



# FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 / ISSUE 1

## FROM THE DEAN

The FHSU College of Education is a vibrant and vital part of the university. The faculty and staff of the college serve the needs of the education community in Kansas, and nationwide through our continued leadership and innovation in using technology to work with time and place bound students. Last year the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) released the [Kansas Commissioner of Education Blue Ribbon Task Force on Teacher Vacancies and Supply Final Report](#) which noted the shortage of teachers across Kansas, in particular the southwest and southeast corners of the state. We are proud to say that we have and are responding to this issue, as you will have a chance to read in this newsletter. Our Transition-to-Teaching (T2T) program, which has been around since 2003, prepares individuals whom have chosen to change from their current professions to teaching at the secondary level. We currently have over 200 candidates in our T2T program. At the elementary level we have built a new Para-Pathway program that will allow para-professionals to work towards an elementary teaching degree while remaining employed; we have over 90 individual candidates involved in the program.

The faculty and staff at FHSU actively seek opportunities to engage themselves and their students in the community. Last year we held the Young Reader's Conference for area schools, worked with area school districts to develop a multi-district in-service program, and held a symposium, on educational law for school administrators and FHSU students and faculty. We have also remained active over the summer through Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) camps offered through the FHSU Science and Mathematics Institute, book distribution programs, and professional development workshops for teachers on topics ranging from gravity waves to teaching with the Next Generation Science Standards.

We invite you to peruse the news items in this newsletter. You can take pride in FHSU and what your College of Education is doing to serve Kansas as we grow the Tiger Teacher Nation. As always, if you are in the Hays area - stop by! If we can be of service to you contact us. Have a great summer!



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## PLYMOUTH SCHOOLHOUSE AT FORT HAYS STATE GETS A BELL



06/14/17

FHSU News

HAYS, KAN. – An iron bell cast more than a hundred years ago in Pennsylvania now sits next to Fort Hays State University's Plymouth Schoolhouse on the university's campus.

The bell, a gift from alumna Jane Koetkemeyer Kohtz, Hays, a 1975 graduate, was dedicated in memory of Kohtz's parents, Vernon and Irene Koetkemeyer.

The bell once rang for services at Immanuel Lutheran Church near Dubuque, in southeastern Russell County. Kohtz's father bought the bell at an auction after the church shuttered. The Plymouth Schoolhouse served people living near Wilson from 1874 to 1936. It was dedicated at its current site in 1979.

"When I accepted the position of the Anschutz Professor of Education, I was given responsibility for the Plymouth Schoolhouse," said Dr. Paul Adams, who is also dean of the College of Education at FHSU. "To that

end, we provide living history programs for school groups and also have opened the doors, in the tradition of a schoolhouse, to community use of the building."

"But," he continued, "there was always one item missing – a school bell. How can you have a schoolhouse without a school bell? Today, we have the bell and the opportunity to recognize those individuals who have made this possible."

The family of the late Elaine Driscoll, a 1970 Fort Hays State alumna and longtime FHSU employee, was also acknowledged during the dedication. Memorials made in Driscoll's honor were used to fund the base that the bell sits upon.

Joe Chretien, associate professor of applied technology, refurbished the bell and designed the base. Dan Disney, Jerry Dreiling and Blake Weigel with the university's physical plant constructed the base while DeLoyd Sander completed the masonry work. Dana Cunningham, Director, Facilities Planning, also provided guidance during the planning.

Boy Scout Troop 101-Venture Crew 101 raised the flag, and children from the Tiger Tots Nurture Center sang the National Anthem.

Kohtz rang the 800-lb. bell to close the dedication ceremony. It will be used in the future for special occasions.

To learn how you can honor someone through a gift to Fort Hays State University, contact the FHSU Foundation at 785-628-5620 or [foundation@fhsu.edu](mailto:foundation@fhsu.edu). To learn more about the FHSU Foundation, visit <http://foundation.fhsu.edu>.



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## LAW SYMPOSIUM



In September, the College of Education received a gift from the M.A. McGhehey Education Trust, disbursed by the Kansas Association of School Boards, for the purpose of providing information and instruction on Education Law. The funds were used to defray expenses for the College of Education and the AEP Department to host a Law Symposium. Approximately 140 individuals attended the symposium. PreK-12 educators from the western third of Kansas, FHSU students, and FHSU faculty attended. The two main topics of the symposium were centered on teacher contracts and Internet issues, including bullying and cyber-bullying. The symposium was very successful;

prompting the College of Education and the AEP Department to commit to hosting a similar event during the 2017-2018 academic year. Anyone interested in having the next symposium named after them should contact Dr. Paul Adams, Dr. Jim Barrett or the FHSU Foundation.

## ADVANCED EDUCATION PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT

[The Advanced Education Programs Department \(AEP\)](#) continues to experience significant growth. There were 1341 students taking AEP classes at the end of the 2016 spring semester. At the end of the 2107 spring semester, there were 1548 students taking AEP classes, an increase of 208 students. As a department we believe there are three key components of quality instruction: rigor, relevance and relationships. Our emphasis on these three components coupled with our online programs make FHSU attractive to individuals seeking the opportunity to further their education without putting their current careers on hold.

The AEP Department provides graduate level programs for specialized licenses and endorsements to educators and professionals in Kansas, across the United States, and in some foreign countries. While most of the programs focus on PreK-12 Education, programs are also offered for individuals in higher education institutions and professionals seeking to enhance their educational-related skills.

AEP offers the following programs:

Building Level Administration (Building Principal)

District Level Administration (Education Specialist in Education Administration) (Superintendent)

Education Specialist in Education Leadership

School Counseling

Clinical Mental Health Counseling

High Incidence Special Education

Gifted Special Education

Higher Education Student Affairs

Library Media Specialist

Reading Specialist

English to Speakers of Other Languages

Instructional Technology

Alternative Licensure (Transition to Teaching)

JROTC Instructor Prep

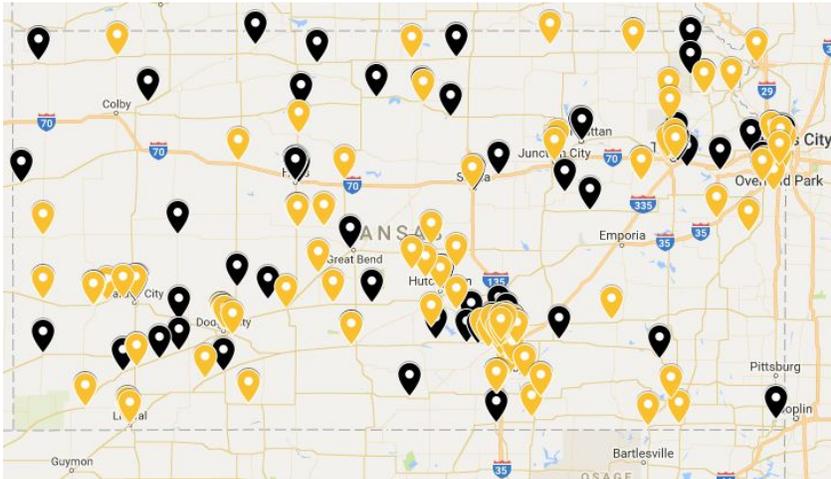
Please feel free to contact Dr. Jim Barrett, Chair of the Advanced Education Programs Department should you have any questions regarding this information. [jbarrett@fhsu.edu](mailto:jbarrett@fhsu.edu), 785-628-4413.



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## ALTERNATIVE LICENSURE (T2T) PROGRAM



Recent news stories in Kansas have highlighted low pay for teachers, (especially in rural school districts), a lack of applicants for open positions, and information about Alternative License Programs. Fort Hays State University has one of the premiere Alternative License Programs in Kansas. It started in the 2003-2004 year with 4 participants and has grown to a projected fall entering class of 115. The Alternative License

Program at FHSU is a two year, 24 hour program that is provided primarily online. Participants come to campus to participate in a four day induction class designed to prepare them for their first days of teaching. All other course work is provided online. Our participants are located all across the state in large and small school districts. The map shows the placement of first and second year T2T candidates for the 2016-17 school year.

Program participants are individuals who have a minimum of a bachelor's degree with enough hours in a specific content area to qualify for a restricted teaching license. Many have multiple years of experience outside education working in a field in their content area. Others will have coaching and/or substitute teaching experience. Some will have completed a master's degree or higher. The FHSU program participants teach in Kansas middle, and high schools. Participants who teach Art, Music and PE may qualify to teach in PreK-12 schools.

Alternative License Program participants are employed as full time teachers with a restricted teaching license issued by the Kansas State Department of Education while they are also taking the FHSU classes. The courses are designed to provide program participants the skills necessary to become effective teachers, implement those skills in the classrooms in their schools, and reflect on the effectiveness of their implementation. Upon completion of the program, participants are issued their initial teaching license. Recent studies have shown that teachers licensed through an alternative route are as successful as teachers licensed through a traditional route.

Many of the teachers in the FHSU program have earned distinctions and honors in their district and in the state: Justin Coffey, a Dodge City High School Math Teacher, was named the 2015 Kansas Teacher of the Year.

## TEACHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Teacher Education (TE) Department at FHSU continues to prepare quality teachers through on-campus and virtual programs, which has enabled the department to reach students within the state of Kansas and throughout the country. At the end of the spring 2017 semester, the TE Department had a total enrollment of 896 students, which included a virtual enrollment of 729.



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“Momentum” is a word that adequately describes the TE department over the past academic year. As a response to the teacher shortages throughout the state of Kansas, the department developed the [Para Pathway Program](#) that allows para-professionals working in K-6 classrooms to pursue their teaching degree online while maintaining their employment. These students take specially designed classes that utilize their time in the field. Currently, 90 students have been accepted into the Para Pathway Program. Starting in the spring of 2018, these students will be given the opportunity to participate in an innovative two-semester student teaching experience.

Both virtual and Para Pathway students were supported through the InPLACE Scholarship, led by Dr. Teresa Woods, which was established through a Kansas Board of Regents grant to help support FHSU Elementary Education students committed to teaching in under-served Kansas districts. The project received \$81,146 from KBOR through its competitive Kansas Teacher Education Grant Program for the 2017-18 year. In its first year, 21 InPLACE scholarships were awarded with 33 applications under consideration for the fall 2017 semester.

The TE Department also continued to address the needs of future students by establishing an Advertising and Recruiting committee. Faculty supported this initiative by attending Student Recognition Programs in Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska, which recognized new and/or transfer students who will be a part of Tiger Teacher Nation in the fall of 2017.

[The Teacher Education Department](#) is housed in the College of Education and provides undergraduate programs for students preparing to be educators in Kansas and across the nation in the following areas:  
Elementary Education (K-6)  
Secondary Education (7-12)  
Early Childhood Unified (Birth to Grade 3)  
Special Education (K-12)



Please feel free to contact Dr. Chris Jochum, Chair of the Teacher Education Department at [cjochum@fhsu.edu](mailto:cjochum@fhsu.edu) or 785-628-4204.

## OFFICE OF FIELD EXPERIENCES AND LICENSURE

The Office of Professional Services has recently changed their name to the Office of Field Experiences and Licensure. This change allows for ease of communication for all stakeholders, and more accurately describes the work being done for the College of Education. The office is commonly referred to as the “Place Where the Placements Take Place”.

Strong partnerships are vital to candidates at both the internship/early field level and those who are student teaching. For this reason, communication and collaboration with stakeholders is at the forefront of discussion and analysis for the entire college. What makes FHSU so unique is that we have partnerships throughout the entire state of Kansas, well over one hundred districts, and candidates throughout the entire nation. With each new placement, a partnership is created and FHSU maintains those strong partnerships to help direct our candidates to available teaching positions.

The Office of Field Experiences and Licensure hosted a Field Experiences Retreat on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 13th and 14th, 2017. A team of five teachers, two K-12 administrators, two university supervisors and five faculty and staff from FHSU, came together to critically review data and the process



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involved in facilitating the student teaching semester. The team created a new assessment tool for university supervisors to evaluate cooperating teachers, and the complement to that instrument which allows a cooperating teacher to evaluate the university supervisor. The findings and recommendations will be implemented in the fall.



Please feel free to contact Shawn Henderson, Director of Field Experiences at [sjhenderson@fhsu.edu](mailto:sjhenderson@fhsu.edu) or 785-628-5902.

## BOOK DISTRIBUTION PROJECT

Fourteen FHSU athletes and faculty assembled on the lawn of the former Washington Elementary School with new books spread across the tops of five long tables. Thursday, June 8, marked the kickoff of the annual Midtown Children's Book Distribution Project, sponsored by the Fort Hays State University student-athletes and the College of Education.

"Often, it is the students who can least afford to lose the reading gains they have achieved during the school year who fall the farthest behind during the summer break. Lack of access to reading materials is the key factor for students who have English as their second language or who come from low-income families," said Dr. Valerie Zelenka, assistant professor of teacher education, and leader of the project.



This project was the result of multiple brainstorming sessions between Dr. Valerie Zelenka, former FHSU football player Isaiah Maxi, and Mr. Allen Park, retired USD 489 school principal. "To respond to the lack of access to reading materials, we will distribute free books to children throughout the summer. This project, made possible by a community service grant from Midwest Energy and the Kansas Health Foundation, allows children to take home free books," said Zelenka.

The FHSU athletes helped kids pick out a book, then spread out on the lawn and sidewalks to toss footballs, practice putting golf balls, dribbling basketballs, and reading books. Children also had the opportunity to have the athletes autograph their books.

The South Main Street Distribution Project will continue to pass out books during the summer and into the early fall. Last year, the program gave out more than \$5,000 worth of books, and organizers hope to surpass that amount this year.



Dr. Valerie Zelenka  
Assistant Professor, Program Coordinator  
Department of Teacher Education, Special Education



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## ADVANCEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION (AVID) THURSDAY VISIT



Members of the College of Teacher Education honors organization, advised by Sarah Broman, helped brighten the day of some grade school children in North Carolina this past spring. The Kappa Delta Pi, Alpha Alpha Epsilon FHSU chapter eagerly supported the AVID Thursday program, a college preparatory program for low-income and underachieving students, at Queens Creek Elementary School in Swansboro, North Carolina. Kappa Delta Pi members purchased and sent approximately 25 Tiger t-shirts to the first graders in Ms. Kelley's class. Every Thursday during the school year, each student in Ms. Kelley's classroom was an honorary Fort Hays Tiger!

Sarah Broman, M.S.E.  
Ph.D. Candidate  
Reading Specialist



## COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP DAY

To further support future students, a Community College Partnership Day was held in March. Representatives from eight community colleges across the state of Kansas were in attendance to sign updated Memorandums of Understanding. These agreements are designed to help facilitate the transition from a two-year program to a four-year institution by agreeing to considerations such as course transferability. This day also gave Teacher Education faculty from FHSU and the community colleges an opportunity to network and discuss future joint initiatives.



## NEW SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The TE Department was very fortunate and appreciative over the past year to receive donations and foundation support. In the fall, the department received the Lynne Albers Young Readers Conference Fund, which is an endowment of \$100,000 that will support future conferences. In the spring, TE received the Lorna and Wilmer Kellogg Elementary Teacher Scholarship Fund, which is part of a \$1 million endowment, shared among education, business and athletics.



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Additionally, due to the number of examinations required to gain teacher licensure, which is close to \$400, donations to the Teacher Education general scholarship fund made it possible for 190 student teachers to be eligible to receive a \$60 stipend in the spring of 2017 to offset the cost of the Kansas Performance Teaching Portfolio (KPTP), which is a requirement for teacher licensure in Kansas. To support future FHSU student teachers, the TE Department established the Teacher Certification Scholarship Fund with the FHSU Foundation, which will continue to assist students with licensure examination fees. All full-time TE faculty contributed to this fund through payroll deductions.

## FHSU MIXES LEARNING WITH FUN AT SMEI CAMPS

06/20/17

By Randy Gonzales

University Relations and Marketing

HAYS, Kan. -- Whether they realize it or not, the young participants have been learning something while having fun at Fort Hays State University's Science and Mathematics Education Institute's summer camps this month.

The FHSU students who have been teaching the SMEI campers are learning something, too -- if they want to choose a career path as a teacher, specifically in math or science.

For the fourth year, undergraduate students serving as Noyce Scholars, funded through a National Science Foundation grant, instructed the children, ranging from second-graders to eighth-graders, in four-day camps on the FHSU campus. The six Fort Hays State students received hands-on experience in the classroom, while their young students received hands-on learning about science and math.

"I love it so much, more than I thought I would," said Jenna Klein, a Noyce Scholar from Abilene, who will be a junior this fall. "These kids are so sweet and so excited to learn about science. They're really interested and have fun learning. It's really fun to teach them when they're excited about it."

Dr. Paul Adams, dean of the College of Education, said the purpose of the SMEI summer camps was twofold. He is trying to recruit future science and math teachers, and he also wants to provide science and math experiences for school children.

"We have a good program to prepare science and math teachers. State wide, we have a shortage. We're trying to get people early and interested in it," Adams said. "One of the things I wanted to do, I needed to provide (science, math and technology) experiences for kids. Kids will make their career decisions by middle school. That's part of what these camps are about, get them interested in doing it." SMEI has four camps in June. The first one this summer was a new one, involving the science behind magic tricks. At the end of the week there was a magic show for parents. Last week's camp was dedicated to learning about engineering and physics. This week, there are two camps. One is devoted to the engineering design process, nanotechnology and rockets, while the other is a new one for middle school girls, where among the things they will learn is composting, beekeeping and planting in flower pots. The final camp week is dedicated to robots, with experiments and challenges.

"Each project required the children to use the scientific method," said Dr. Valerie Zelenka, assistant professor of teacher education, who is involved in the planning and supervision of the camps. "In small groups, they made initial observations, came up with a question or questions based on their observations, developed a hypothesis or prediction, conducted their experiment, recorded the results and drew conclusions, and shared and discussed their findings with the whole group."

The six FHSU students who are Noyce Scholars are involved for six weeks. They are trained for teaching in a classroom setting for a week, then are with the children for four weeks. The final week,



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they work on a project together as a group.

Another of the Noyce Scholars is Breanna Meier, a junior-to-be this fall from Lincoln who is majoring in biology and secondary education. She wants to teach math and science in middle school and high school in a small school district in Kansas.

“It’s been fun,” she said. “I’ve had several friends go through the program in the past, and they always talk about how much they loved it and how they learned more about the age group they want to teach.”

One morning last week, Klein and Meier taught the kids about the science behind hula hoops. The young students learned about things such as torque, mass, weight, gravity, diameter and circumference using different-sized hula hoops with different amounts of sand in them. At the end of the session the children had a hula hoop contest to see who was best at gyrating the hoop around his or her body.

“They learn so much about science and math,” Meier said. “It’s really hands-on. They get to do experiments. We ask them a lot of questions, provoking thought. They think about it that way, instead of being lectured to. It’s more open discussion.”

And it’s fun, said Benjamin Dome, an 11-year-old from Hays who will be attending Victoria Middle School in the fall.

“They teach you really cool stuff,” he said. “You get to do really fun stuff.”

Adams said a program like the summer SMEI camps is important for FHSU and the community.

“It says what we are,” Adams said. “It shows our commitment, not just to being here, but being engaged with the community. It shows our commitment to the community and also our commitment to the state of Kansas.”

“If we can capture interest at this age, then we look at long-term workforce development. This is where we’ve got to start,” Adams added. “This is a great opportunity for us to both work with the community and have our students engaged.”

Meier said the SMEI camp, along with the several other camps FHSU hosts during the summer, provide both learning and a sense of community.

“They have a lot of camps; I think it’s awesome,” she said. “It brings kids on campus. I hope they’re going to be future Tigers one day.”

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Dr. Paul Adams, Dean of the College of Education, received the 2017 National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Faraday Award during its national conference held in Los Angeles, CA. Dr. Adams was also elected to the Board of Directors for NSTA. A few members of the College of Education made us proud by receiving much deserved special recognition by the college. Elliot Isom was awarded the Outstanding Scholarly Activity Award, Susan Becking received the Outstanding Service Award, Janet Stramel received the Outstanding Teacher Award, and Amie Wright was honored with receiving the Outstanding Administrative Professional Award. Congratulations to all of the hard working recipients.



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