

STORY OF EXCELLENCE

2025-2026



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

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Student Affairs, Dr. Joey Linn

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STUDENT AFFAIRS STRUCTURE



DR. JOEY LINN
Vice President for Student Affairs



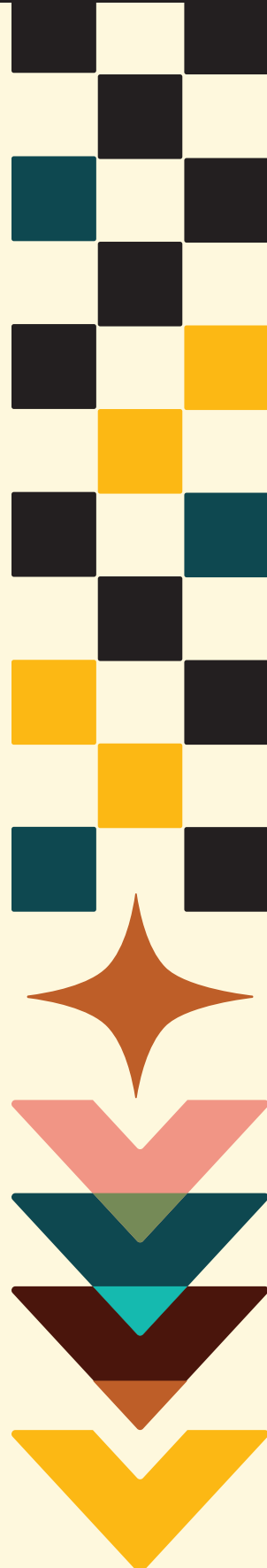
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HELLO!



A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS



Hello, Tigers!

Welcome to the Story of Excellence. This annual publication highlights the impact of the Division of Student Affairs and the dedication of the people who work each day to support student success. Throughout these pages, you will see how the mission and values of Fort Hays State University (FHSU) guide our efforts and make a difference in the lives of our students.

This past year has been one of significant progress. We celebrated the opening of the newly renovated Tebo Library, an innovative space designed for learning, collaboration, and student well-being. We also look forward to the completion of the Stroup Hall addition, which will expand opportunities for students in nursing and allied health programs and help address critical workforce needs, particularly in rural communities.

The success of FHSU is made possible through collaboration. Student Affairs proudly partners with Academic Affairs, Administration and Finance, Economic and Workforce Development, and the Office of the President to recruit, retain, and graduate students from across Kansas, the nation, and the world.

As you explore this publication, you will see the impact of our Student Life, Enrollment Leadership and Early College Programs teams. Together, they are committed to providing exceptional programs, services, facilities, and a culture of care that supports student success.

The Story of Excellence reflects the dedication of a talented team working together to help students achieve their educational goals and build brighter futures.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the Division of Student Affairs.

Roll Tiges!

JOEY LINN, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs

ENROLLMENT LEADERSHIP

Enrollment Leadership Cluster (ELC) partners with Fort Hays State University stakeholders to provide leadership and support in recruitment activities, engaging special populations, student support through financial assistance and student records. Together, we are proud to report the following accomplishments:

Early College Programs



- Average ACT of **31** ✦
- Over **3.1 million dollars** in scholarships ✦
- 1st Place** in Kansas Mathematical Association of America ✦
- Numerous students participated in campus organizations and service learning ✦

Fall 20th Day Enrollments

- ✦ Surpassed **1,100** total freshman
- ✦ Grew to **12,849** students
- ✦ Launched the Recruitment and Retention Center
- ✦ Transfer Student and Community College fund reallocation for collaboration

FHSU Online and Military-Connected Students

- 5,971** Fall 20th Day students ✦
- Online Open House sessions hosted **282 prospective students** ✦
- Surpassed a 5% goal in unofficial eval requests to 30.6% ✦
- Implemented new strategies which improved 'Admit to Register' rate from 31.9% to 39.4% ✦



Financial Assistance Office

- ✦ Processed **16,707 ISIRS** for **11,963 unique students**
- ✦ Disbursed **\$72,172,133.40**, an increase of \$1,110,883.35 over the prior year
- ✦ Developed the *Workday functionality* to administer **employee tuition assistance program**
- ✦ Coordinated and implemented a multi-department fraud prevention and identity theft process

Office of Admissions

- ✦ **946** full-time fall freshmen
- ✦ *Increased regional admits by* **20 students**
- ✦ **Growth in College Days** and targeted market recruiting
- ✦ Student retention and housing goal of growing campus living resulted in: 3.8% freshmen growth, 35% transfer growth

Office of the Registrar

- ✦ Further refined **Application for Program Completion (APC) process** for a *better student experience*
- ✦ Implemented **free transcript request fulfillment** between affiliate institutions
- ✦ Admitted and processed over 2,087 student applications in 3 days to support Apply Kansas Day

Number of Degrees Conferred by Academic Unit

Academic Unit	Spring 2025	Summer 2025	Fall 2025	Spring 2026
FHSU Academic Unit	1442	304	796	1438
Sias Academic Unit	475	124	33	603
SNU Academic Unit	264	133	16	*
Total	2181	561	845	2041

Report Source: Degrees Awarded with Declare and Expected Completion Dates

*SNU terms end after this report was submitted

Shotgun Team

- ✦ Won the **12th Prairie Conference Championship** and were *National Championship Runner-up*
 - ✦ Had **11-Academic All Americans**
 - ✦ Launched a **Sportsperson Range Management Certificate**
- 3



Awards and Recognitions

Craig Karlin
Appointed **Chair** of
Standardization of
Postsecondary
Educational
Electronic Data
Exchange (SPEEDE)
at the American
Association of
Collegiate
Registrars and
Admissions Officers
Annual Conference

Joanna Lockwood
Appointed **Chair** of
Kansas Association
of Collegiate
Registrars and
Admissions for
College Planning
Conference
Committee

Dennis King
Pilot Award
Nominee

Kyle Stacken
Appointed
President-Elect of
Kansas
Association of
Collegiate
Registrars and
Admissions
Officers



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A group of four students are smiling and posing outdoors. The student on the far left is wearing a black t-shirt with 'FORT WAYNE STATE' and 'HOLLAND, INDIANA' printed on it. The student next to her is wearing a white t-shirt with a 'FORT' logo. The student in the background is wearing a white t-shirt with a 'FORT' logo. The student on the far right is wearing a blue t-shirt. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and foliage.

-Anonymous



Student Life

The Student Life Cluster enhances the student experience by integrating key community, wellness, and engagement services that support student success. The Memorial Union serves as the university's central gathering place, fostering connection and collaboration among students, faculty, and staff. Residential Life provides a safe, supportive, and engaging living-learning environment that contributes to academic achievement and personal growth. Health and Wellness Services promotes student well-being through medical care, counseling, prevention services, and accessibility support, all of which contribute to student retention and success. This year, Student Engagement and Belonging officially joined the cluster, further strengthening its ability to develop student leaders, foster involvement, and creating a greater sense of belonging across campus.

Student Engagement and Belonging



"You can tell it's more than just a job to them"

-Anonymous

Bringing Back Tigers in Service

Student Engagement & Belonging successfully revived the Tigers in Service program, restoring an important tradition of service and community engagement. During the spring semester, Tigers in Service hosted eight service projects, including the signature Give Back Event. Building on this success, the program is preparing to launch Swipe Out Hunger during the fall semester.



Revitalizing Campus Entertainment

Student Engagement & Belonging reintroduced a robust lineup of live entertainment opportunities. Students enjoyed a fall concert featuring Kansas country artist Logan Mize, a headliner DJ performance, and a campus comedy show. Student participation and feedback were overwhelmingly positive, demonstrating strong demand for entertainment programming and providing momentum for future events.



Celebrating Student Organization Excellence

Student Engagement & Belonging reestablished a formal awards banquet to recognize the achievements of student organizations and student leaders. The event celebrated leadership, involvement, and campus impact while bringing together students, advisors, and university partners. The banquet highlighted the important role student organizations play in creating a vibrant and engaged campus community.



Memorial Union

- Collaborated with Technology Services and affiliated campuses to implement a universal ID card system
- Partnered with the Department of Art & Design, Student Engagement and Belonging, and Residential Life to launch an inaugural photo contest, resulting in updated artwork throughout the building featuring work from current faculty, staff, and students
- Coordinated the packing and distribution of more than 1,400 sets of commencement regalia
- Based on student employee survey data the Memorial Union staff created a new student employee cross training model

Health and Wellness

- Implemented *Togetherall*, an online platform that connects students with mental health resources and peer support
- Provided Mental Health First Aid training to the campus community, resulting in 78 faculty, staff, and students earning certification
- Adjusted the intake process to better match students needs to services

Health and Wellness Service Appointments	
Medical Appointments	4,652
Therapy Intakes	450
Therapy Visits	4,119
Crisis Sessions	45
D&A Intakes	47
D&A Sessions	142
Accessibility Services	471
Total Health and Wellness Visit Count	9,926

 outcomes indicate a 'closing the loop' item. These items are targeted outcomes based on student or staff feedback.

FY 2025-26

GOAL OUTCOMES



Continuation of SGA, OSGA Communication, and Student Engagement Development

- ✦ Budget development and tracking for OSGA
 - ✦ Budget tracking development through FHSU Online
- ✦ More intentional communication between SGA and OSGA
 - ✦ Meetings with Online SGA President and SGA throughout the academic year

Group Discussions Between Health and Wellness and Human Resources to Develop a More Aggressive Promotion of Mental Health and Physical Health-Provided by the State of Kansas and FHSU.

- ✦ Offered Mental Health First Aid certification training to 78 faculty, staff, and students

Business Intelligence

- ✦ Recommendations from Huron for the Financial Assistance and Registrar's Offices for further development in Workday.
 - ✦ Launched in December and continues working with Huron on next steps

Advancing Research on Protocols and Procedures for Fraud in Financial Aid

- ✦ Coordinated and implemented a multi-department fraud prevention and identity theft process

Student Engagement and Belonging Data Tracking through Planning and Assessment Committee and Establishment of Co-curricular Model for HLC Data Needs

- ✦ SOAP process in Student Engagement
- ✦ Closing The Loop highlight in Story of Excellence

Student Success Reorganization Year 1

- ★ Student Affairs was supportive and active in the planning and transition process

Year 2 Affiliation

- ★ Improved transactional processes
- ★ Student management launched, implemented free transcript request fulfillment between affiliate institutions, and continued AITs with ending AITs or combining them

Continuing Leadership with the University Strategic Plan

- ★ Assisted with Goal 3.1 and Enrollment Council

Reinstate *Well Tiges* in Student Affairs

- ★ Relaunched Division Well Tiges with enhanced engagement

FY 2026-27 DIVISION GOALS

- 1** Create a five-year plan for facilities operations
- 2** Assess department budgets and operations for focus on Mission Critical work
- 3** Modernize workplace through the appropriate utilization of AI
- 4** Ongoing monitoring and strategic adjustments in response to the enrollment environment
- 5** Implement newest federal regulations in the Office of Financial Aid and Registrar's Office
- 6** Leverage university work with Huron



