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Lewis Field Stadium Renovation Project

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**LEWIS FIELD STADIUM
RENOVATION PROJECT**

**CAMPAIGN
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY**

600 Park Street, Hays, Kansas 67601-4099

November 25, 1991

CAMPAIGN FHSU

Achievement of the goals of this three-year capital campaign will present exciting opportunities to enhance the ability of Fort Hays State University to serve society in the decades ahead. It will nearly double the endowment, acquire much needed facilities, and maintain and expand privately funded programs so important to any University.

In the midst of accelerating change worldwide, extraordinary opportunities exist for those institutions bold enough to grasp them. This University intends to do just that. Donors will support a University that emphasizes and nurtures educational excellence. A University that stands for quality can adapt creatively and respond rapidly to change will achieve excellence and thrive in the twenty-first century.

Fort Hays State University will be among those institutions. the urgency of our task is unmistakable.

To be a great institution of higher education, a University should identify its destiny and move wisely and vigorously toward it. the destiny of Fort Hays State University is stated clearly in its mission which focuses on Kansas and adjacent states. The University is critical to the continued economic development of this vast area.

It is not reasonable to assume that state funding will provide adequate funds for the University to achieve this destiny. At best, state budgetary allocations enable public universities to react to perceived needs. But a modern University must anticipate needs and take steps to ensure that adequate funding will be available to meet those needs. This is the purpose of our capital campaign.

Campaign Fort Hays State University has as its goal \$20,000,000. Plans call for this amount to be allocated as described below:

CAMPAIGN FHSU GOALS

Academic Enhancement **\$1,000,000**
An endowment to enhance academic excellence has been described as the University's foundation and the avenue by which it attains greatness.

Sternberg Museum **\$6,500,000**
Expansion of the museum and enhancement of its programs will make the museum a world-class facility and benefit the entire midwest.

Alumni-Endowment Center **\$1,600,000**
A new home is needed for both associations to better serve the many thousands of alumni, donors, and friends of the University.

Lewis Field Stadium **\$2,500,000**
The first major renovation since its construction in 1935 will enable full use of the track, field, and buildings for the first time in many years.

International Program **\$1,000,000**
As the international student population increases, so does the need for an international center as a student gathering place, one which will help provide a global focus for the University.

Performing Arts Endowment **\$1,400,000**
An endowment will help provide for expanded educational opportunities and outstanding entertainment events in the new Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center.

Scholarship and Loan Fund Endowment **\$4,000,000**
To attract academically talented and financially deserving students, a scholarship and loan fund endowment is needed. It will ensure the University's ability to compete for students.

Expanded Electrification of Campus **\$2,000,000**
These funds will allow all students to become computer literate and computer flexible and enable the University to impact all of western Kansas through fiber optics.

Campaign Total **\$20,000,000**

LEWIS FIELD STADIUM

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

In early September of 1935, the state of Kansas approved a \$66,000 request from then President C.E. Rarick for the proposed new football field and track facility now known as Lewis Field. In addition, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) provided needed assistance from the Federal government (mostly in the form of labor) to construct a football stadium and recreation center. Private contributions amounting to \$25,000 were also provided. About 200 college students were given stadium construction jobs in what became the only project of this nature undertaken by the WPA in what is now the First Congressional District.

Many alumni of that era tell vivid stories about their work on the structure and about how welcome the wages were in helping to defray college costs. Some of these students earned \$0.25 an hour hauling railroad cinders to the track to make a finished surface. A unique feature of the east stands, completed in 1937, was a dormitory on the second level which is no longer in use. It provided housing for 48 men. This innovation was copied from newly constructed stadiums at Louisiana State University and Ohio State University. The Louisiana state legislature had refused to provide funds to build a stadium, so Governor Huey "Kingfish" Long evaded the restraint by building a men's dormitory designed in such a way that the top could be used as a stadium.

The need for renovation of the Lewis Field Stadium is apparent to all who have visited the site. There has not been a major upgrading or renovation of this facility in the past thirty years. Virtually all upgrading has been minor and has been done through general maintenance and repair as conditions demanded. The track is comprised of the same cinders spread in 1937 and has not been used in over a decade.

The football field, used by both high schools in Hays as well as the University, must also be replaced. The amount of time and money required to maintain the grass field has become prohibitive, and given the perennial water shortage, the amount of water used is exorbitant.

PROJECT IMPACT

Renovation of Lewis Field Stadium will have a positive impact on the University service area because there is no other quality football and track facility of this size in western Kansas. On completion of this project, the University will be able to host area high school competitions as well as regional and national collegiate competitions. By doing so, the University will be able to bring to campus, from all regions of the state, fine young athletes many of whom may come to FHSU for their college education. Other major events, such as the Kansas Shrine Bowl, hosted on a rotational basis with sister institutions, could be held at Lewis Field. These events will bring thousands of people to Hays and the University. By working in conjunction with the Kansas State High School Activities Association, Junior Olympics, Special Olympics, NCAA, NAIA and other organizations, a major economic impact on this area will result.

MAJOR RENOVATION ELEMENTS

In order to hold these events, a number of changes and improvements must be made to the stadium, track and football field. Primarily, they are:

- Installation of an artificial, sand-filled turf for the football field
- The addition of 2800 spectator seats
- Changing of existing bench seating to individual seats for reserved seating and new aluminum bleachers for general admission
- Renovation of locker and dressing rooms for officials, visiting teams, and male/female locker rooms
- Adding a reception area for University alumni, friends and dignitaries
- Building and furnishing of a weight room with office and two meeting rooms
- Renovation of the main entry way Hall of Fame area of the east stands
- Adding a hospitality room with access to the President's box
- Installation of a tiled training room with a separate rehab and treatment area
- Press box renovation on east and west sides
- Equipment storage areas
- Renovation of restrooms on the east side of the stadium
- Portable filming tower on practice field
- Sandblasting the entire limestone structure
- Installation of an eight-lane, all-weather synthetic track
- Construction of new field event runways, landing pits, and throwing pads
- Track events scoreboard, public address and phone system
- Accessories and equipment for meets and practices
- Computerized performance indicators

The total funding requirement for the Lewis Field Stadium project is \$2,500,000.

GIFT RECOGNITION

In searching for an appropriate way to express our appreciation and to honor the couple or individual who, through their generosity and philanthropy, enable the University to meet this most important goal, many alternatives were proposed and discussed. Among them were placing a lighted sign of recognition on the northwest side of the football field; appropriate recognition by using space on the football or track scoreboard; a sign just below the press box on the west side of the stadium. Other ideas were expressed as well. None of them seemed to be an appropriate way to honor or thank that special person or persons who by their generosity would make a new Lewis Field Stadium possible. Then, a brilliant and splendid thought came from Dr. Edward H. Hammond, president of FHSU. He proposed a more formal approach. On review, it was agreed that his suggestion was not only acceptable but fitting. Accordingly, on completion of the project and subject to approval by the donors, a large bronze sculpture of the primary donors will be located in the place of honor in the Hall of Fame of Lewis Field Stadium. It is our hope to do this as the capstone event to the dedicatory program for the "new" Lewis Field Stadium. A world class sculptor was approached and has consented to do the sculpture.