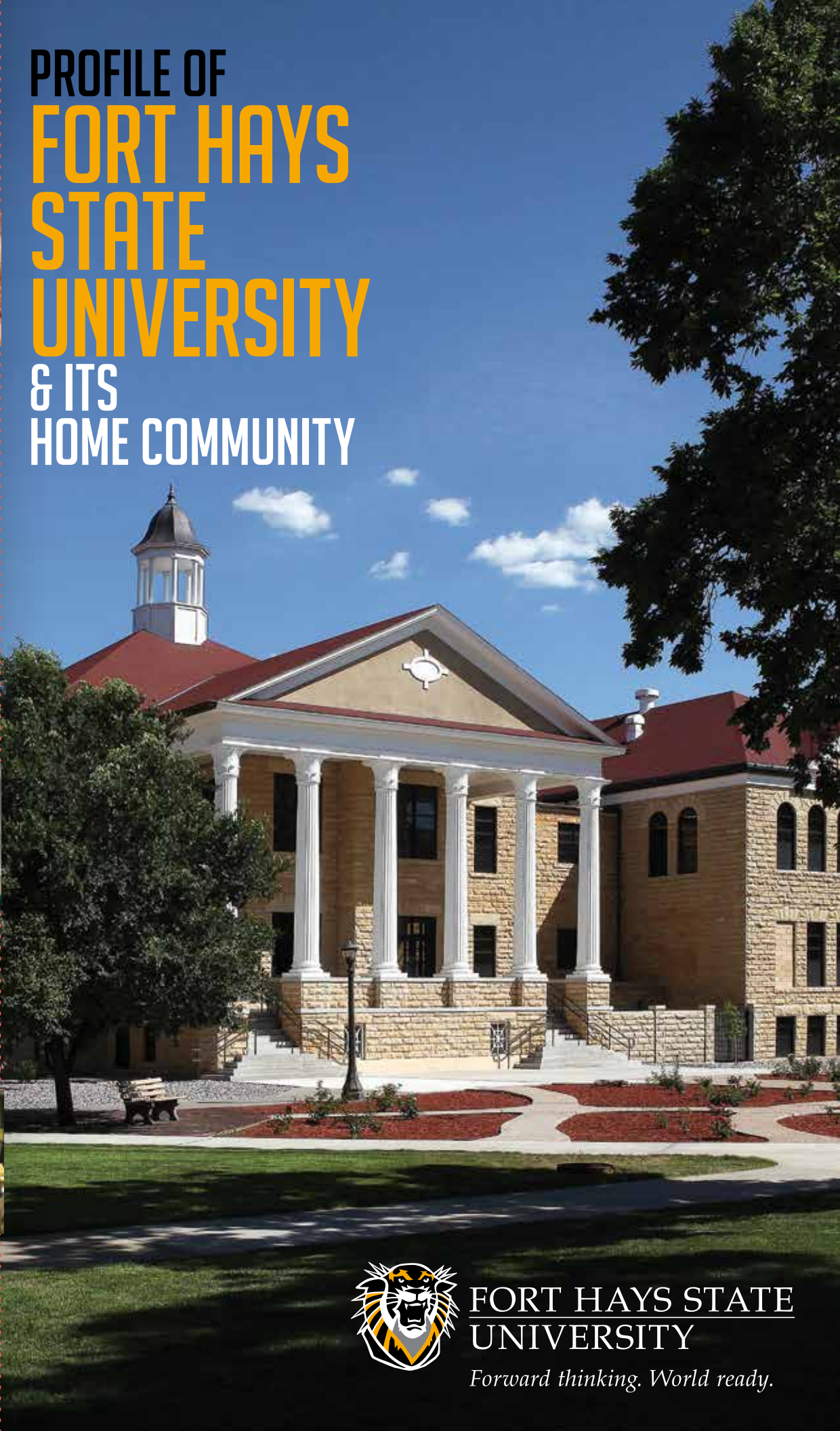


PROFILE OF FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY & ITS HOME COMMUNITY



**FORT HAYS STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Forward thinking. World ready.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROFILE OF FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY & ITS HOME COMMUNITY

Overview	4
Mission	5
Duty to Dream	5
Accreditation.....	5
Faculty	6
Staff	6
Students.....	7
Student Success.....	8
FHSU Virtual College.....	9
China.....	9
Beyond China.....	10
Other partnerships.....	10
FHSU Foundation.....	11
Alumni Association	11
Intercollegiate Athletics.....	12
Brand	13
Positioning platform.....	13
Brand promise	13
Brand drivers	13
Mascot.....	13
Museums.....	14
University Farm	14
Docking Institute of Public Affairs	14
Herndon Clinic	15
Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science	15
Libraries	15
General Education	16
Local government.....	16
City of Hays	16
Ellis County.....	17
Ellis County Coalition for Economic Development	17
Hays Area Chamber of Commerce	17
Recreation	18
Hays Recreation Commission	18
Transportation	18
Health Care	19
Arts	19
Culture	19

Academic Year 2013-2014

OVERVIEW

Fort Hays State University is a regional comprehensive university with 13,441 students and 361 faculty. The University has three divisions: Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Administration and Finance. Students can pursue majors in 28 academic departments in four colleges – the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Business and Entrepreneurship, the College of Education and Technology, the College of Health and Life Sciences – and the Graduate School.

Fort Hays State is known for its innovation and entrepreneurship. Among the universities in the Kansas Board of Regents system, it has the unique role to integrate computer and telecommunications technology into the educational environment and the work place. Fort Hays State is a national leader in delivering education at a distance through its Virtual College.

The University has three teaching modalities: on-campus, with an enrollment of 4,767; the Virtual College, with an enrollment of 5,380 that includes Kansas, nearly all 50 states and U.S. Armed Services personnel internationally; and in China, with 3,294 students at partner universities.

With the lowest tuition in the region, Fort Hays State offers its students hands-on learning with close attention from a faculty that prepares them with a global perspective, professional skills and confidence to pursue successful careers.

The University is located in Hays, Kan., which has been recognized by the geography website epodunk.com as the third-best college town in America among small cities.

In August, The Chronicle of Higher Education reported that Fort Hays State was the third-fastest-growing university in the United States from 2001 to 2011, the most recent 10-year period for which data were available. Over that time, Fort Hays State grew from an enrollment of 5,626 in fall 2001 to 12,802 in fall 2011, an increase of 127.6 percent.

The website StateUniversity.com recently ranked the Fort Hays State campus as the safest in the state of Kansas. The ranking was based on a formula that accounts for the severity of a crime as well as the frequency of crime.



MISSION

Fort Hays State University provides accessible quality education to Kansas, the nation, and the world through an innovative community of teacher-scholars and professionals to develop engaged global citizen-leaders.

DUTY TO DREAM

Under its strategic plan, Duty to Dream, Fort Hays State University has established seven “design elements” to carry it successfully into the year 2020:

- **Growth** – Fort Hays State will grow to 20,000 students by 2020 through more aggressive recruitment of undergraduate, graduate and international students and through better retention of current students.
- **Life-Long Learning** – Fort Hays State will restructure and expand the Virtual College to 12,500 students and expand the number of full-time graduate students on the Hays campus.
- **Entrepreneurship** – Fort Hays State will move toward a paradigm that casts it as an enterprise responsible for its own fate, an enterprise the state government charters and empowers and in which it invests.
- **Intellectual Fusion** – Fort Hays State will encourage teaching and research that is interdisciplinary, multi-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary by creating new University institutes under the guidance of the four colleges.
- **Social Relevance** – Fort Hays State will share its expertise globally to help alleviate the host of problems that beset an increasingly complex world.
- **Global Engagement** – Fort Hays State will establish an office to coordinate international research and scholarship.
- **Learner Outcomes** – Fort Hays State will improve existing academic programs and create new academic programs to meet state workforce needs in the future.

Action plans are a key component of the strategic planning process. Each fall, academic departments and support offices submit action plans requesting funding for new positions and programs. The process requires applicants to describe the request, document the funding need and show how the request would advance the strategic plan. A committee headed by the president reviews the requests, assigns priorities and approves them according to available funding.

The FHSU strategic plan is designed to support the higher education initiatives of the governor of Kansas and the Kansas Board of Regents’ strategic plan that was adopted in September 2010. Called Foresight 2020, that plan sets long-range achievement goals to ensure the state’s higher education system meets Kansans’ expectations.

A redesign of the strategic plan in 2012 reduced the overall number of strategic goals from six to three but retained many of the original measures. The three strategic goals of Foresight 2020 are to:

- Increase higher education attainment among Kansans;
- Improve alignment of the state’s higher education system with the needs of the economy; and
- Ensure state university excellence.

ACCREDITATION

In 2000, with the support of the Kansas Board of Regents, Fort Hays State embraced a new model of accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission. Called the Academic Quality Improvement Program, or AQIP, the process allows member institutions to adopt the guiding principles of continuous quality improvement as their guiding force, and institutional mission serves as the foundation for judging success.



FACULTY

Fort Hays State University employs about 300 full-time faculty members on campus and about 50 faculty members in our international partner operations. The University also has more than 200 part-time and adjunct faculty teaching through the Virtual College and on campus.

Some key points:

- The average age of the faculty is declining.
- The College of Arts and Sciences has more faculty employed than the other three colleges combined.
- The average student-faculty ratio on campus is 17:1.
- More than 80 percent of classes are taught by full-time faculty.
- The system of shared governance includes the Faculty Senate, dozens of university committees, substantial training processes, and award and recognition processes.
- The faculty bargaining unit is the American Association of University Professors.
- Faculty report a higher than average workload, high satisfaction with facilities, average satisfaction with autonomy and independence, and higher than average satisfaction with support for faculty development.
- Faculty annually produce about 1,200 instances of scholarly and creative activities.



STAFF

As might be expected from a rural Midwest population, the staff at Fort Hays State University prides itself on hard work and dedication. The staff fills vital support roles across the four colleges and 28 academic departments and in the ancillary agencies and organizations such as the Sternberg Museum of Natural History, the Docking Institute of Public Affairs, the Kansas Wetlands Education Center, the University Farm, Forsyth Library, the Memorial Union – all across the three major divisions of the university: Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, and Administration and Finance.

According to the most recent Affirmative Action Plan, for calendar year 2011, FHSU employees were 53 percent female and 5 percent minority.

The classified employees, comprising more than 300 full- and part-time state civil service workers, recently voted to leave the Kansas civil service system and become direct employees of the University, called University Support Staff. The vote was not close: With 231 of 308 eligible employees voting, 187 voted for the change and 44 voted against.

The transition will begin when the Kansas Board of Regents approves the support staff handbook. Committees have been formed to revamp the descriptions of positions and salary levels, create an evaluation system and form, appoint a disciplinary hearing board, develop training materials, and set a schedule for the conversion.

The change will take effect at the beginning of the next fiscal year, which begins June 8, 2014.



STUDENTS

With nearly 5,000 in Hays, more than 3,000 in China, and thousands more in nearly all 50 states and more than 20 other countries, there really is no typical Fort Hays State University student. The diversity spans age, gender, race, culture and national origin.

Fort Hays State has three modalities for delivering education -- on campus in Hays; at partner universities in China; and through the Virtual College across Kansas, the nation and the world.

FHSU students in China attend partner universities at Xinzheng and Shenyang, earning both a Chinese degree and a degree from Fort Hays State. They are almost exclusively traditional college age and very much a part of their native culture. They also aspire to learn Western business practices and share a fascination for American culture. Some of them relocate to Hays for graduate studies, and some traditional FHSU students study at the partner universities in China.

The cross-cultural experiences are enhanced as Chinese faculty serve as visiting faculty in Hays and American faculty teach in China. Since the first Chinese student earned a degree from Fort Hays State, President Edward H. Hammond has traveled to China to attend every commencement and personally hand out the diplomas.

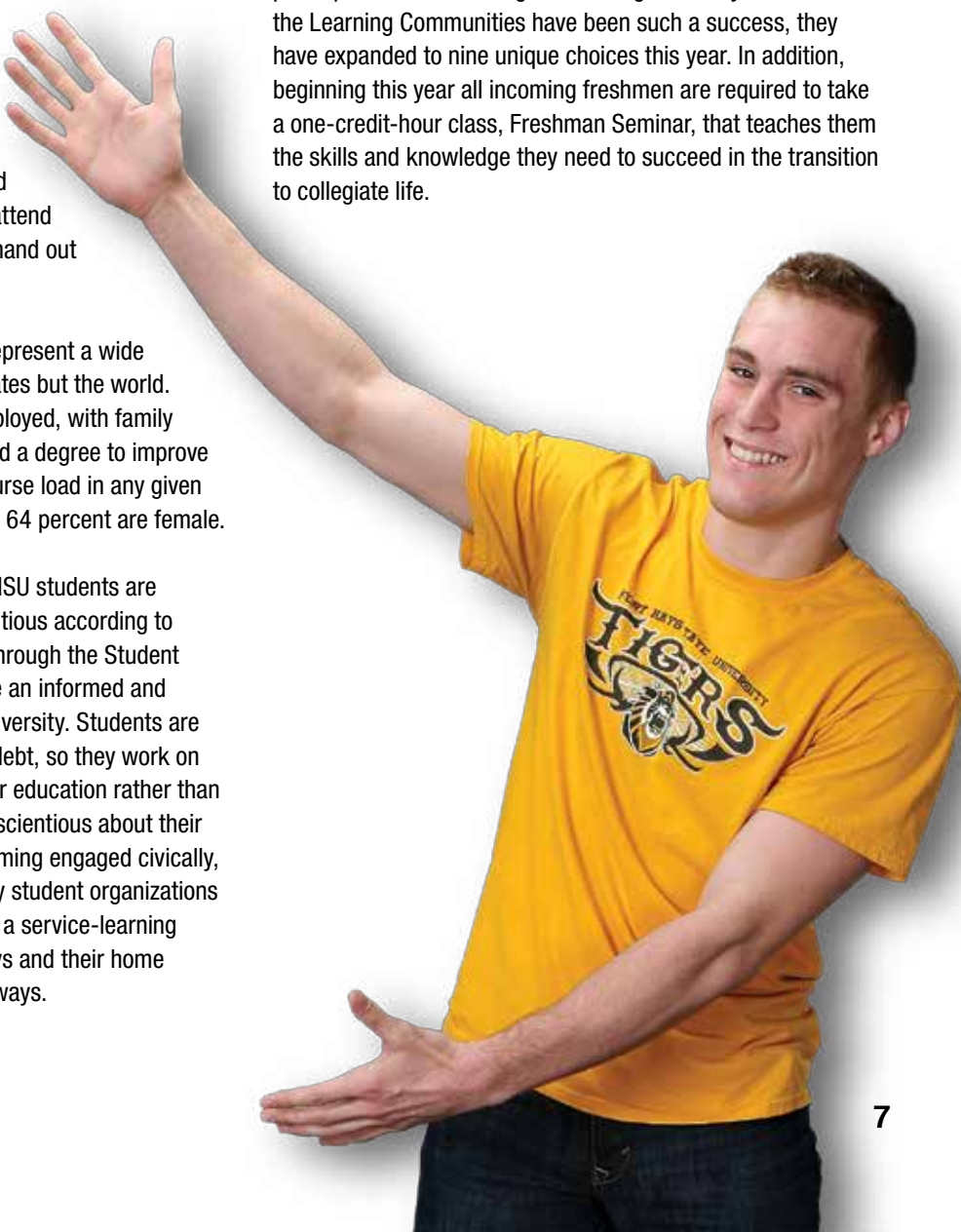
Students in the FHSU Virtual College represent a wide cross-section of not just the United States but the world. The majority of these students are employed, with family responsibilities, and are working toward a degree to improve their career. Most do not take a full course load in any given semester. Their average age is 36, and 64 percent are female.

On the Hays campus, quintessential FHSU students are determined, hardworking and conscientious according to the 2013 ENGAGE ACT data reports. Through the Student Government Association, students take an informed and active role in the governance of the University. Students are determined to avoid large amounts of debt, so they work on and off campus to pay for much of their education rather than taking out student loans. They are conscientious about their place in the world and show it by becoming engaged civically, socially and globally. Through the many student organizations and more formally in classes that have a service-learning component, FHSU students impact Hays and their home communities in positive and dramatic ways.

Perhaps the most common phrase that is used to describe FHSU students is "diamonds in the rough." Despite their rural work ethic, curiosity and intellectual ability, they tend to be very humble, even lacking in academic confidence. Still, they definitely are not averse to working hard to realize their dreams.

In sum, the FHSU campus is a diverse community in terms of home countries, home states, race, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status and sexual orientation. They also share common threads of being family oriented, hardworking, eager to learn and incredibly talented. Of the 4,767 students on campus, a bit more than 90 percent are undergraduates. Of those undergraduates, 53 percent are female, and 88 percent are in the traditional age group.

In order to address unique needs of FHSU students, the Division of Student Affairs has embarked on two notable programs to polish these diamonds. The first Learning Community was launched in 2010. A Learning Community is a group of 20-30 first-year students who share some common interests, take classes together, live on the same floor of a residence hall and participate in activities together throughout the year. Because the Learning Communities have been such a success, they have expanded to nine unique choices this year. In addition, beginning this year all incoming freshmen are required to take a one-credit-hour class, Freshman Seminar, that teaches them the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the transition to collegiate life.



STUDENT SUCCESS

Universities traditionally operate with an equal threefold mission of teaching, research and service. Fort Hays State University places the greatest importance on teaching and student success. While there are some exceptions in special cases, FHSU faculty are generally required to devote 60 percent of their time and energy to teaching, 20 percent to research and 20 percent to service.

College of Arts and Sciences

- The graphic arts program is ranked higher than any other FHSU program on a national basis.

College of Business and Entrepreneurship

- Fort Hays State was one of only 13 colleges and universities in the United States with two accounting graduates to win the prestigious Sells Award in the last three years for their performance on the CPA exam.
- FHSU students have participated in the national Financial Planning Challenge from 2001 until 2008 and again in 2010 and 2011 (there was not a competition in 2009). Fort Hays State has been in the top five in the nation every year it competed, winning the national championship in 2001, 2002 and 2011, finishing second in 2010 and finishing third in 2003, 2007 and 2008.

College of Education and Technology:

- In the College of Education and Technology, students had a 98 percent pass rate on the teaching licensure test. Out of 266 graduates, 260 passed and were licensed.

College of Health and Life Sciences

- In the physical education area, of the 38 students who graduated, every one passed the teaching licensure test.
- Radiology students have had a 98.2 percent pass rate over the last five years on their licensure test. In that period, FHSU students had a 100 percent pass rate in three separate years.
- Medical diagnostic imaging students had a 100 percent pass rate. In vascular sonography, there was a 94.5 percent pass rate in the clinical exams compared to the national average of 61.
- Speech-language pathology students had a pass rate of 95 percent compared to the national average of 86.

Virtual College

- Only one out of 142 virtual education students did not pass the teaching licensure test.

Over the decade prior to the collapse of the national economy in October 2008, FHSU students averaged a 98-percent placement rate in either jobs or graduate programs within six months of graduation. The Office of Career Services surveys the graduates, excluding those in China, to determine the placement percentage. In the most recent year for which the study was completed, the placement rate had rebounded to 95 percent.



FHSU VIRTUAL COLLEGE

Distance education at Fort Hays State University began in 1911 with the Correspondence Department in what was then still the Western Branch State Normal School. A new law for teachers' certificates required more education, but a failed wheat crop the previous year left many one-room school teachers in western Kansas unable to afford school.

The faculty met in August 1911 and voted to offer free correspondence work.

Today's Virtual College operates under the heading "A university education that fits your life." It serves students in 20-plus countries. Students can choose from 27 different bachelor's degree programs that are available totally online. The Bachelor of General Studies program alone has 16 possible concentrations.

Ten master's degree programs are available all online. The M.B.A. offers 10 different concentrations, the Master of Liberal Studies has 17 concentrations, and the Master of Professional Studies has 10 concentrations.

Three additional master's programs require a small on-campus component: the M.S. in counseling, the M.S. in school psychology and the M.S.N., family nurse practitioner track. Two educational specialist degrees are also offered.

FHSU Virtual College programs have widespread recognition for both affordability (GetEducated.com) and quality (U.S. News & World Report), continuing the aspirations of those first faculty members who recognized the importance of education and who also saw the necessity of educating at a distance.



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY VIRTUAL COLLEGE



CHINA

Since it was founded in 1902, Fort Hays State University has blazed many new trails and enjoyed many successes, but perhaps none would have been as unexpected as the relationship the University has forged with China.

In the year 2000, China was on the verge of being admitted to the World Trade Organization and knew it would succeed only if its citizens were better educated. The time was ripe. China's closed-door policies were fading away in favor of more open-door relationships and foreign education partnerships.

Meanwhile, the demographics in western Kansas were declining, with projections of fewer high school graduates in Fort Hays State's primary service area. There was an obvious need to expand. Initially, this expansion was into eastern Kansas and surrounding states, yet Fort Hays State's flexible and affordable coursework and degrees would next extend beyond U.S. borders all the way to China.

In 2000, Fort Hays State had the opportunity to partner with a newly established, private university which just happened to be located in the sister province of Henan, China. Sias International University, affiliated with Zhengzhou University, opened its doors with 250 students, and Fort Hays State was its American partner, serving 81 of these students with coursework leading to dual bachelor's degrees. Fort Hays State was the first American university to be approved by the Chinese Ministry of Education as part of the "Sino-American Cooperation in Running Schools" initiative.

At the time, only the Bachelor of General Studies degree was available as an option for these students.

In 2005, Fort Hays State added a second cross-border partner university in China to offer the Bachelor of General Studies degree with Shenyang Normal University in Liaoning Province. Then, in 2008, Fort Hays State began offering more degree programs to the students. The degree programs Fort Hays State offers today at its two partners are: Bachelor of Business Administration in management; Bachelor of Science in organizational leadership; Bachelor of Arts in global business English; Bachelor of Science in information networking and telecommunications; and Bachelor of Arts in political science.

Today, 3,276 students are enrolled in Fort Hays State's cross-border programs in China. Most importantly, the partnerships have been an educational boon. Students and faculty from Hays and from China have traveled to each other's country to study and teach. Economic development has occurred for the state of Kansas and will surely continue. The city of Xinzheng, where Sias is located, forged a Sister City relationship with Hays. In addition to the FHSU students in China, another 310 Chinese citizens are studying this year in Hays. The partners provide scholarships for three FHSU students to study short term in China during the summer; and Fort Hays State provides scholarships to the top students each year for post-graduate education in Hays.

Currently, Fort Hays State has graduated 6,246 students from Sias International University and Shenyang Normal University. The students are awarded their diplomas by President Edward H. Hammond each May-June in ceremonies that reflect those of American commencements. Almost all of these graduates are successfully employed or earning post-graduate degrees in China, abroad or at Fort Hays State.

BEYOND CHINA

It also must be noted that Fort Hays State's cross-border efforts are not limited to China. On the Hays campus, there are an additional 120 international students from 31 nations other than China.

The world is growing smaller and Fort Hays State recognizes that most careers are impacted by what is happening not just locally and nationally, but internationally. Many opportunities are provided for students to study abroad.

Students can participate in semester exchange programs and academic year exchange programs, or they can choose short-term, faculty-led international experiences. The Nursing Department has taken students to Brazil and Peru in recent summers and is planning another trip next summer. In another example, the Department of Modern Languages has arranged

study abroad experiences at the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany.

Fort Hays State has partnerships with organizations such as the International Student Exchange Program, the Center for Cross-Cultural Study and the Center for Language Studies at Beloit College. These are established partnerships that allow students to study in various countries with confidence that their hours will count toward their FHSU degree. At St. John International University in Italy, Fort Hays State made arrangements for students to pay the same rate they would pay in Hays by providing scholarships to cover any difference in the cost of tuition or housing. These various programs involve about 75 to 100 FHSU students annually.

OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

Domestically, Fort Hays State University was one of the first partners in the Navy Distance Learning Partnership Program. This grew, and today the University serves all branches of the military and also partners with many community colleges in Kansas, the region and the United States, due in large part to its flexible programs for degree completion.

Corporations in America and abroad have been eager to partner with Fort Hays State to fulfill workforce training needs and earn university credit towards a degree.

Listings for all of the University's foreign and domestic partnerships can be found through the Partnerships tab on the Office of Strategic Partnerships website.





FHSU FOUNDATION

The FHSU Foundation is the fundraising arm of Fort Hays State University. The Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that was established in 1945. While the Foundation works closely with Fort Hays State to support its initiatives, it is legally separate from the University and is governed by a board of trustees and supervised by a chief executive officer.

The Foundation has spearheaded two capital campaigns in recent years. Both were highly successful, and the total assets of the Foundation have grown from \$7.3 million a quarter-century ago to nearly \$55 million today.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Although they have completed their education and moved forward into careers and other adventures, the alumni of Fort Hays State University play an ongoing and absolutely vital role in the life of the University.

Their continuing participation takes many forms. Alumni support the annual Scholarship Recognition Programs for prospective students and their parents, advocate on behalf of Fort Hays State and higher education among legislators and the community, make generous financial donations that allow Fort Hays State to achieve educational excellence, help with events on and off campus, and step forward in countless other ways to advance their alma mater.

The FHSU Alumni Association was established in 1916 as the primary link between the University and its more than 57,000 alumni and friends. The Association publishes the FHSU Magazine three times a year and distributes the FHSU-TigerTalk e-newsletter monthly. Each year, the Association recognizes alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students for their achievements through its awards programs.

Fort Hays State has developed an international presence with its China Program and other cross-border initiatives. As a result of that institutional evolution, the Alumni Association has also expanded its mission to meet the needs of the Tiger community worldwide.



INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Student-athletes who are gifted with exceptional physical abilities represent Fort Hays State University in football, wrestling, men and women's golf, baseball, women's volleyball, men and women's track and field, men and women's cross-country, men and women's basketball, women's softball, men and women's soccer, and women's tennis. Besides providing an outlet for the talents of the participants, intercollegiate athletics has become a vibrant part of the American university experience. FHSU teams participated in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference for 17 years before joining the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association in the 2006-07 academic year.

Throughout the University's 111-year history, there have been many notable performances and victories:

- Cross-country runner John Mason was a four-time All-American and two-time national champion.
- Cross-country teams won NAIA national championships in 1963, 1965, 1968 and 1969.
- The men's basketball team won back-to-back NAIA national championships in 1983-84 and 1984-85.
- The women's basketball team captured the NAIA National Championship in 1990-91.
- The men's basketball team had a perfect 34-0 record in 1995-96 to claim the NCAA Division II National Championship.
- The Tiger baseball team finished as national runner-up in NCAA Division II in 2000.
- FHSU athletic teams have claimed 33 conference championships while members of NCAA Division II.
- Tiger teams have made 23 NCAA national tournament appearances in six major sports.

The excellence of its facilities set the FHSU Athletic Department apart from most of its peers. The Schmidt-Bickle Indoor Training Facility opened this fall. The 50,400-square-foot building south of Lewis Field Stadium serves as a practice venue for multiple Tiger sports teams. Also, Gross Memorial Coliseum, with seating for 7,000, gives men and women athletes a competitive edge in their games and matches.





FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

Forward thinking. World ready.

BRAND

The brand consists of honest and consistent messaging that develops Fort Hays State University's associations with its target audiences. It expresses the key identifiers the University wants to own in the hearts and minds of faculty, staff, students, potential students and their parents, alumni, and friends.

The current brand platform was developed over a period of many months with the input of people from all strata of the University community. It describes what Fort Hays State is, the benefits it offers and its aspirations.

All campus units are encouraged to follow the brand platform and must comply with FHSU identity standards when creating communications.

POSITIONING PLATFORM

Fort Hays State is the region's leading forward-thinking, entrepreneurial university that values social, civic and professional engagement. We attract goal-oriented students with a strong work ethic who want to live and learn in a caring community.

From the beginning of their college experience, our students are actively engaged in an exceptional depth of core learning opportunities, both inside and outside the classroom. We provide extraordinary one-to-one attention and support. Our faculty are outstanding teachers who motivate students to think globally, discover their potential and develop their unique talents. We expect our faculty, staff, students and alumni to be involved and engaged in their professions and communities.

Our graduates gain confidence, a deep appreciation of knowledge and the professional skills that give them an advantage in their careers, now and for a lifetime.

BRAND PROMISE

Forward thinking. World ready.

BRAND DRIVERS

- Learning opportunities with exceptional depth, inside and outside the classroom, from the beginning of the college experience;
- Outstanding faculty and staff who deliver exceptional attention and support;
- An expectation of social, civic and professional engagement;
- Partnerships and learning experiences that bring together cultures, perspectives and thinking from around the world; and
- Innovation that drives solutions.

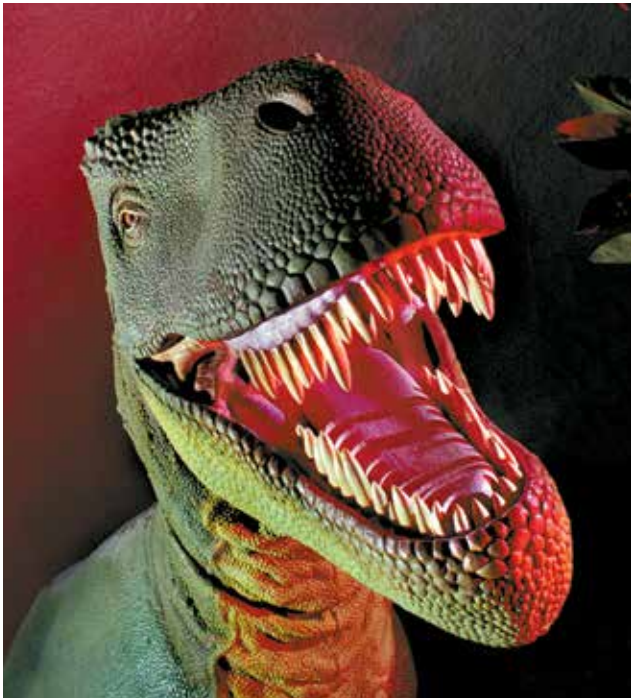
MASCOT

Fort Hays State University's Tiger mascot has existed in various forms since 1914. There is no conclusive historical record of its creation. Some evidence suggests it may have been the brainchild of President W.A. Lewis, who served from 1913 to 1933 and hailed from Missouri. Through many years, there was no officially designated version of the FHSU Tiger, so many varieties came and went, with two or three or more versions of the Tiger sharing the stage in any given year.

In 1999, Dr. Edward H. Hammond, FHSU President, directed the University's Integrated Marketing Committee to develop a high-energy, expressive, confident Tiger. The University's creative director modeled an official new Tiger graphic based on the old Tiger head.

After the new Tiger was tested with students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the University – and a few tweaks made – the President unveiled the first official mascot in the University's long history in a public ceremony on April 3, 2000. A few months later, based on suggestions from students, the new mascot was given a name, Victor E. Tiger.





MUSEUMS

Fort Hays State University owns a premier natural history museum, the Sternberg Museum of Natural History, located in northeast Hays. The museum has a long history at Fort Hays State, beginning as a small collection of donated hunting trophies and other collections in the institution's earliest days.

The Sternberg opened in its current home in 1999 after an \$11 million renovation of a unique dome and attached building built as a health spa. The facility was donated to the University. The museum has grown in a century into a popular museum revolving around spectacular collections of fossils from the Cretaceous Period of 100 million years ago, when the Great Plains from the Rockies east were a vast inland sea.

The museum is also a world-class research facility, home to international collections in the fields of paleontology, paleobotany, geology, botany, entomology, ichthyology, ornithology, herpetology and mammalogy.

The Sternberg is also the manager of the Kansas Wetlands Education Center, near Great Bend, 60 miles southeast of Hays. The Center overlooks Cheyenne Bottoms, the largest inland marsh in the United States and designated by the Ramsar International Convention as a Wetland of International Importance. The Center, and Cheyenne Bottoms, are also adjacent to the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge.

Hays also has the Ellis County Historical Society Museum and Fort Hays Kansas Historic Site. The University and its farm are on ground that once belonged to the U.S. military installation known as Fort Hays.

UNIVERSITY FARM

One unique aspect of Fort Hays State University is the 3,800-acre working farm operated by the Department of Agriculture in the College of Health and Life Sciences. The farm produces marketable quantities of beef, cattle, dairy, swine, sheep, wheat, grain, sorghum, soybeans, corn and alfalfa.

The production also serves as a hands-on laboratory for students in the various concentrations for the B.S. in agriculture – general agriculture, agricultural education, agronomy, beef cattle management and animal science. The department also offers a major in agricultural business.

The chair of the department also serves as the farm manager.

DOCKING INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

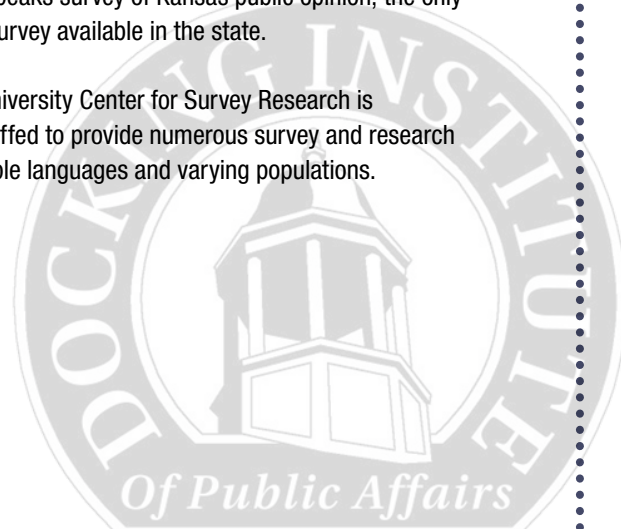
The Docking Institute of Public Affairs offers survey and focus group research, economic impact and public policy analysis, and strategic planning in the service of its mission to “facilitate effective public policy decision making among governmental and non-profit entities.”

The Docking Institute began as the University's Institute of Public Affairs in 1980. The Kansas Board of Regents in 1989 changed the name to the Docking Institute of Public Affairs in honor of Kansas Governors George Docking and Robert B. Docking and Lt. Governor Tom Docking.

Since its inception, the Docking Institute has been a leader in facilitating public policy development for western and rural Kansas.

For the last five years, the Institute has also produced the annual Kansas Speaks survey of Kansas public opinion, the only comprehensive survey available in the state.

The Institute's University Center for Survey Research is equipped and staffed to provide numerous survey and research services in multiple languages and varying populations.



HERNDON CLINIC

The Herndon Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic is the only university-affiliated clinic in western Kansas offering comprehensive services in speech, language and hearing while providing professional clinical training for seniors and graduate students.

The state-of-the-art clinic has nationally certified and licensed faculty. Its students can provide high-quality, comprehensive evaluation and treatment programs.

The clinic serves preschoolers who have speech and language delays; adults with communication disorders due to stroke or head injury; children and adults with language-based reading problems, such as dyslexia; adults and children with hearing loss; and people who have "significant communication needs" resulting from such disorders as autism or cerebral palsy.

KANSAS ACADEMY OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

Fall 2014 will see the seventh class of high school juniors take up residence in Fort Hays State University's Custer Hall and begin a two-year course of study in the Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science, established by the Kansas Legislature in 2006.

Fort Hays State won the right to operate the academy, which is the state's premier academic high school program for the state's best and brightest high school students. Modeled in part on successful programs in Missouri and Texas, KAMS is a residential educational program designed to provide exceptional high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and 68 hours of college credit.

Students are simultaneously enrolled in their home high schools and KAMS. At Fort Hays State, they are given college-level instruction by Ph.D. faculty and have the opportunity to conduct hands-on research while being supervised by Ph.D. scientists.

Prospective students must have completed at least two years of high school with distinction in mathematics or science, but the academy also considers drive, interest, maturity, stability, and personal and family commitment.

The Legislature established KAMS to provide added educational value for students who might not be appropriately challenged in their local schools and to enhance the intellectual capital of the state of Kansas through the academy's focus on mathematics and science.



LIBRARIES

Hays is home to two outstanding libraries, Forsyth Library on the Fort Hays State University campus and the Hays Public Library.

Forsyth provides educational resources in numerous areas, from digital fossil collections in collaboration with the University's Sternberg Museum of Natural History, collections on space exploration and history in collaboration with the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center in Hutchinson, and many educational activities and programs for area schools as well as FHSU students.

Forsyth, in addition to providing comprehensive resources for research by faculty and students and many other learning resources for undergraduate students, has also been part of the Federal Depository Library Program since 1926. The Government Documents Department houses and maintains publications of the United States, state and foreign governments and the United Nations. The department also functions as the Library's reference center for government information.

The Hays Public Library has for years been one of the most-used and finest libraries in the state of Kansas. After a recent total remodeling and addition, it is also one of the most attractive and well organized. It has long been recognized for innovation, having been involved in video, audio, artwork and language-program check-outs.

It was also a pioneer in offering Internet connectivity and computer services and is a community and regional leader in providing venues for educational and cultural programs.



GENERAL EDUCATION

The Hays community is nearly unrivaled by any city its size in terms of the depth and breadth of educational opportunities.

In addition to Fort Hays State University, two other institutions of higher education have a strong presence in Hays. One of the agricultural research centers of Kansas State University, a sister Kansas Board of Regents institution, is located immediately south of Hays. Kansas State, a land-grant university, is one of the nation's leading researchers into wheat and cattle breeding. North Central Kansas Technical College, a state school that is headquartered in Beloit, also has a campus in Hays. NCK Tech recently was ranked the No. 6 two-year college in the United States by Best Schools.org and the No. 7 two-year college in the nation by Bankrate.com.

In addition, Ellis County has four outstanding K-12 educational systems. The public systems are:

Hays USD 489 has five elementary schools, Hays Middle School and Hays High School. The district also has The Learning Center, an alternative/virtual diploma program, and the Westside Alternative School.

Ellis USD 388, in Ellis, 13 miles west of Hays, has an elementary school, middle school and Ellis High School.

Victoria USD 432, in Victoria, 12 miles east of Hays, has an elementary school, junior high school and Victoria High School.

Citizens also have the option of sending their children to an excellent parochial system. The Salina Diocese and the Heartland Parishes of the Catholic church operate schools in Hays and Ellis. Hays has Holy Family Elementary School (K-6), Hays Catholic Middle School and Thomas More Prep-Marian High School. St. Mary's Catholic School in Ellis teaches pre-school through sixth grade.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CITY OF HAYS

Hays, Kansas, was founded in 1867 and in its early years the frontier town was characteristic of the American Old West. Home to several notable figures, including George Custer, Calamity Jane and Wild Bill Hickok, Hays was a destination for Volga German settlers in the late 1800s because the land was suitable for their lifestyle and farming.

Hays is the county seat of Ellis County and the largest city in northwest Kansas, with a population of 21,000. The city is also the retail, education, entertainment and medical center of the region.

The city operates under a commission-manager form of government, which was adopted in 1919. Hays was the third city in Kansas to use this model. In 1966, the city switched from a three- to a five-person commission. The Commission hires the city manager, who appoints the various department heads and other city employees.

The Commission is a policy-making body that enacts city ordinances. The city manager advises the commissioners and is responsible for enforcing their policies. The city manager is also responsible for preparing a proposed budget for the commissioners.

The mayor, who is elected by the City Commission, presides over Commission meetings and represents the city at ceremonial events. The commissioners are elected at-large with an election held every two years. Commission meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. The Commission also holds work sessions at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month. All meetings are open to the public.

Hays was largely unaffected by the economic crash of 2008, with unemployment currently at 2.6 percent. The city has held its property tax levy at 25 mills for several years, and sales tax revenues have climbed annually over that period. The budget for fiscal year 2014, which begins on Jan. 1, has been set at \$36 million.

Hays is located in a semi-arid region. Thanks to cooperation from citizens in conservation efforts, Hays has the lowest per capita rate of water consumption in the state. It is also a model for recycling. A voluntary program that was established two decades ago has such a high participation rate that other cities have sought out Hays officials for advice on establishing recycling programs.

The National Civic League named Hays an All-America City in 1996. Recently, Hays was named the second-best city in Kansas for raising children.

ELLIS COUNTY

The county, with a population of about 28,000, is governed by a three-member County Commission. A county administrator coordinates county government activities on a daily basis. The commissioners are elected from districts to four-year terms. The sheriff and most other department heads are also elected directly by the citizens.

In a special election this fall, voters overwhelmingly approved a special sales tax to pay for renovation of a new administration building, for construction of a new EMS/rural fire building, and for the renovation and redesign of the Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center.

ELLIS COUNTY COALITION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Although it is not officially a governmental organization, the Ellis County Coalition for Economic Development plays a major role in the life of the community. It was founded in 1988 during a period in which the county experienced a downturn in the agriculture and oil industries as well as the loss of a major employer. Community leaders came together to create an organization that could put the community back on the right economic track.

Formed as a public/private partnership between Ellis County and the cities within the county, the Coalition is funded in part by Ellis County, the cities of Hays, Ellis and Victoria, and private contributions. The Coalition focuses on one simple mission: the economic growth of the community. To further this end, the Coalition works with the community and businesses in a number of areas: affordable housing, workforce development and training, grant writing, relocation assistance, start-up assistance, business recruitment, and much more.

The Coalition continues to develop and maintain strong relationships with local, state and federal organizations in an effort to bring resources and support to businesses located in the community. As businesses succeed, the community succeeds.

HAYS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Hays Area Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1917, works for the prosperity of Hays and its neighbors. Like the Ellis County Coalition for Economic Development, the Chamber is not a governmental entity, but it plays a vital role as the catalyst for bringing the business community together with other organizations and the community at large. The Chamber helps keep the Hays area viable, fosters a better business climate and promotes a higher quality of life. The Chamber is a resource for business and community information with concentration in four specific categories: member services, leadership development, community betterment and business advocacy.



RECREATION

At modern-day Fort Hays State University, physical opportunities encompass a wide range of activities. Through its intramural program, Fort Hays State provides a broad, competitive variety of physical and social activities in first-class venues that are designed to meet the diverse needs and interests of students, faculty and staff.

In addition, members of the University community are encouraged to use the Wellness Center in Cunningham Hall, with its state-of-the-art fitness facilities. There is no charge, and the Center also offers free personal training and nutritional counseling.

Hays Medical Center also operates a state-of-the-art Center for Health Improvement, a fitness center accredited by the Medical Fitness Association.

Hays has two fully irrigated, 18-hole golf courses – Smoky Hill Country Club and Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course. Public courses are also located in the nearby communities of Russell, Ellis and WaKeeney.

The Hays area is richly endowed with a wealth of other outdoor recreational opportunities, from unsurpassed upland game hunting to scenic walking, running and bike trails.



Hays is home to several fitness-focused trails:

- Hays Medical Center – just east of the hospital;
- Aubel-Bickle Park;
- Downtown Fitness Walk; and
- Frontier Park.

The city of Hays has also begun developing a system of bike paths that will connect schools, parks and other attractions.

Northwest Kansas is known as “The Pheasant Capital of the World.” The region is also popular for dove, prairie dog, coyote, quail, waterfowl, prairie chicken, wild turkey and deer hunting. Hays serves as a great overnight location for hunters, with more than 1,000 motel rooms, more than 60 restaurants and numerous sports supply businesses.

The city is located midway between two premier fishing reservoirs: Cedar Bluff to the west and Lake Wilson to the east. Recognized for excellent striped bass and smallmouth bass angling, Lake Wilson is a 9,040-acre lake conveniently located north of I-70. Cedar Bluff, a 6,000-acre lake, 13 miles south of I-70, features outstanding fishing for crappie, black bass, bluegill and catfish.

HAYS RECREATION COMMISSION

The Hays Recreation Commission offers youth sports such as softball, baseball, soccer, tennis and basketball. Life-enrichment classes, day camps and other programs for kids are also available throughout the year. For the professional set, HRC offers group fitness classes and adult sports such as softball and volleyball. The commission also manages the new Hays Sports Complex and Hays Aquatic Park.

TRANSPORTATION

Hays is the largest city in the northwest quadrant of Kansas, located about five hours in driving time from both Denver and Kansas City. Although distances are lengthy to some destinations, Interstate 70 passes through the city, making travel by car convenient and safe.

The Hays Regional Airport offers three commercial flights daily between the city and Denver International Airport. The city of Hays has just completed replacing the main runway, and other airport enhancements are in the planning stages. In cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, city leaders are hopeful that the commercial flights will be converted to jet service in the coming year.

For student needs, Fort Hays State contracts with Tiger

Transport to provide free transportation from campus to local retail stores in the community. Late night transportation with Safe Ride also gives students a secure way to return to campus.

HEALTH CARE

Hays is a regional medical hub. Hays Medical Center, commonly called HaysMed or HMC, is a private, non-profit hospital, the result of a 1991 merger between Hadley Medical Center, a Methodist hospital, and St. Anthony Hospital, a Catholic institution.

HaysMed operates 17 clinics and has 74 physicians on staff. It is also a national leader in rural health care, serving 30 northwestern and western Kansas counties and two Nebraska counties with various mobile and visiting services. HaysMed also provides services to a network of critical access hospitals in 22 Kansas counties.

HMC operates the DeBakey Heart Institute, the Dreiling/Schmidt Cancer Institute and the Center for Health Improvement, a fitness center accredited by the Medical Fitness Association.

ARTS

Fort Hays State University is the center for the arts in Hays and western Kansas.

The Hays Symphony Orchestra, anchored by Department of Music and Theatre faculty, students and staff and which includes many volunteers from the community, is in its 100th season.

The musical and theatrical season at the University includes concerts by the orchestra and four theatrical performances – two plays, a musical and an opera. Almost every month of the academic year features major musical events in the University's premier performance venue, the Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center in Sheridan Hall. Performances include not only the orchestra but the choirs, faculty recitals, the band and jazz band, the wind ensembles, and small ensembles.

The Encore Series brings in attractions from around the world in all areas of artistic performance – dance, theatre, music and more. The Sebelius Lecture Series on public affairs, inaugurated in fall 2013 with a debate by former presidential candidates Howard Dean, Democrat, and Rick Santorum, Republican, provides a view of people and issues in the national and global arenas.

The Department of Art and Design also hosts numerous exhibitions during the year in the Moss-Thorns Gallery of Art in Rarick Hall.

In Hays there are almost 20 privately owned art studios and galleries in addition to the Hays Arts Council Gallery. The Council also sponsors both a spring and a winter art walk among the many galleries in Hays. Those are two of the most popular events in the region, attracting thousands of walkers.

The city also has an active community theatre.

CULTURE

The Hays region celebrates its proud heritage and history with several annual events. They include FHSU Homecoming, Oktoberfest, Herzogfest in Victoria, the Wild West Festival, the Frost Fest parade in downtown Hays and the Victorian Christmas at Historic Fort Hays.

Hays is home to more than 30 unique shopping experiences, including home décor shops, boutiques, antique markets and more. Highlights include The Mall, the Centennial Shopping Mall and the Chestnut Street District. Located in revitalized downtown Hays, the Chestnut Street District is home to a variety of restaurants, shops and professional services.

Hays is also home to a surprising variety of places of worship. From Christianity to Islam, the religious community here spans nearly all faiths.

With a unique mix of rural and suburban housing options, it's easy to make yourself at home in Hays.



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