

Student Engagement

FWCSS 2nd Floor

Overview: At Fort Hays State University, the Office of Student Engagement is passionate about creating unforgettable memories for students. In the 2024-2025 academic year, we ignited student connections, cultivated leadership, and amplified community impact through dynamic programs and events that empowered Tigers to thrive and leave a legacy on campus and beyond. Our goal is to empower students, cultivate personal growth, and prepare them to emerge as engaged global citizen leaders.

Points of Pride 2024 - 2025:

Student Involvement

FHSU Student Engagement significantly increased student participation, with over 120 active student organizations. More than 2,000 unique students engaged in campus activities, demonstrating a strong commitment to community and leadership.

Welcome Weekend/Back-to-School Picnic

The 2024 Welcome Weekend and Back-to-School Picnic set a new benchmark for student engagement, with attendance of 1,236 for B2SP and 5,328 students at Welcome Weekend. Combined with 6,564 students engaged in the first 4 days of being on campus! These vibrant events fostered school spirit, welcomed new Tigers, and strengthened campus community, creating a memorable start to the academic year.

Signature Events

FHSU Student Engagement hosted a dynamic Homecoming Week, attracting over 3,500 attendees to events like the Homecoming Parade and tailgate, Bonfire and Button making fostering school spirit.

Grocery Bingo emerged as a standout event, drawing over 320 students on a Tuesday night for an evening of bingo, fellowship, and excitement, making it the largest non-Homecoming or Welcome Weekend event of the year. The College Cup, in partnership with faculty, saw remarkable success, engaging over 100 students in a spirited competition that strengthened faculty-student connections.

Leadership and Development Programs

The Office of Student Engagement elevated leadership development by conducting one-on-one consultations with over 30 student organizations, providing tailored guidance to enhance their success. The Tiger Leadership Academy welcomed 95 students from various organizations to workshops focused on communication, teamwork, and strategic planning. Additionally, the Black and Gold Academy empowered students to level up their leadership skills within their organizations, fostering a new generation of confident Tiger leaders.

Community Impact

FHSU students made an extraordinary impact, contributing over 7,000 volunteer hours through initiatives like Tiger Day of Service, supporting local organizations such as the Hays Food Bank and Ellis County Animal Shelter. This effort translated to an estimated huge impact to Hays reinforcing FHSU's commitment to civic engagement. The Alternative Spring Break program brought 30 students to Amarillo, where they served the local community through impactful projects. On MLK Day of Service, 24 students dedicated their day off delivering gifts to the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) community throughout Hays, creating meaningful connections and honoring Dr. King's legacy.

Conclusion

The Office of Student Engagement is proud of its 2024-2025 achievements, which have enriched the FHSU experience and empowered students to lead, connect, and serve. We look forward to building on this momentum to create even more impactful opportunities in the coming year.

Focus Areas for 2025-2026:

Increase Student Organization Participation by 12%

- Action: Expand outreach to new students during the first month of class. SE Team be in front of Freshman Seminar classes more often.

Boost Attendance at Student Engagement Events by 15%

- Action: Collaborate and partner consistently.

Increase Tracked Events in TigerLink by 15%

- Action: Train student organizations 1 on 1 to get events online.

Expand Service Learning and Community Projects by 10%

- Action: Launch two more service initiatives. Veterans Day event + Visit rest homes each month with organizations.

Implement and Refine a Co-Curricular Assessment Model for Leadership Development

- Action: Continue to work on TIGERS Assessment.

By the Numbers 2024 - 2025:

Over the past year our office operated for the third year under the Collaborative Programming Model with our staff and students creating and facilitating events that integrate belonging, leadership, fraternity and sorority life, service, community engagement, and more. Throughout the year, Student Engagement partnered with various entities across campus, created new and

innovative programs, redesigned existing programs, and developed more service opportunities.

This amounts to over 70 different events and programs throughout the academic year and over 9,500 attendees at our Student Engagement events, according to Tigerlink and Corq.