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The Fort Hays State Normal School

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From the commencement address of Governor Hoch, at Hays, Kansas,
June 1, 1916.

Governor Hoch said in regard to the Fort Hays Kansas Normal School that it was a school made so by no act of the legislature, or the State Board of Administration, or the President of the school, but made as it was by God and geography. He said it was the most composite school in the State because alone, it served an empire. The Governor pointed out the fact that there was no other institution of higher learning in the western half of Kansas. "The graduates of this Normal School," he told these graduating classes and their friends, "must serve the varied interests of all of Western Kansas. They must be musicians, enterprising farmers, cheerful homemakers, teachers of homemaking, interpreters of community life from the standpoint of both literature and journalism, community leaders who are to not only tell but to help towns and communities of Western Kansas to place the emphasis in the right place, and thorough going, forward looking Kansans the emphasis in whose individual lives is placed upon the one great word 'character'."