

# FLINT HILLS TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## WRANGLER NEWSLETTER

May

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## Dr. Caron L. Daugherty to Serve as Seventh President of FHTC

After a nationwide search that was narrowed to three finalists, Flint Hills Technical College Board of Trustees have chosen Dr. Caron L. Daugherty to serve as the institution's next president.

Dr. Daugherty has 28 years of diverse higher education experience, including roles as an academic advisor, a faculty member, a director of grants and an honors program, a dean, and in executive positions as a vice president and most recently as vice chancellor of instruction. She has been a part of the community-technical college landscape since 2002. Dr. Daugherty also serves as a Higher Learning Commission Peer Reviewer and as a Peer Review Chair. Recognitions include National Academic Advising Association Outstanding Advisor and Moraine Park Association of Career & Technical Education (MPACTE) Administrator of the Year.

"Thanks to the Board for supporting me to serve as the next president of Flint Hills Technical College. As well, I join the College and community in celebrating President Dean Hollenbeck for his long-serving leadership. It is an honor to build on this foundation of supporting students and to recognize the tremendous progress in supporting the community that has been accomplished during his leadership," Dr. Daugherty shared. "When I visited Emporia, I had the chance not only to meet with employees of the College but also members of the community. Everyone was engaging, sincere, honest, and authentic. I am excited to serve the College as the next president and believe the greater community is a perfect fit."

"We are very pleased to announce the new President of Flint Hills Technical College, Dr. Caron Daugherty," said Ken Roemer, FHTC Board of Trustees chair. "Dr. Daugherty brings to us her extensive experience in University, Community College, and Technical College administration that will guide us to a very bright future."



"We want to thank all of the members of the Presidential Search Committee, FHTC Admin, faculty, and staff, and all our community partners for their time and dedication to the college that brought us to this day. Together with our new President we will fulfill our mission to provide a diverse community of learners with lifelong education opportunities for personal growth and preparation for professional and civic responsibilities that meet the needs of society."

"We also want to thank Dr. Dean Hollenbeck for his immeasurable contributions to FHTC over the last 15 years and because of his leadership, has positioned itself as one of the top Technical Colleges in the nation which has attracted the absolute best Presidential candidate to succeed him."

Members of the Presidential Search Committee that reviewed the pool of applicants and presented the finalist to the board include representatives from the FHTC Board, FHTC leadership, employees, students, alumni and staff, Emporia community leaders, and the Kansas Leadership Center. Ken Roemer served as the chair of the committee.

Dr. Daugherty will begin her tenure on July 1. FHTC's current president, Dr. Dean Hollenbeck, will retire on June 30 after serving as president of the College since 2006.

Follow us on social media



## Dental Hygiene Pinning May 16 at 1 p.m.

livestream link:  
[https://boxcast.tv/channel/fhtc---  
hygiene-pinning-969693](https://boxcast.tv/channel/fhtc---hygiene-pinning-969693)

## Spring Commencement May 16 at 3 p.m.

livestream link:  
[https://boxcast.tv/channel/fhtc---  
spring-commencement-625740](https://boxcast.tv/channel/fhtc---spring-commencement-625740)

The Spring Commencement and Dental Hygiene Pinning ceremonies will be limited person events with ticket-based attendance, each graduate given an allotted number of tickets. Health protocols will be in place including mask wearing and social distancing. The ceremonies will also be livestreamed via the above links.



FHTC Student Senate reps: Taylor Kelley, BUS; Keegan Kuhlmann, AMT; and Garrett Dingman, WLD

## Student Senators Donate Toward Campus Upgrades

Student Senators voted “yes” and donated \$3,000 in Student Senate funds for microwaves and additional seating and furnishings for campus. In addition, they donated a bench that was installed on campus in front of the main building.



Photo courtesy of The Teachers College at Emporia State University

## Student Work on Agricultural Technology Showcased

On Friday, April 23, area middle & high school students showcased technology projects thru a program that’s the joint effort of Emporia State University & Flint Hills Technical College. This is the end-result of a nearly half-million-dollar Ag-ACS research grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The Ag-ACS project trained 16 eastern Kansas teachers to incorporate physical programming activities into their regular subject areas, combining electronics, engineering, and coding to build automated solutions to everyday problems. This was based on the curriculum available at <http://bit.ly/ag-acs>.

FHTC Industrial Engineering Technology instructors David Budke and Chris Wilson, along with Joseph Kern and Dr. Dusti Howell from ESU Instructional Design and Technology program, designed and taught the high school instructors the curriculum to use with their students. The showcase was cancelled last year due to COVID restrictions, and this year many of the schools will be participating remotely.

“The projects included tasks like using a light sensor to make a chicken coop door open and close automatically based on the amount of daylight, but many teachers and students have modified these to come up with their

own projects,” said Kern, the grant’s coordinator. “One Emporia Middle School student used mirrors, a laser, a buzzer, the same light sensor to make an alarm that would sound if anyone crosses through a doorway. Another student developed an alarm that told him when he had a fish pulling on his fishing line.”

“We wanted to address the lack of computer science opportunities in rural schools, where science or ag teachers may be interested but too overwhelmed to start a program like this for their students. The average teacher has no training in programming and a limited budget to buy supplies, so it’s hard for teachers to even know where to start,” Kern said. “The end goal we hoped students would take away wasn’t necessarily that they would decide to become computer programmers as a career, but that they develop some basic skills to help them perform these types of tasks for themselves in the future, and that they would have a better understanding of how to think like programmers when approaching any type of problem later in life.”

The showcase is an opportunity for the students of these pilot teachers to present their independent projects to their peers and a panel of industry representatives from companies.

# Inspiring Wranglers at FHTC's Annual Benefit Gala

The Flint Hills Technical College's Nineteenth Annual Benefit Gala and Auction held on April 23 at White Auditorium proved to be another year of inspiring Wranglers. The event raised over \$132,000 to benefit students and educational opportunities at FHTC.

“It was truly an Inspirational Night, we are tremendously grateful to everyone that sponsored, attended, volunteered or participated in the event virtually, we absolutely couldn't do it without you. We are proud of our FHTC Students and Alumni and love to show off their talents, and we thank you for helping us to ensure that future Wranglers continue to have the same success.

Mike Crouch  
*FHTC Vice President of Advancement*

Seats were limited due to COVID-19 health protocols, but those in attendance enjoyed the evening with a dinner catered by FHTC Hospitality/Culinary Arts and silent and live auctions. FHTC's 2021 Distinguished Alumni award was also announced at the event, this year's honoree was Edward J. Rathke. Rathke is a 1971 graduate of the Welding Technology program and credits the program for helping advance his career.

Another highlight of the evening was the surprise announcement of a new endowed scholarship in honor of FHTC President Dr. Dean Hollenbeck who will be retiring at the end of June. Backed by a \$7,500 donation from the EL and Irene Hopkins Foundation, the goal was to raise an additional \$7,500 to recognize President Hollenbeck's 15 years at FHTC. Donations far surpassed that original goal with the end total of \$40,000 going to the scholarship.

Plans are already in process for next year's event, the 2022 Annual Benefit Gala and Auction will be held on April 22.



## FHTC's 2021 Distinguished Alum, Edward J. Rathke

Hills Technical College Distinguished Alumni. Rathke spent four years in the U.S. Navy as an active duty welder and firefighter in Vietnam. He also spent seven additional years in the active Naval Reserves. Once out of the service Rathke began his career in construction with Home & Building Services Inc and then with Hastco Commercial/Industrial Construction. He also spent two years as an evening welding instructor for FHTC. Rathke then found his home as the City of Emporia, City Facilities and White Auditorium Manager where he there retired after 33 years.

Not only does Rathke have an impressive career history, he also personifies what it means to be a community leader. Rathke spent many years volunteering on many different boards and committees such as the Emporia Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the Flint Hills Area Girl Scout Council Board of Directors to name a few. Edward J. Rathke has many personal and professional achievements while also contributing to our local community.

Edward J. Rathke was introduced to the trade of welding early on in high school. After graduating from high school, Rathke decided to enroll into the welding program at Flint Hills Technical College in 1969. There were a wide array of aspects Rathke enjoyed about the welding program while at FHTC, one being the hands-on aspect of the profession. “The tech college makes you a producer” says Rathke. The skills that he acquired while at FHTC were quite pronounced “I was a welder in the Navy, if I had not had the tech college in my background I never would have risen to that type of level as far as my Navy training. It gave me the confidence that I could really do things that I had not embraced before” says Rathke.

Since graduating from FHTC in 1971 Rathke has gone on to exemplify exactly what it means to be a Flint

[Watch Rathke's interview here.](#)



## Mustang Mach-E Demonstration

Students in Automotive Technology had an in lab demonstration of the new Ford Mustang Mach-E. Charles Crosby from local dealership John North Ford brought the fully electric car in to give the students a chance to see details and ride along for a test drive.



## FHTC Students Teaching Students

Industrial Engineering Technology students spent the two days in April teaching electrical and automation to Chase County Elementary School 6th graders. Allen-Bradley Micrologix processors with the Connected Components Workbench software were used for the sessions. This student led teaching session will become a yearly trip for the FHTC Industrial Engineering students.



## Hospitality/Culinary Arts Lab Space Renovations Complete

With the completion of Phase 2, renovations resulting from the Inspiring Wranglers: The Campaign for Tomorrow's Chefs are now complete. The campaign was kicked off in 2018 with the goal of helping students achieve success. The recent upgrades will help the Hospitality/Culinary Arts program achieve certification from the American Culinary Federation, giving graduates a jump start on their careers.

Construction of Phase 1 was completed earlier this year and included a chemistry lab, upgraded Student Commons area as well as two kitchen labs, a Senior Teaching Kitchen and Demonstration Kitchen. Phase 2 renovations saw an expansion of the main kitchen. The footprint of the southwest corner of the building was reconfigured, allowing enough space to make two separate kitchens: a dedicated baking kitchen and a culinary kitchen.

## Upcoming Events

### May

- 5 Student Services Committee Meeting, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Career Consortium, 8:30 a.m.
- 6 Assessment Committee Meeting, 11:30 a.m.  
NSG CSO Meeting, 2:30 p.m.
- 10 Instructional Services Committee Meeting, 11:30 a.m.  
Board of Trustees Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- 11 Institutional Effectiveness Committee Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- 12 NSG Faculty Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- 13 HHS Division Meeting, 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.
- 14 **Last day of Spring semester**
- 16 Dental Hygiene Pinning, WLW Auditorium, 1 p.m. - By invitation only  
Spring Commencement, WLW Auditorium, 3 p.m. - By invitation only
- 17 Instructional Leaders Meeting, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- 24 **Summer Semester begins**
- 31 **Memorial Day (NO CLASSES/COLLEGE CLOSED)**

### June

- 14 Board of Trustees Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Conference Room A
- 15 Foundation Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Conf. Room C