

Strategic Affiliation Monthly Newsletter

January 2026

FHSU Affiliation Partners report on progress and look ahead during semiannual summit

Strategic Affiliation leaders from FHSU, Fort Hays Tech | North Central, and Fort Hays Tech | Northwest gathered in Goodland on January 8 for a semiannual summit that focused on reviewing the significant progress

made in implementing an innovative higher education partnership that is already making a difference for the people, businesses, and communities of rural Kansas. Affiliation Implementation Team (AIT) leaders representing all three institutions provided updates to the assembled group. Highlights of those reports include:

- Establishing streamlined academic pathways between the three partnering institutions.
- A significant expansion in the number of on-campus career and job fairs at FHSU that provided students from all three Fort Hays schools with direct access to employers. The September applied technology career fair attracted 65 businesses and 236 students from all three Fort Hays campuses. Two other fall career fair events also proved very successful. The fall nursing career fair at FHSU drew 25 employers and more than 200 students from Fort Hays Tech | North Central, and an informatics career fair was attended by 70 students, including regional high school students.

- Expanding dual enrollment and joint enrollment opportunities for students, the implementation of a completely free transcript exchange among the three partnering institutions, and the launch of a new online tool that will allow students to explore online all the concurrent enrollment classes available to them.
- Engaging with healthcare workforce development leaders in Kansas workforce summits across the state.

Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting Hansen Construction Career Center Thursday, Feb. 5 at 2 p.m. Fort Hays Tech North Central Campus



Speakers will include: David Toland, Kansas Lt. Governor, Bob Becker, Tisa Mason, Doug Albin, Eric Burks, Gary Shorman, and others. A ribbon cutting with Hays Chamber and tours of the building will follow the ceremony.

Affiliation students share their transfer experiences

A highlight of the Goodland Affiliation Summit was a panel discussion featuring students who began their education at a technical college and transferred to FHSU.

Recent FHSU graduate Nolan Bailey from Kansas City and current FHSU senior Creed Leeper from Coldwater both credited the close coordination between the applied technology faculty at Fort Hays Tech | North Central and FHSU with encouraging and supporting their transition from the tech college. Nolan told the assembly that he was proud to have completed his undergraduate experience free from student loan debt.

Former Fort Hays Tech | Northwest students Ella Wolfe and Sydney Schears transferred to FHSU this fall to continue their academic careers via the applied technology pathway between the two institutions. Sydney still lives in Goodland and is currently enrolled as an FHSU Online student.

Ella is on campus and has just finished her first semester. Sydney noted that all of the courses she completed at Northwest transferred to FHSU, expediting her path to a degree.

Ella shared that, while she initially had no intention of continuing her education beyond earning her associate's degree, a slight push from her family and several conversations with instructors at FHSU and Northwest persuaded her that continuing her education would expand her future earning potential and career options.



Ella Wolfe (pictured above) and Brandon Nunez (pictured below) prepare materials for a December community project during their Materials, Processes and Production class on the FHSU campus.

