We are excited to announce that in December of 2021 the Docking Institute moved to a new custom-designed operations suite on the first floor of FHSU’s newly remodeled Rarick Hall! The suite design facilitates the ongoing work of the Institute in its call, data entry, and print survey processing center, and enhances the constant, ongoing team-based interactions between professional research staff, student research staff, and policy fellows necessary to meet client needs. In the first half of 2021, we welcomed a new administrative specialist to the Docking Institute, Marisa M. Johnson – a return of sorts as Marisa was the Institute’s graduate student assistant while completing her MBA degree. With the start of the Fall 2021 semester, we promoted student researcher Leslie Watson-Divittore to graduate research assistant. Leslie is pursuing her Master’s in Experimental Psychology. 

We at the Docking Institute enthusiastically embrace the interesting and challenging work to realize our mission of facilitating effective public policy-decision making among governmental and nonprofit entities. We invite you to review our list of annual activities in this report.

If you are visiting Hays, please stop by our offices in Rarick Hall 160 on the beautiful campus of Fort Hays State University. As always, if the Docking Institute can be of service, please do not hesitate to call.
SURVEY RESEARCH
Survey and Focus Group Research
The Docking Institute provides professional survey design, data gathering, and data analysis services. Docking Institute researchers confer with clients to select the most appropriate survey methodology based on the client's needs, goals, and budget. Available survey methods include telephone surveys (using a 10-station CATI system), mail surveys, and personal interviews and focus groups.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
TOPEKA, KANSAS
Online survey to measure current health plan benefits, priority features, satisfaction with options, and use of and attitudes toward optional wellness program among State employees/retirees

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 214
ULYSSES, KANSAS
Mail survey to measure voters' opinions about and levels of support for prospective bond initiatives

KANSAS SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER
TOPEKA, KANSAS
Financial impact and satisfaction assessment of small businesses served by Kansas SBDC, using an online survey

KANSAS SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER FOR NORTH DAKOTA SBDC
Online survey to measure cybersecurity knowledge and behaviors among North Dakota SBDC clients and business owners

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
Survey on attitudes, perceptions, and practices about writing in undergraduate courses

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, OFFICE OF PRIMARY CARE AND RURAL HEALTH
TOPEKA, KANSAS
Telephone, mail, and online surveys to collect workforce data from primary care, mental health, and dental practice sites

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
Hays area FHSU student work online survey

KANSAS MEDICAL SOCIETY (KMS)
TOPEKA, KANSAS
Online survey of adult Kansans on a broad set of healthcare perceptions/attitudes/self-reported behaviors

UNIVERSITY SUPPORT STAFF (USS) AND UNCLASSIFIED PROFESSIONAL STAFF
KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Online survey of Coalition of Kansas Board of Regents Universities (UPS) employed at six universities: Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University, and Wichita State University covering topics of satisfaction with work assignments, wages, benefits, and opportunities for advancement; changes in workload; holding or looking for second jobs; and additional work-related issues

INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (IEQ)
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
Faculty assessment of perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors regarding assessment of student learning using an online survey

KANSAS SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
Analysis of potential gaps in Retail Goods and Services for its 29-county service area, using mail and online surveys

KANSAS SPEAKS POLL
DOCKING INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
Online survey of citizens of Kansas to assess opinions and attitudes about public policy, public affairs issues, and elected representatives

KANSAS SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER
TOPEKA, KANSAS
Online survey to measure cybersecurity knowledge and behaviors among Kansas SBDC clients and business owners

PROGRAM EVALUATION
Program Evaluation
Conducting an assessment of program implementation and program outcomes is indispensable for agencies to make informed decisions about effectiveness of their programs. Government and nonprofit organizations often need tangible documentation of a program's effectiveness to receive or maintain funding.

KANSAS ACADEMY OF MATH AND SCIENCE (KAMS)
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
Formative evaluation, including an online survey of KAMS students and a focus group with students

KANSAS HEALTH FOUNDATION
WICHITA, KANSAS
Reflective assessment to provide a third-party review of three entities to support the Kansas Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Project

STATE LIBRARY OF KANSAS
TOPEKA, KANSAS
Evaluation Services for the Kansas State Library conducting site visits, focus groups and questionnaires

HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICES-COUNSELING (FORMERLY KELLY CENTER)
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
Third-party evaluation of the Health and Wellness Services-Counseling Suicide Prevention grant

DEPARTMENT OF ADVANCED EDUCATION PROGRAMS
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
Third-party evaluation using online surveys for the Discovery Research Perk-12/National Science Foundation project (SCOLP)

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, NOYCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP GRANT PROGRAM
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
Formative evaluation, including online surveying, interviews, and focus groups of participants as they pursue their science degrees and begin teaching in high need areas

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
Multi-survey data processing and analysis for the Arizona Judicial Performance Review Program

DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
Third-party evaluation using online surveys and interviews to assess the Cammex Program

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
Reflective assessment of a leadership development program for women of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Community

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Public Affairs | Grant Writing
Through public affairs programming, the Docking Institute provides critical resources for today’s public leaders to plan for a successful future.

KANSAS COUNTY TREASURER’S ASSOCIATION
Writing and certification services for KCTAs training program

KANSAS COUNTY TREASURER’S ASSOCIATION
Annual maintenance of online instruction of professional courses. Online course instruction related to the duties, responsibilities, and the operation of a county treasurer office

ARTS & MEMORIES MUSEUM
RILEY, KANSAS
Grants research and facilitation services for a building project

SMOKY HILLS PBS
BUNKER HILL, KANSAS
Moderating LIVE, call-in programs “The Kansas Legislature” featuring Kansas Senators and Representatives discussing state issues during the legislative session

LOCAL CANDIDATE DEBATES
Collaborated with FHSU Student Government Association, American Democracy Project, and Hays Chamber of Commerce to coordinate election year local candidate debates

ECONOMIC IMPACT
Economic Impact | Cost-Benefit | Feasibility Analysis
Policy assessment often requires an economic impact analysis of existing and proposed activities or programs. Government agencies and economic development organizations can use economic impact assessments to determine the total monetary benefit of their activities in a local or regional economy. Our researchers have analyzed the economic impact of many economic activities, service organizations, hospitals, correctional facilities, institutions of higher learning, business incubators, infrastructure upgrades, and other existing and potential programs and projects. Decision-makers often turn to cost-benefit analysis as a tool for understanding whether benefits of a program or project exceed the costs. The purpose of a CBA is to comprehensively identify and measure all relevant economic costs and benefits that accrue to a program. Feasibility analysis estimates the monetary benefit of a potential project and compares those benefits to cost criteria. This analysis provides a base for a projection of the cost-to-benefits scenario useful to funders and funders in determining whether to pursue a project.

LABOR STUDIES
Labor and Migration Studies
Based on government labor data alone, from considering relocation or expansion may often conclude incorrectly that there is not sufficient qualified labor to meet their needs. A labor study assesses the supply, availability, and skill level of a region. Additional labor studies determine the working status, education, training levels, willingness to commute, desired wages, and benefits of people looking for employment for the right opportunity.

STRATEGIC PLANNING
Strategic Planning
Visionary leadership begins with a plan that strategically prioritizes scarce community or organizational resources. The Docking Institute has worked with more than 60 entities, including state agencies, school districts, educational institutions, museums, communities, economic development organizations, and chambers of commerce to conduct strategic planning. The Docking Institute customizes the strategic planning process to meet each organization's requirements.

FRANKLIN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Ottawa, Kansas

NEX-TECH WIRELESS
Hays, Kansas

THE CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP (HANSEN HALL)
Fort Hays State University

SALINA AIRPORT AUTHORITY
SALINA, KANSAS
Assessing economic impact of Project Rise, a major retention/expansion project for Salina and the State of Kansas

SALINA AIRPORT AUTHORITY
SALINA, KANSAS
Economic impact analysis of Salina Regional Airport and Airport Industrial Center, using online and mail surveys

CITY OF HAYS
HAYS, KANSAS
Housing needs analysis

CITY OF SALINA
SALINA, KANSAS
Economic impact on Saline County related to two new housing projects in compliance with federal, state, and local regulations

SHAWNEE TOWN 1929
SHAWNEE, KANSAS
Economic impact analysis

PHILLIPS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PHILLIPSBURG, KANSAS
Housing needs analysis

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
TOPEKA, KANSAS
Economic impact analysis of STAR Bond projects