



FHSU researcher focuses on building communications skills and responsible use of AI

Questions for Dr. Rose Helens-Hart

Dr. Rose Helens-Hart is an associate professor in the Department of Applied Business Studies. FHSU's 2025 President's Distinguished Scholar, Helens-Hart, has published 17 peer-reviewed articles in respected journals. Below, Helens-Hart answers a few questions about her research and teaching.

Can you provide an overview of the research you are currently conducting?

My research focuses on applied communication challenges in workplaces and professional development. I am particularly interested in how individuals and organizations construct, sustain, and adapt themselves. Using interviews, focus groups, and document analysis, my current projects examine sustainability communication in multinational corporations, the ways new CEOs communicate their visions, and how consulting can support professional growth and satisfaction among academic faculty. In addition, through my work on FHSU's Writing Across the Curriculum committee (with Dr. Cheryl Duffy), I am exploring how students use AI in their writing and how AI is being applied in corporate and business communication.



Dr. Rose Helens-Hart

What is your favorite topic to teach?

I was active in competitive debate for nearly a decade, and so persuasive presentations are one of my favorite topics to teach. However, I also love the topic of interviewing. Both topics help students to develop confidence, professional presence, and the ability to connect with others.

What do you consider a "hot topic" in your field?

A hot topic in corporate and business communication is how generative AI is changing how messages are crafted and received. Instead of replacing the need to develop communication skills, these changes highlight the importance of AI literacy in communication and the value of forming human connections through effective communication. For AI to be an assistive tool for achieving communication goals, communicators need to be able to recognize and produce professional, clear, concise, and evidence-driven communication. Research suggests that strong oral communication skills will become even more important for graduates seeking to distinguish themselves in the workplace.

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**Dr. Grady Dixon,
Professor of Geosciences
and Dean, Werth College
of Science, Technology
and Mathematics**

Dr. Grady Dixon is a physical geographer whose expertise in meteorology and climatology has shaped a dynamic career in research and academic leadership. As Professor of Geosciences and Dean of the Werth College of Science, Technology and Mathematics at FHSU, Dixon brings a multidisciplinary approach to his work, applying weather data to real-world challenges across public health, agriculture, and education. His scholarly contributions include numerous publications on tornado climatology, weather-suicide correlations, and heat-related mortality. His research has expanded to address access, diversity, and inclusion in geosciences and higher education.

Western Ag Summit Nov. 17th at FHSU

Dixon serves as the organizer of the FHSU Western Ag Summit, an annual event that bridges the gap between agricultural professionals, legislators, and academic leaders. The event will be Nov. 17 on the FHSU campus. It will focus on Agri-Finance and Succession Planning. Under Dixon's leadership, the summit fosters dialogue that keeps policymakers informed about the evolving needs of agricultural communities, while also helping faculty stay attuned to industry challenges. By cultivating trust and collaboration, Dixon ensures the summit remains a vital platform for shaping the future of agriculture in Western Kansas and beyond.

Did you know?

**2025 ENROLLMENT AT THE
THREE FORT HAYS INSTITUTIONS**

Fort Hays State University's historic affiliation partnership with North Central Kansas Technical College and Northwest Kansas Technical College launched in July 2024. According to Fall 2025 data, 14,682 students, including 9,146 Kansans, are enrolled on-campus and online at FHSU, Fort Hays Tech | North Central, Fort Hays Tech | Northwest, and our International Partner campuses in Africa, Asia, and South America.

**Tebo family announces seven-figure gift to
FHSU library**

An announcement during Homecoming 2025 celebrated a seven-figure gift to FHSU.

The donation from Stephen, his wife Tatiana, and the Tebo family will support the comprehensive renovation of FHSU's on-campus library, which has been renamed Tebo Library.

Stephen Tebo, founder and owner of Tebo Properties, was born and raised in Hill City, Kansas. He developed an entrepreneurial drive at the age of eight, shining shoes at a local barbershop.. He found a passion for coin collecting at age 11, which he continued to pursue after moving to Hays to attend Fort Hays Kansas State College, as it was known then. Stephen's coin business not only financed his Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics, and a Master's Degree in Computer Science, but laid the foundation for what would become a successful career in real estate.

"Supporting the library felt like a meaningful way to give back," Stephen said. "Fort Hays State gave me the education and confidence to pursue my goals, and it continues to be a source of great pride for me. I'm grateful for the role the university played in my life, and giving back is one way I can honor that legacy while helping future students create their own."



L to R – Jason Williby, Mary Hammond, Dr. Tisa Mason, Stephen Tebo; Ginger Williams, Dr. Jill Arensdorf.