

LEADERSHIP NEWS



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Hello! Thank you for taking some time to read through updates from Leadership Programs at Fort Hays State University. We appreciate your support of our students, programs, faculty and staff.

This has been an exciting year for our programs! We have recovered from the significant drop in enrollment we experienced during the pandemic, and our courses this semester are brimming with excited and energetic students. Leadership coursework and programs now have a robust presence within general education at FHSU. With this, we are reaching new audiences with transformative content that helps students make their organizations and communities better.

In the following pages, you'll be able to read about new programming, updates on our program and place, spotlights of students and stakeholders, and more. As always, we encourage you to visit our website and social media for up-to-date news, and to see some of the exciting work of our faculty and students.

Thanks so much for your support!

-Brett Whitaker, Ph.D., Chair, Leadership Programs



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

2023 Faculty Awards, Recognitions, and Publications: April

- Dr. Lori Kniffin participated in *The Leadership Educator* season 8, episode 12: “Exploring the ILA Leadership Scholarship Member Community”
- Dr. Kaley Klaus was elected Vice President for the Association of Leadership Educators, and was a finalist for the FHSU Pilot Award

May

- Dr. Lori Kniffin received the Spring 2023 Outstanding Research & Scholarly Activity Award.
- Dr. Seth Kastle was promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure.
- 1LT Hannah Byun was promoted to Captain in the Kansas Army National Guard.

June

- Dr. Justin Greenleaf, Dr. Lori Kniffin, Dr. Kaley Klaus, and Megan Rust published “Viewing Leadership Holistically: Using Mind Maps to Teach Leadership” in the *Journal of Leadership Education*.
- Dr. Donnette Noble and Dr. Jeni McRay wrote an open textbook chapter “Defining my Personal Values.”

Alumni Spotlight: Collette West



Collette West graduated from FHSU in 2018 with her B.S. in Organizational Leadership. After receiving her degree, Collette was inspired to continue her education at Hawaii Pacific University and received her M.A. in sustainability in 2022. While living in Hawaii, Collette researched culture-based education. She was led to this topic because she feels that there is a need for more interdisciplinary teaching in all educational settings.

After graduating, Collette moved to Utah where she currently works for the Wasatch Resource Recovery (WRR) as a logistics and account manager. WRR is a food waste anaerobic digestion facility that currently processes 550 tons of food waste each day, with room to grow. The facility produces renewable natural gas and bio fertilizer through processing many different types of food waste, such as food scraps, liquid waste, fats and oils, packaged drinks, and more. Collette’s main duties include managing accounts, scheduling food waste load deliveries, and educating the public about the climate benefits of diverting food waste from the landfill and how anaerobic digestion works. Along with this, Collette is an adjunct professor with Utah Valley University. There, she teaches Geography 2000: Sustainability and the Environment.

Collette has been able to use her leadership skills learned during her time at FHSU in many ways. WRR is a great example of a collaborative, institutional approach for changing our human systems. The company was created through a public-private partnership to benefit the community and the private sector. Along with this, Collette is fortunate enough to lead undergrad students through teaching about sustainability and natural resources. Collette enjoys being able to help create sustainable change in the next generation of leaders and her community.



HALO Leading the Way Project: Alumni Turned Community Partner



Over the years, LDRS 310: Field Work in Leadership Studies students have had opportunities to work with a variety of great community partners. This course includes collaborating to help solve community issues and problems while gaining real life experience practicing leadership behaviors. Alum, Dr. Lizette Avalos Morales, recently brought a wonderful and new experience opportunity to LDRS 310. Lizette graduated from Fort Hays State University with her B.S. in Organizational Leadership in 2016. Dr. Avalos Morales has been the sponsor of the Garden City Community College (GCCC) Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO), and Student Support Services (TRIO) Program advisor. Her job includes working with a variety of students and helping them in their education journey. Through the TRIO program, she has the opportunity to work with first-generation students, income-eligible students, and/or students with disabilities.

Korey Kogler, Maleah Yates, Camryn Frickey, and Mackenzie Romesburg were members of the Leading the Way Project with Lizette. The mission of the Leading the Way Project was to provide the HALO students of GCCC with leadership skills and techniques they can utilize within their community to inspire others. To execute this mission, the team collaborated to develop a conference for the HALO students at FHSU. This day included learning a baseline understanding of leadership skills and knowledge from some of the Leadership Programs faculty. Students were led in a variety of different leadership workshops including Leadership Culture, Leadership vs. Management, Social Change/Civic Leadership, Teamwork, and Conflict Management.

Impact By the Numbers Since 1997:

LDRS 310: Fieldwork in Leadership Studies Research by Megan Rust and Dr. Brett Whitaker



806 Projects
56 New community programs



36 States
12 Countries



More than \$600,000 in fundraising



More than 6 million reached in awareness campaigns

2023 Faculty Awards, Recognitions, and Publications:

June

- Dr. Seth Kastle was selected to the Stand-to-Veteran Leadership Program Class of 2023 through the George W. Bush Presidential Center.

July

- Dr. Lori Kniffin co-authored "Introduction to Research in Leadership".
- Dr. Lori Kniffin and Dr. Justin Greenleaf published an article in the *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*, "Hybrid Teaching and Learning in Higher Education: An Appreciative Inquiry."
- Dr. Kaley Klaus and Haley Moon published "Examining Dark Personality Traits and Leader-Member Relationships" in the *Open Access Journal of Addiction and Psychology*.

September

- Lori Kniffin and her colleagues across the U.S. published "The Transformational Relationship Evaluation Scale II (TRES II) Reflection Framework". This is a critical reflection tool to examine and deepen community-campus relationships, and is free and publicly available.



Student Spotlight: Washburn Leadership Challenge Team

The Leadership Challenge Event (LCE) is a two-day event hosted by the Washburn University Leadership Institute. At this event, high school and college students work in teams to respond to a simulation of a leadership environment. This year, our students were tasked with writing a community grant. The beginning of the event primarily focuses on professional development and the second day focuses on the leadership simulation. The goal of LCE is to give participants the critical and practical experience needed to grow their skills in leadership. They award and celebrate teams who can demonstrate intelligence, communication, and collaboration.

“The students who participate in this simulation always comment on how “real” the experience feels.”
-Dr. Lori Kniffin, faculty leader of the FHSU team

OUR TEAM'S BIGGEST TAKEAWAYS FROM THE EVENT:

- Asking questions and accepting the support of others
- The benefit of doing the prerequisite work of establishing team roles based on strengths and weaknesses
- How to apply leadership concepts and skills outside of the classroom
- Gaining hands-on experiences
- Time management

The event occurred in early March of 2023. This year, Leadership Programs sent a team of five students to the LCE: Diana Angarita Santos, Kourtney Davidson, Slater Y. Heglin, Laike Imm, and Tarah Stockebrand. Aside from their regular Leadership Programs courses, student participants do little to no prior preparation for the event. Before attending, the team discussed their strengths, weaknesses, shared goals, and what leadership situations they would feel the most confident in handling. Kourtney explained this discussion helped them communicate more efficiently during the heat of the competition. Our team's hard work paid off immensely, when they were awarded the Team Communication Award. All members of the team agree that they were able to obtain this award because of their exceptional communication skills and support for each other.



Faculty and Staff



Dr. Arthur Ma-Assistant Professor

Dr. Ma joined Leadership Programs in 2023, where he holds a position as a cross-border faculty member at Shenyang Normal University (SNU). His academic pursuits predominantly lie in global leadership, cultural intelligence, and trust dynamics.



Mr. Christopher Adams-Instructor

Mr. Adams joined Leadership Programs in March of 2023. Christopher is a cross-border faculty member teaching in China. He has extensive real-world experience through work as a manager with Wyndham Vacation Ownership and IHG Hotels.



Ms. Mackenzie Romesburg-GTA

Mackenzie Romesburg is from small town Lincoln, KS. She graduated from Barton County Community College in May 2020 with an associate's degree and in May 2023 graduated from Fort Hays State University with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. In Fall of 2023 she began her master's in School Psychology.



Mr. Cole Berry-GTA

Cole Berry is from Topeka, KS. He graduated from Fort Hays State University in May of 2023 with a bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership. In the Fall of 2023, Cole began his MPS in Organizational Leadership at Fort Hays State University.

To learn more about our faculty and staff, visit our website: <https://www.fhsu.edu/leadership/faculty-and-staff/>

School and Program Name

During the summer and fall of 2022, FHSU went through a restructuring process within the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. The objectives of this process were to better position and align the college in order to capitalize on interdisciplinary teaching and scholarly opportunities, as well as to structure the programs in a more efficient manner.

As part of this larger effort, Leadership Programs (formerly the Department of Leadership Studies) has a new name and academic unit! Our program is now within the School of Criminal Justice, Leadership, and Sociology. While all of our academic programs have remained the same, we are joining with two innovative disciplinary areas in this new school design, and we are excited to see what new and innovative programming opportunities emerge from this structure.



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

MS in Global Strategic Leadership

Among new offerings, Leadership Programs is particularly excited for a new masters program that will be launching in the fall of 2024.

The Master of Science in Global Strategic Leadership (GSL) is an online degree program that seeks to aid established professionals in varying fields navigate a world of grand challenges and wicked problems through a transdisciplinary lens. This degree is aimed at providing mid-career professionals with practical leadership skills needed to solve complex, interconnected problems within their organization and beyond. This program represents a new offering that is entirely unique from existing curriculum at FHSU and across the system. This program is beginning with two concentration areas (Leadership in Health Administration and Information Technology Policy Administration), with the objective of developing in-demand leadership skills to those within our program, to enhance the current workforce, and create more globally aware citizens.

This program was approved through the Kansas Board of Regents and the Higher Learning Commission, FHSU's accrediting body, during the summer of 2023. It will formally launch next fall with the first group of students admitted to study in one of the two concentration areas.









Scholarship Recipients for Fall 2023

Leadership Programs Scholarship (\$350)

- Yessenia Baquera-Delgado...online student (Salina, KS)
- Hunter Cleckner...online student (Gardner, KS)
- Seth Dewey...online student (Hutchinson, KS)

Curt & Christie Brungardt Endowed Scholarship (\$350)

- Jessica Pleasant...online student (Larned, KS)
- Lauren Franks...on-campus new freshman (Russell, KS)

Lynne Albers Leadership Scholarship (\$1500)

- Tarah Stockebrand...on-campus (Savonburg, KS)
- Mary Tapia...online student (Lansing, KS)



Scholarships are only available due to the generous philanthropic support of so many of our alumni, supporters, and friends. If you feel called to invest in students through scholarship contributions, we would be so grateful for any degree of support. To donate, you may visit foundation.fhsu.edu and choose to “make a gift” directed to any of the scholarships listed above. If you have any questions about giving, or wish to support students in other ways, please feel free to contact our department directly. Thank you.

LET US KNOW ABOUT THE UPDATES IN YOUR LIFE!

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Alumni, please visit:

www.fhsu.edu/leadership/graduates

OR follow this QR code



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