



## AASCU honors FHSU provost for civic work

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities presented one of its highest awards to Dr. Larry Gould, the provost of Fort Hays State University, during the recent annual meeting of the American Democracy Project in Utah.

Gould won the William M. Plater Award for Leadership In Civic Engagement, which AASCU gives for exemplary leadership in advancing the civic learning of undergraduates through programs and activities that encourage greater knowledge, skills, experiences and reflection about the role of citizens in a democracy.

The Plater Award is the first national award established specifically to recognize chief academic officers for leadership in higher education. The award is designed to recognize the critical role of the chief academic officer in advancing the civic mission of the campus through curricular reform, public advocacy, accountability for institutional citizenship, faculty development and recruitment, and partnerships with community organizations.

"I think it's just rewards for Larry Gould's career of commitment that he wins the Plater Award," said Dr. Chapman Rackaway, assistant professor in the Department of Political Science and campus coordinator for FHSU's American

Democracy Project. "I've seen just how deep Larry's devotion to developing a lifetime of engagement is over my five years at Fort Hays State, and I know that there are few academic leaders out there who both value and support the efforts of the American Democracy Project like Larry does. He's been a mentor to me and countless other faculty members at FHSU, and I can't think of anyone more worthy of this honor."

The Plater Award includes an engraved commemorative plaque to acknowledge the national recognition and a check for \$1,000. Gould immediately donated his check to FHSU's ADP efforts.

"Although I'm honored to be recognized by AASCU, the Plater Award is a reflection of one of the most important principles of leadership," said Gould. "Jim Collins, in his modern day classic work, 'From Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap ... and Others Don't,' expresses the principle best. Jim believes that organizations achieve success and move to greatness when you get the 'right people on the bus, the wrong people off the bus, and the right people in the right seats on the bus.' We've done this at Fort Hays State University with the American Democracy Project and many of our other innovative ventures. This award is a reflection of

the applicability of this principle and the fact that we've found people who make things happen. This personal recognition is a tribute to all those people at the university who drive change and success."

The Plater Award was established in 2006 by AASCU in collaboration with Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis in appreciation for the leadership of William M. Plater, who served as the chief academic officer of IUPUI from 1987 through 2006.

During his term, Plater oversaw the development of civic engagement as an integral part of the campus mission and as a defining characteristic of its graduates.

"I was delighted that the William Plater Selection Committee chose Larry Gould for this prestigious honor. Larry has been an incredible source of ideas and innovation for the American Democracy Project," said Dr. George Mehaffy, vice president of AASCU.

"As a result of his work and that of many others, Fort Hays State University, which he so ably represents, has become a national leader in the effort to create new models for how universities can prepare undergraduates to become informed, engaged citizens for our democracy."