HaysMed Honors Emma Dinkel as First-Ever BEE Award Recipient



(L to R): Joben Rieth, Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer, Emma Dinkel, PCT, and Jana Zeller, Manager of Professional Development LEANNA SWART / HAYS MED

By Leanna Swart

HaysMed

HaysMed is thrilled to recognize Emma Dinkel, Patient Care Technician in the Progressive Care Unit, as the very first recipient of the BEE Award. This special honor was presented during National Hospital Week, making the celebration even more meaningful.

Just as a daisy depends on the bee to thrive, our nurses rely on the dedication and teamwork of non-nursing healthcare professionals to provide exceptional patient care. To recognize this vital collaboration, HaysMed created the Being Excellent Everyday (BEE) Award, honoring outstanding contributions from non-nursing team members.

Emma was nominated by a patient's family member, who shared:

"I got to know Emma and was very impressed with her work ethic. Emma is going to make a wonderful nurse; I loved her kindness and strong character. Emma is a rising star—her light shines from her to others, her face says it all. She is a very kind and caring young person with a bright future. Good luck."

Emma's supervisor, Jana Zeller, Manager of Professional Development, expressed her excitement in recognizing Emma:

"Emma is one of the hardest working, most compassionate people I know. When Emma shows up for work, she is ready to go. She is always looking at ways we can improve and shares these with me regularly. Emma's patients she cares for as a PCT always have wonderful things to say about her, and the cares she provides. Emma's coworkers also know that when Emma is

working, she is on the move from start to finish taking the very best care of everyone on the Progressive Care Unit."

Joben Rieth, Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer at HaysMed also shared his enthusiasm for the award and Emma's recognition:

"The BEE Award is a meaningful way to celebrate the incredible work of our non-nursing team members, who are essential to delivering high-quality care. Emma exemplifies the spirit of this award-her dedication, compassion, and teamwork make a lasting impact on our patients and staff. We are thrilled to honor her as our first recipient."

Emma shared the following after receiving the award:

"What a wonderful surprise this morning-truly made my whole week! I'm so grateful to be part of such an incredible team and unit. Working on PCU has not only been a rewarding experience, but also such a valuable part of my growth as I continue my nursing school journey.

"The support and knowledge I've gained has helped shape who I am in my career and I couldn't be more thankful!"

Patients, families, and Associates are encouraged to nominate non-nursing Associates who go above and beyond in their roles. Recipients are selected by a HaysMed committee and honored with a BEE Award pin, a certificate of excellence, and a bag of goodies.

If you know a non-nursing team member who exemplifies excellence in patient care, please take a moment to fill out the BEE Award nomination form and help HaysMed celebrate their incredible impact.

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my recommendation," said Hipp.

He noted that a local Summer One maintenance technician has been assigned to the district, in part because Fort Hays State University [FHSU] also contracts with Summer One for Copier Lease services. Superintendent Ron Wilson commented that the local Summer One maintenance technician lives in the community.

"I know that there's local people that would like the opportunity. And I remember there was a lot of hard feelings when we went to this [Summer One] because we had a company that serviced our district for decades and they didn't get it the opportunity. I understand what you're saying, but it seems like we ought to give them that opportunity. I know that you don't have to, but it's too bad we don't let our local people have a chance," BOE Member Park

He also stated prior to the vote that he would be voting against approval of the renewal because he believes the district should be opening all bidding opportunities to local vendors.

"And I would say the same. This [the Summer One proposal] might be the best deal but you won't know unless you track other deals and then

at least give a chance to others to bid. If they say they can't match this, then fine, go with this group. I think at least talking to our local vendors is worthwhile to keep money in the community," BOE Member Yarmer said.

When BOE Vice President Goetz questioned whether local vendors had the capability to do the provide the services and work, including maintenance, outlined in the Summer One proposal, Superintendent Wilson stated that he believed they could.

"They [local vendors] might not bid on it. They're probably not be enough to provide the service. But it's more like doing your grocery shopping at your Mom and Pops grocery store rather than going to Walmart. They still should have an opportunity. I'm just thinking that we should also let our local people have a chance," Yarmer said.

"I do think we should let our local people have shot," President Vajnar said.

Following the failure of the motion to approve the Summer One proposal, the BOE by consensus directed Hipp to open bidding to local vendors by preparing and placing an RFP on the Public Purchase platform.

The full 2024-2025 BOE calendar is available online. Agendas are available prior to meetings. BOE Regular Meeting Live video via YouTube is provided by Hays High Tribe Broadcasting (a student run program) and a playlist of previously recorded BOE meetings is available.

Visit https://usd489.community.highbond.com/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Id=217 for more information.

WATER

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subsequent violations inside a rolling point of 24 months carry \$250/per violation penalties.

Lieutenant Wright stated that the vast majority of contacts tend to be first violations. He noted that second violations in 24 months are occasional occurrences but that third, fourth and subsequent violations are rare.

Summer 2025 watering restrictions also include the watering of lawns and other vegetation from private wells between noon and 7p.m. from 6/1-9/30/2024 by issuance of a control order (at the request of the City) from the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources.

In addition to Summer Watering Restrictions, Hays' year-round water controls prohibit the washing down of sidewalks, parking lots and driveways, the known loss of water through breaks or leaks in plumbing systems; and the escape of water from private property onto public property such as sidewalks or into the street guttering from landscape irrigation.

Citizens are encouraged to report suspected water violations to the Hays Police Department (HPD) and Lieutenant Wright noted the HPD does hear from residents often. However, he cautioned that not every incident reported turns out to be water wasting. Lieutenant Wright noted that draining a pool or hot tub is allowed under City Ordinances, so long as the water does not run into an unpaved alley, so what might look like water wasting could turn out not to be violation.

Visit www.watersmarthays.com for more information on Summer 2025 Water Restrictions and year-round water conservation measures or contact Water Conservation Specialist Dickman at 785-628-7350.

Awards presentations highlight spring semester convocation

By FHSU University Communications

The annual Spring Convocation at Fort Hays State University was held May 9. President Tisa Mason and Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Jill Arensdorf, recognized the winners of the Spring Semester 2025 faculty and staff awards.

Navigator Award

The Navigator Award was presented to Falynn Rogers from the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences. The award was established in 1998 by the Student Government Association to recognize an outstanding academic advisor based on how closely the advisor adheres to the university's goals for academic advising.

Rogers exemplifies the spirit of the Navigator Advising Award through her dedication, communication, and support for her students.

"Falynn goes above and beyond to ensure students understand their educational requirements, feel confident in their goals, and are equipped with the resources they need to succeed," Arensdorf said.

Outstanding Graduate Advisor:

Advisor:
The Outstanding
Graduate Advisor Award
recognizes a faculty member who is an advisor of
graduate students and
provides leadership and
service in other activities
on campus. The award was
presented to Dr. Blake Roth
from the Department of
Communication Sciences
and Disorders.

Roth was selected for the award because of his exceptional mentorship and dedication to student success. Multiple students submitted detailed nominations highlighting his consistent support, clear guidance, and commitment to helping them achieve their academic and professional goals.

Cross-Border Educational Excellence Award

The Cross-Border Education Excellence Award was given to Christopher Adams. Instructor of Leadership in the School of Criminal Justice, Leadership and Sociology. The award was established to recognize an individual who exemplifies excellence in contributing to FHSU students' academic experiences at a cross-border partner institution.

Adams, who teaches at Shenyang Normal University in China, has significantly impacted his program through his expertise in Chinese education and curriculum development.

Edmund Shearer Faculty Advisor of the Year Award

The Edmund Shearer Faculty Advisor of the Year Award was presented to Christina Mergen, Academic Advisor in the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences.

The Edmund Shearer Award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding academic advising of students. Shearer, a former Chair of the Department of

Chemistry, was known for the high value he placed on student advisement. One advisor can be recognized from each of the five academic colleges.

Mergen has shown dedication, organization, and leadership values that have impacted FHSU student success.

"She provides personalized, proactive support to students, guiding them through complex academic paths with clarity and care," Arensdorf said.

With Mergen, fellow nominees for this award included: Debra Staab, Academic Advisor from the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; and Kristin Hernandez, Academic Advisor from the College of Education.

The Spring Outstanding Faculty Award winners

Dr. Kenton Olliff,

Associate Professor of Advanced Education, received the Outstanding Teaching Award.

Dr. Ran An,
Assistant Professor
in the Department of
Communication Sciences
and Disorders, received
the Outstanding Scholarly
Activity Award.

Dr. Jennifer Bechard, Assistant Professor in the Department of Health and Human Performance, was selected for the Service Award.

All recipients received a \$500 award for their accomplishments, thanks to the generosity and support of Commerce Bank. In addition to the monetary gift, the college deans are providing an additional \$250 in the budget of the recipient's department.

Olliff was recognized for integrating clinical expertise, especially in substance

abuse counseling, into a student-centered and practice-informed curriculum.

"Kenton's compassionate, experience-driven approach prepares students for both academic and professional success," Arensdorf said.

An was recognized for her exceptional research productivity, numerous national and international conference presentations, peer-reviewed publications, and successful grant awards.

"Her work addresses timely, practical issues in speech-language pathology, including culturally responsive assessments and services for underserved communities," Arensdorf said.

Bechard was recognized with the Outstanding Service Award for her leadership and service at FHSU and beyond.

"Jennifer's extensive service, including mentoring students and guiding departmental improvements, has significantly impacted both the university and the broader community," Arensdorf said.

The honorees will join three other faculty members recognized for teaching, research, and scholarly activity in the Fall 2024 semester, as candidates for the Faculty Member-of-the-Year Award. The recipient of the upcoming award, along with a \$1,000 prize, will be announced at the Fall Convocation in August.

These six faculty members (spring and fall) are eligible for the award and selected by the Academic Council.

For additional news and information about Fort Hays State University, go to https://www.fhsu.edu/university-communications/





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