

Civic Learning & engagement

“Where Passion Meets Action”

PATHWAYS OF PUBLIC SERVICE



Fort Hays State University stands committed to fostering community engagement through diverse pathways, each designed to inspire action and create a lasting impact on society. The UNIV-101 students are introduced to these diverse pathways, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to actively engage with the community and contribute to positive societal change.

Community Engaged Learning and Research

Undergraduate research thrives at FHSU, spanning across disciplines and resulting in peer-reviewed scholarly work. This collaborative approach extends to academic-community partnerships, enriching knowledge while addressing community-identified concerns.

Community Organizing and Activism

The American Democracy Project (ADP) stands as a pillar, molding informed, active citizens equipped with civic knowledge and skills.

Programs like Loud Light and the Kansas Association of Volunteer Engagers amplify voices and encourage youth engagement in driving societal change.

Direct Service

Northwest Kansas Volunteers serve as a vital connection point, linking volunteers with varied service opportunities. Additionally, partnerships with the Humane Society of the High Plains and the Community Assistance Center embody FHSU's commitment to addressing immediate needs within the community.

Philanthropy

Contributions to the public good are facilitated through the FHSU Foundation, where donations and gifts aid initiatives aimed at benefiting the larger community.

Policy and Governance

Student Government Association (SGA) plays a pivotal role in advocating for student interests both within the institution and at legislative levels. Students can also delve into governance and diplomacy through U.S. Department of State Internships and Fellowships.

Social Entrepreneurship and Corporate Social Responsibility

The Center for Entrepreneurship offers programs, competitions, and dialogues nurturing entrepreneurial skills. Meanwhile, initiatives like the Dane G. Hansen Scholarship Hall and the Ice House Entrepreneurship Program provide immersive experiences in innovation and business.

ENGAGING OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT:



For Students: Participation in challenges, halls, and programs tailored to individual interests.

For Faculty and Staff: Engage in collaborative projects to strengthen community ties.

For Community Members: Explore volunteering and partnership opportunities to contribute to positive societal change.

Fort Hays State University embodies a culture of engagement, activism, and innovation through these diverse pathways, encouraging all members to actively contribute to the common good.

Art and Empathy Unite: Amy Schmierbach's Visionary FACT Project



Fort Hays State University stands committed to fostering community engagement through diverse pathways, each designed to inspire action and create a lasting impact on society

Amy's journey commenced in 2016, fueled by a tragic incident involving law enforcement and the loss of a developmentally challenged individual. This heartbreaking event became the catalyst for Amy's unwavering determination to create change. In collaboration with her students and clients of Disability Services of Northwest Kansas (DSNWK), she chose weaving as an artistic medium—a choice driven by its simplicity, fostering dialogues, and requiring minimal manual dexterity.

Fast-forward to 2017, and Amy's dream began to take shape. Collaborating with Scott Stults and Sara Biggs from DSNWK, she proposed expanding the project to involve first responders. The idea was simple yet profound: utilize art as a conduit to build friendships, understanding, and empathy among those who often encounter the disabled during high-stress situations.

In the spring of 2022, Amy's Community Engaged Art Class launched the inaugural FACT event at FHSU's Schmidt Foundation for Art and Design building. These workshops serve as a platform where first responders, FHSU students, and DSNWK clients unite around looms, weaving not just threads but also bonds of compassion and insight.

Moreover, on October 26th, 2023, Amy's FACT project extended its reach to the community of Atwood, Kansas, marking another milestone. There, first responders, FHSU students, and 6th graders came together in a collaborative art project, furthering the message of empathy and understanding initiated by FACT.





Each session is a symphony of learning, offering essential guidance on interacting with intellectually and developmentally delayed individuals. The art of weaving becomes a shared experience, fostering connections beyond words.

Scott, notes the profound impact, emphasizing the mutual educational exchange FACT cultivates. For DSNWK clients, these events transcend routine, offering socialization and a chance to express themselves beyond verbal communication.

However, hurdles persist. Understaffing in responder agencies poses challenges. Undeterred, Amy's aspirations soar—her sights set on expanding FACT's reach across Kansas. Her ambition extends beyond boundaries, seeking connections with communities in Garden City and Wichita, fostering a quilt of understanding statewide.

In the narrative of Amy Schmierbach's journey, a narrative of unity, understanding, and compassion unfolds—a story where art becomes a bridge, connecting hearts and inspiring change.



PROFILE SPOTLIGHT: TAYYABUNNISA TAHERA



I'm Tayyabunnisa Tahera, a committed graduate assistant at Fort Hays State University's Civic and Learning Engagement under the direction of Dr. Donnette Noble. Currently pursuing my MS in Clinical Psychology, I bring an international perspective from my home country, India, relishing six months of growth and learning in the USA.

In addition to my role as a Graduate Teaching Assistant under Professor William Stutterheim in the Psychology Department, my responsibilities within CLE encompass orchestrating events, refining marketing strategies, steering website development, and offering vital support for CLE initiatives.

During my undergraduate years, I discovered a passion for graphic design and social media management, which complemented my primary focus in psychology. Beyond academics, I find solace in pursuits like photography, videography, and various design ventures. I enjoy cooking food, finding joy in creating delights. Nature's beauty captivates me, especially the tranquility of sunrises, sunsets, and serene landscapes. I also moments spent star gazing, finding wonder and inspiration in the night sky's vastness.

My tenure within CLE has amplified my belief in limitless potential. Crafting conference booklets and newsletters has honed my creative skills, all made possible by the nurturing environment at Fort Hays State University. I'm deeply grateful to Dr. Donnette Noble for her mentorship and for entrusting me with this invaluable opportunity.

Eagerly anticipating the surprises of the upcoming semester, I approach each day with an unwavering enthusiasm and a constant smile. Join me in this journey of continuous growth and discovery!



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FHSU'S ELLA BURROWS INSPIRES AS NEWMAN CIVIC FELLOW 2023-2024; NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 2024-2025 COHORT!



Fort Hays State University (FHSU) is proud of Ella Burrows as the torchbearer for the prestigious Newman Civic Fellowship for the 2023-2024 cohort. Ella, a dedicated fourth-generation FHSU Tiger, exemplifies outstanding leadership, commitment to community development, and fervent advocacy for civic engagement.

Ella's journey as a student leader at FHSU stands as a testament to her unwavering dedication. Majoring in Political Science with a Pre-Law Emphasis, Ella has been actively involved in multiple facets of campus life. Her roles as a Freshman Senator in the Student Government Association (SGA), Legislative Affairs Director, and various leadership positions across societies and sororities showcase her tireless commitment to fostering inclusion, diversity, and equity.



President Tisa Mason commends Ella's remarkable contributions, stating, "Ella Burrows is a dedicated and accomplished student leader who embodies our university's tenacious Tiger spirit."

Ella's upbringing in Satanta, Kansas, a community resilient in its pursuit of survival, fuels her passion for advocating for the marginalized. Her personal statement reflects a profound commitment to rural development and civic engagement. Her work with the American Democracy Project and the Student Government Association echoes her dedication to fostering civic engagement and advocating for change.

Ella's Vision and Commitment:

Ella's tenure as a Newman Civic Fellow for the 2023-2024 cohort encapsulates her vision for a better, more inclusive society. Her advocacy for civic engagement through civil discourse, voter registration drives, and legislative initiatives demonstrates her unwavering commitment to effecting positive societal change. Her proactive approach to community development and her dedication to advancing rural America serve as inspiration for fellow students and community members alike.

NOMINATE OUTSTANDING LEADERS FOR THE 2024-2025 COHORT



While celebrating Ella's exemplary leadership as part of the current cohort, the Director of the Civic Learning and Engagement (CLE) seeks nominations for the forthcoming Newman Civic Fellowship cohort for 2024-2025. Faculty and staff members are urged to nominate exceptional students who exhibit a commitment to civic engagement and community development.

Nomination Process:

Nominate a student by forwarding the required details to djnoble@fhsu.edu by the close of business on Friday, January 26, 2024.

- The student's name.
- Program of study (major, minor, concentration, etc.).
- Description of the student's civic engagement activities.
- A statement supporting the student's nomination.

A selection committee will review nominations and present the recommendations to FHSU President, Dr. Tisa Mason, for final consideration.

As the current cohort continues their remarkable journey, let's unite in recognizing and nominating outstanding student leaders who exemplify FHSU's commitment to civic engagement and community service.

For more information about the Fellowship program, [please click here](#)

Join us in shaping a brighter future through empowered leadership and civic engagement

JOIN US TO SWIPE OUT HUNGER: A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!



Date & Time: Saturday, March 23, 2024 | 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Forsyth Library | Main Level

Event Schedule:

- **10:00 AM - Noon:** Training & Setup (Green Shirt Volunteers)
- **Noon - 2:00 PM:** Pack Meals (All Volunteers)
- **2:00 PM - 3:00 PM:** Clean Up (Green Shirt Volunteers)

Serve and Make a Difference! Join forces with 125 volunteers for a fulfilling food packing event aimed at sending thousands of meals to those facing food insecurity in Tanzania. It's not just about packing meals; it's a vibrant opportunity to connect with fellow Tigers and make a tangible impact on lives across the globe.

Civic Learning and Engagement, the Leadership Program, Student Engagement,
Forsyth Library, and Global Affairs present

SWIPE ^{OUT} HUNGER

OPPORTUNITY TO
SERVE & LEAD

**SATURDAY
MARCH 23, 2024**

Event set-up will begin at 10:00 AM
Food packing starts at 12:00 PM

**Forsyth Library, 502 S Campus Dr.,
Hays, KS 67601**

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

numana NOW PART OF The Outreach Program
SERVING THE HUNGRY Ending Hunger. Enriching Lives.

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**
Scan the QR code

bit.ly/4aildJd



How to Get Involved:

- **Individual or Group Sign-Up:** Register as an individual or gather your group/department to contribute.
- **Volunteer Hours:** Choose your commitment level:
- **Green Shirt Volunteers (10 AM - 3 PM):** Full event engagement.
- **Food Packing Volunteers (Noon - 2 PM):** Contribute during the main packing session.

The support from Civic Learning and Engagement, the Leadership Program, Student Engagement, Forsyth Library, and Global Affairs is deeply appreciated. Together, we can combat food insecurity globally while fostering a sense of community and shared purpose.

As Nelson Mandela profoundly stated, “Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life.”

Sign Up Now! Your participation matters. Be part of this impactful initiative and make a meaningful difference in the fight against hunger.

For registration, [SWIPE OUT Hunger RSVP Form](#). Let’s stand together and SWIPE Out Hunger!



CONTACT INFORMATION

For any inquiries, information, or assistance, please feel free to reach out to the Civic Learning & Engagement Administrative Team

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Civic Learning & Engagement

Newsletter Credits

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