



# FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

APRIL  
**CAMPUS UPDATE**  
2021



## FHSU plans for spring commencement and in-person classes

Fort Hays State University plans to host both in-person and virtual spring commencement ceremonies this spring. Four in-person commencement celebrations will be held in Gross Memorial Coliseum, and they will be live-streamed and recorded for later viewing. Two virtual commencement programs will also be live-streamed and recorded.

FHSU President Tisa Mason also shared the university's intention to resume on-campus operations for the fall 2021 semester.

In an email to the campus community, Mason said, "Based on the positive movement we've seen over the past several months, I believe the time is right to share with you our decision to return, fall 2021, to full in-person classes and engaging campus life experiences that bring us together as a complete university community."

During the summer, university planners developed and implemented comprehensive health and safety protocols that allowed the university to open last fall with a robust schedule of on-campus, online and hybrid courses and modified on-campus residential and student life experiences.

She also thanked the campus community for the sacrifices made since the onset of the pandemic, stating, "Together we found a way to continue this university's essential work, and together we will return to campus this fall stronger than ever."

## Kansas Undergraduate Research Day

Fort Hays State University served as the sponsor for this year's virtual Kansas Undergraduate Research Day, which featured students from each Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) four-year public university – including four from Fort Hays State.

"Even though we were unable to gather in the Capitol rotunda as we have in the past, our decision to turn this into a virtual event allowed even more Kansans to see and hear how learning through research positively affects undergraduate students and strengthens the Kansas economy and workforce," said Leslie Paige, FHSU Office of Scholarship and Sponsored Projects.

Cristina Jimenez is a senior in the FHSU Criminal Justice Department and one of the FHSU students participating. Her research focused on criminal justice responses to domestic violence in rural areas.

"From my personal experience, I can truly say that becoming involved helped me grow as an academic and led me to gain various skills I believe will be crucial for my future career aspirations."

According to Jimenez, there is little research done on the topic. Her own research grew through her involvement with the Center for Empowering Victims of Gender-Based Violence, which serves as a resource for learning how to combat domestic violence.

Beyond its potential within the community, Jimenez's research comes with valuable personal experience, and she hopes that other students take opportunities to become similarly involved at FHSU.



## FHSU recognized as Military Friendly School

Fort Hays State University has been recognized for its investment in programs that improve the lives of veterans and military personnel, earning the

2021-22 Military Friendly School designation from [militaryfriendly.com](http://militaryfriendly.com).

The Military Friendly® program creates civilian opportunities for veterans and is the standard that measures an organization's commitment, effort and success in creating sustainable and meaningful opportunities for the military community.

The 2021- 2022 Military Friendly® Schools list will be published in the May issue of G.I. Jobs magazine and can be found at [www.militaryfriendly.com](http://www.militaryfriendly.com).

Last year, FHSU opened a Transfer & Military Center as part of an initiative funded through the university's Strategic Enrollment Planning process. The flexibility of FHSU's programs allow military-connected students to start or finish a degree program no matter where they are stationed.

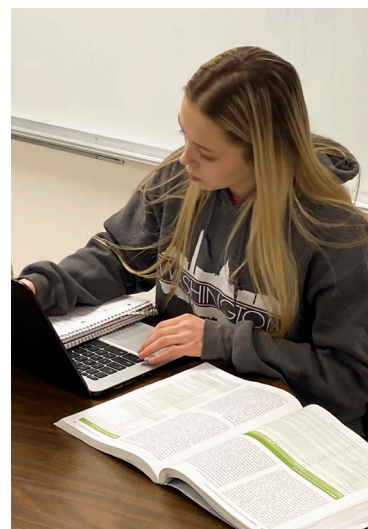
Benefits at FHSU for military students include tuition assistance, Veteran Affairs benefits, Yellow Ribbon and in-state tuition and scholarships.

## Colorado High School Senior Earns Her Degree from FHSU Online

Avery Bollinger is a senior at Wiley High School in Wiley, Colo. Avery will graduate with a high school diploma and a bachelor's degree from Fort Hays State University this spring.

A seasoned online learner, Avery began taking courses from Dodge City Community College as a sophomore and then moved on to FHSU Online in her junior year. She began slowly, taking three or four classes each semester. Over time, she decided she wanted to push herself a bit harder. In the fall of her senior year, Avery completed more than a full semester load of college credit. She even found time to join the cheer squad.

Avery enjoyed FHSU Online's flexibility because it allowed her to pursue an aggressive academic plan and still maintain the necessary balance on her time she needed. Next up is a year of international travel and study. She'll then set her sights on graduate school, and returning to FHSU is one option she is considering.



Fort Hays State University congratulates distinguished Tigers recently recognized on the **2021 list of 50 Kansans You Should Know** by Ingram's Magazine.

**Dr. Ed Hammond**, *President Emeritus*

**Clay Scott**, *Ulysses*

**Jon Fort**, *Garden City*

**Nathan Leiker**, *Hays*

**Skip Numrich**, *Scott City*

**Richard Staab**, *Hutchinson*



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