



# News

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## McKee Benefits from SWOSU's Reach Higher Program

Southwestern Oklahoma State University student Jodi McKee of Blanchard has received a \$1,000 "Reach Higher" scholarship from the SWOSU Foundation, Inc, on the Weatherford campus.

Reach Higher is a program for adults who have successfully completed some college coursework, but have not yet finished a college degree.

McKee returned to school in the Reach Higher program after about a 25-year gap.

"My husband and I decided that I needed to go back to school to finish my degree," McKee said. "I found the Reach Higher program and reached out to Dr. Todd Wiggen (SWOSU's coordinator). He was very helpful in getting me enrolled and explaining the program to me."

She said the program was a Godsend, as she needed online courses because she worked a full-time job and had responsibilities to her kids, husband and household. She started right away and said she has enjoyed it thoroughly.

Wiggen said the Reach Higher adult-friendly degree completion options available through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education encourage adults who have earned some college credit to successfully complete their degrees.

Reach Higher provides two distinct degree completion program strands for adult learners. Reach Higher: FlexFinish offers flexible enrollment and online options to working adults who wish to pursue an associate degree in enterprise development or a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership. Reach Higher: DirectComplete offers adult students the opportunity to complete a degree program connected with workforce development needs that align with Oklahoma's *100 Critical Occupations* list.

"When I found out about the Reach Higher Program, I was so excited that there was something out there that made that 'fit,'" McKee said. "The classes have proven to be challenging and greatly time consuming, but I am still motivated to finish it so that I can walk across that stage."

Additional information is available by contacting Wiggen at [todd.wiggen@swosu.edu](mailto:todd.wiggen@swosu.edu).

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