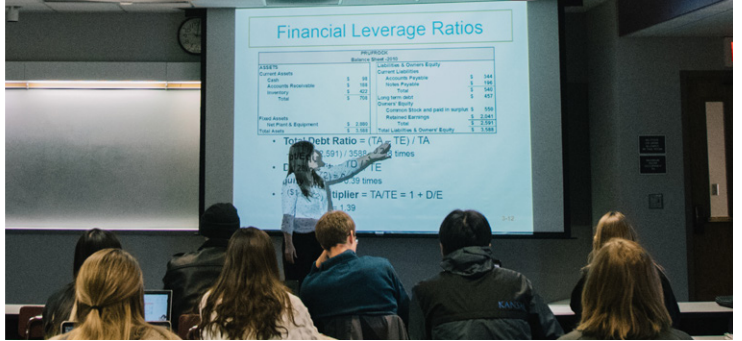




# FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY



## First class of BSNs to graduate with DNP degrees

According to data provided by the Health Resources and Services Administration, nearly 80 million Americans live in areas where there are more than 3,500 patients for a single primary care provider. This shortfall means access to prevention, screening, immunizations and basic care for illness may be unavailable.

Fort Hays State University is doing its part to address this critical shortfall in western Kansas with the Doctor of Nursing Practice program. The program has points of entry for students who hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and for those who hold a Master of Science in Nursing as advanced practice nurse practitioners. The first class of MSN to DNP students graduated in 2018. This year, FHSU will see the first BSN-DNP cohort of 12 students graduate with eight MSN to DNP students.

DNP candidate Cathryn Preisner, Hays, will graduate this spring as a member of this first cohort. She grew up in a household with a cardiologist father and a mother who is a registered nurse, but Cathryn wasn't sure about what path her career would take. She began serving as a certified nursing administrator during her first semester at Fort Hays State, and that helped her decide to continue the family tradition.

"One thing I learned from my dad was his incredible bedside manner," she said. "That's something I've taken from him and tried to apply in my practice." Not surprisingly, Preisner chose to focus on heart failure in a rural cardiology clinic as her final scholarly project.

After graduating this spring, Preisner hopes to pursue a post-doctoral fellowship through the KU School of Nursing or go straight to work in western Kansas as a nurse practitioner.



## New dean named for Robbins College of Business

Dr. Muhammad R.K. Chishty, a faculty member in the Graham School of Management at Saint Xavier University, Chicago, will be the new dean of the W.R. and Yvonne Robbins College of Business

and Entrepreneurship at Fort Hays State University.

"He is a skilled administrator and leader, bringing with him vast experience in curriculum development, industry partnerships, and connecting people in a collective vision to serve students," said Dr. Jill Arensdorf, provost and vice president for academic affairs, in her announcement of Chishty's selection.

Chishty earned a B.A. in political science in 1984 from Williams College in Williamstown, Mass. He went on to earn a M.S. in finance and a Ph.D. in business administration with a concentration in finance, both from Georgia State University in Atlanta.

He then became an assistant professor of finance at Western Illinois University in Macomb, before joining Saint Xavier University. His research papers on investments and corporate finance have been published in the Journal of Business Finance & Accounting, Midwest Review of Finance and Insurance, Journal of Contemporary Issues and Business, and Managerial Finance.

"I want the college to cement its position as a premier business school and the first choice for students in Kansas who seek an excellent and affordable education," said Chishty.

## Dr. Terry named to advisory group on juvenile justice

Dr. April Terry, an assistant professor in Fort Hays State University's Department of Criminal Justice, will take up in June a position on the Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Her place on the committee gives Terry a voice in the governing and policy decisions in the state on issues of juvenile justice and delinquency.

"I know I will be at the table with local experts and hope that with combined knowledge, we can continue seeking alternatives to confining youth," she said.

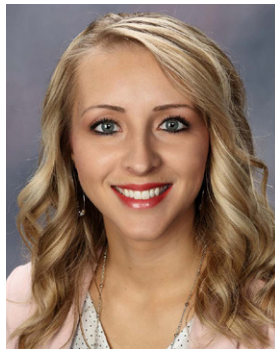
"Specifically, I am interested in the different pathways that lead girls into the juvenile justice system and hope to raise awareness of these differences."

Although the committee is geared to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, the committee members discuss other important issues in the state.

"At times, this committee oversees funding sources for implementing or changing existing programs and initiatives," she said. "As a group, we make recommendations on a variety of youth-related issues to the governor."

Terry's work at Fort Hays State will translate well in her new position with the advisory group.

"I am excited about the opportunity to work alongside other Kansans to help improve the lives of our local youth," said Terry.



## Stramel named to endowed professor's chair

Dr. Janet Stramel will fill the Edna Shutts Williams Endowed Chair in the College of Education at Fort Hays State University.

As the Shutts Williams endowed professor, she said, "My work will revolve around training elementary teachers with a focus on STEM education."

Education in the STEM subjects – science, technology, engineering and mathematics – has been a focus of Stramel's in her work for the 100Kin10 Project, a national initiative to "prepare and support 100,000 excellent STEM teachers in America's classrooms."

"Training for elementary teachers traditionally focuses on reading and literacy skills," said Stramel. "While reading is a critical skill at the elementary level, research shows that early mathematics and science skills are a greater predictor of future school success."

The Shutts Williams Chair in the College of Education was established in 2006 by Williams' daughter, Betty Akins. Williams attended a one-room school through eighth grade, graduated from Hays High School in 1918 and went on to graduate from Kansas State Teachers College, Hays, now Fort Hays State, in 1926.

Earnings from the Shutts Williams Chair fund provides funding for the endowed chair position, and additional funding for the honor is provided through the university's Faculty Distinction Program, with matching money from the State of Kansas.

## Did you know?

Since 2016, FHSU has used funds from KBOR's Teacher Education Competitive Grant Program to help teachers working in high-needs schools, especially para-professionals looking to become teachers.

**\$73,490** renewal grant from the Teacher Education Competitive Grant Program

**174** total scholarships were awarded from a total of \$155,526 in grant funds

**\$2,050** average award (with FHSU matching funds)



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