

Robbins Banking Institute



FORT HAYS STATE
UNIVERSITY



Thomas Powell, Director
Fort Hays State University
600 Park Street
McCartney Hall 201
785-628-5337
twpowell2@fhsu.edu



The Fort Hays State University Robbins Banking Institute provides specialized training in the principles of community banking. Currently, the institute is comprised of more than 40 students. Director Thomas Powell, hired as director in 2022, hopes to double that number within the next five years.

Flexibility is key to the success of the institute as it offers both online and campus courses for stand-alone certificates, minor programs (to complement another major), and an undergraduate degree program. Scholarships provided by banks have increased in the past year, with two \$10,000 endowed scholarships being recently added.

Powell travels to junior high and high schools, recruiting students for admission into FHSU business programs. He educates them on opportunities in business and particularly banking at FHSU, and opens up connections with a network of bankers looking to recruit new banking professionals.

"I try to show the students there is a plethora of opportunities in banking," Powell said. "There is a huge need for people adequately trained to step into a banking role. You will advance quickly if you are willing to put in the effort."

Nationwide, the banking industry has approximately 500,000 job openings. It is estimated that only 100,000 people are qualified candidates for those positions, having either a degree in banking or finance or prior banking experience. Compound those numbers with current banking professionals of retirement age in the coming five years, and it is easy to see that upward mobility in the industry is a paramount concern.

Powell also serves as director of the Kansas Bankers Education Foundation. Through his position with the Foundation, he strives to connect with banks and encourage them to provide scholarship opportunities to Kansas universities.

Learn more at:

www.fhsu.edu/efa/Robbins-Banking-Institute/