

Affiliation Implementation Team

Updates

October 2025

AIT 1 (Nursing/Allied Health)

Chair: Jeff Briggs, FHSU

Affiliate Members: Jenny Manry, FHSU; Angela Murray, FH TECH | NC; Angela Kershner, FH TECH | NW; Sherri Stone, FH TECH | NC, Steve Sedbrook, Chair, Department of Health and Human Performance; Anita Walters, Assistant Professor, Department of Health and Human Performance
Steering Committee liaison: Jennifer Brown

- Hosted 2nd Annual Employer Spotlight Event, involving 23 regional healthcare employers and over 200 nursing students from FHSU, Fort Hays Tech | NC (Hays and Beloit) on September 22, 2025.
- Developing a curriculum map for Respiratory Care program at Fort Hays Tech | NC for transfer into BS in Health Studies program at FHSU.
- Reviewing opportunities for new programs, certificates, micro-credentials, apprenticeships in allied health professions.
- In conversations with High Plains Mental Health Center and Larned State Hospital for career opportunity pathways/enhancements that involve nursing, psychology, social work, and counseling.
- Nursing programs have aligned admission processes and timelines for admission to nursing programs at FHSU and Fort Hays Tech | NC (Beloit and Hays).

AIT 2 (Agriculture)

Chair: Anthony Long, FH TECH | NC

Affiliate Members: Iryna McDonald, FHSU; Sophie Ano, FHSU; Sravanthi Bachina, FH TECH | NW; Travis Fiedler, FH TECH | NW
Steering Committee liaisons: Jill Arensdorf, FHSU; Jennifer Brown, FH TECH | NC

- AIT will be meeting in October to begin its work for the year.

AIT 3 (Construction/Applied Tech)

Chair: Michael Zimmerman, FH TECH | NW

Vice-Chair: Kim Stewart, FHSU

Affiliate Members: Joseph Dobbs, FHT | NW; Logan Dobbs, FH TECH | NW, Mark Jones, FH TECH | NC; Eric Denault, FHSU

Steering Committee liaisons: Jill Arensdorf, FHSU; Jennifer Brown, FH TECH | NC

- Finalizing pathway documentation for tech college students transferring to FHSU.
- Beginning to plan out possible short courses that could be shared across institutions. Examples include FH TECH | NW teaching FHSU students the use of surveying equipment, FH TECH | NC teaching FHSU students the use of heavy equipment, FHSU teaching FH TECH | NW students about robotics.

AIT 4 (Business)

Chair: Stacey Smith, FHSU

Vice-Chair: Kelly Nixon, FH TECH | NW

Affiliate members: Jennifer VonLintel, FH TECH | NC, Jennifer Younger, FH TECH | NC

Steering Committee liaisons: Jill Arensdorf, FHSU

- Completing articulation and review of program pathways from the technical colleges to FHSU.
- Building on the initial discussion last year of experiential learning opportunities at the three affiliates.

AIT 5 (IT/Informatics)

Chair: Jon Tholstrup, FHSU

Vice Chair: Jeremy Skrdlant, FH TECH | NW

Affiliate members: Kevin Shaffer, FHSU; Ravindra

Muvva, FHSU; Xavier Bouray, FH TECH | NC

Steering Committee liaison: Jennifer Brown

- Completed course pathway mappings that are currently undergoing review at FHSU.
- In conjunction with FHSU's Department of Informatics, hosting an Open House & Employer Spotlight Event on Nov. 10, 2025.
- Started discussing potential experiential learning activities intended to connect the classroom with real-world experiences.

AIT 6 (Secondary Partnerships)

Chair: Kyle Stacken, FHSU

Vice-Chair: Kayla Luera, FH TECH | NW

Affiliate members: Brad Bergsma, FH TECH | NW;

Jessica Acton, FH TECH | NC

Steering Committee liaison: Jennifer Brown

- With the assistance of Jeremy Skrdlant of FH TECH | NW, creating a searchable database of concurrent and dual enrollment courses (including CTE classes) available for high school students accessible on each institutional website.

AIT 7 (General Education) This AIT is currently on hiatus

Affiliate members: Angela Pool-Funai, FHSU; Brad Will, FHSU; Sylvia Shores, FH TECH | NW; Trista Zimmerman, FH TECH | NW



AIT 8 (Student Success)

Chair: Jayme Owen, FH TECH | NC

Vice-Chair: Kathleen Cook, FHSU

Affiliate members: Edie McCracken, FHSU;

Jacque Thompson, FH TECH | NW; Jason

Showalter, FH TECH | NW; Mary Bess, FH TECH |

NW; Shane Britt, FH TECH | NC; Brett Meyer,

FHSU Steering Committee liaisons: Jill

Arendsdorf, FHSU; Jennifer Brown, FH TECH | NC

- Working with AIT 12 to facilitate access for technical college students and staff to remote library resources.
- Ongoing planning of shared events, including the affiliation football game on Oct 11th (and tailgate event with activities, food, and shirt giveaway).
- Working to connect the student governments of the three affiliates.
- Reviewing data tracking processes to improve student engagement.
- Studying opportunities for shared telehealth and early alert systems.

AIT 9 (Recruitment/Marketing)

Co-Chairs: Dennis King, FHSU; Tricia Cline, FH

TECH | NC; Jason Showalter, FH TECH | NW

Affiliate members: Jon Armstrong, FHSU; Kelsi

Broadway, FHSU; Kristin Herl, FHSU; Scott

Cason, FHSU; Jordan Edwards, FH TECH | NW;

Kayla Luera, FH TECH | NW, Mandy Garrett, FH

TECH | NW, Ryan Emerson, FHSU

Steering Committee liaison: Diana Baumann

- Continued collaboration to design and market affiliation opportunities. (If you have ideas or needs, please contact someone from the AIT.)
- Sponsorship of the Hays High and Great Bend football game on October 17th. Staff will attend to promote the affiliation through materials and swag, highlighting all of the opportunities the affiliation brings.
- Support of the design and content of ForgeKansas.com, the affiliation website focused on regional business and industry.

AIT 10 (Registrars)

Chair: Craig Karlin, FHSU

Vice-Chair: Darsey Offutt, FH TECH | NC

Affiliate members: Sylvia Shores, FH TECH | NW

Steering Committee liaison: Joey Linn, FHSU

- Registrars are working with their technical teams and AIT-17 to gather registrants at FHTNW and FHTNC and create records in Workday at FHSU
- The flow of transcripts across the National Student Clearinghouse network remains steady and convenient for students and families, with strategies for affiliate coverage of NSC's \$2.90 charge under discussion.

AIT 12 (IT Study Group)

Co-chairs: Mark Griffin, FHSU; Brad Bergsma, FH TECH | NW; Michael Draemel, FH TECH | NC

Affiliate Members: Doug Storer, FHSU; Derek Johnson, FHSU

Steering Committee liaisons: Diana Baumann, FH TECH | NC; Sherri Knitig, FH TECH | NW

- Collaboration on the recently completed domain migration for both technical colleges
- Collaboration on the use of Blackboard LMS at the technical colleges. FH TECH | NC is using Blackboard currently; FH TECH | NW expects to be fully live this spring.
- Finalizing the loading of students from the technical colleges into the FHSU Workday system, which will give them access to FHSU online library resources and allow them to get tickets to FHSU athletic events.

AIT 15 (Student Accounts)

Chair: Dane Lonnon, FHSU

Vice-Chair: Chantelle Arnold, FHSU

Affiliate members: Angela Delzeit, FHSU; Alaina Smith, FH TECH | NW; Emma Carlin, FH TECH | NC, Lia Bergmann, FH TECH | NC; Penny

Nemecheck, FH TECH | NW

Steering Committee liaison: Joey Linn, FHSU

- Shared and compared the three affiliates' student Financial Responsibility Agreements in order to confirm alignment and consistency moving forward.
- FHSU defers first due date & late fee of each semester for FH TECH | NC (Hays) Gateway students living in FHSU housing, allowing them time to receive their financial aid disbursements from tech schools before paying residential life charges due at FHSU.
- FH TECH | NC & FH TECH | NW updated official school names with federal programs to ensure students can now distinguish and choose the appropriate school for FAFSA submission, entrance counseling, and exit counseling.
- Currently working on affiliation FAQ's relating to Student Financials and Financial Aid to present on our respective websites in the near future.

AIT 17 (Institutional Research)

Chair: Shelly Gasper, FHSU

Affiliate members: Darsey Offutt, FH TECH | NC; Sherri Knitig, FH TECH | NW; Jennifer Brown, FH TECH | NC

Steering Committee liaison: Diana Baumann, FH TECH | NC

- Starting the data collection on affiliate students from each institution's fall census as part of an ongoing reporting process to measure the student use of the affiliation and movement among institutions.

