



News

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SWOSU Student Elah Alcuítas of Enid Named Newman Civic Fellow

Campus Compact, a Boston-based non-profit organization working to advance the public purposes of higher education, has announced students who will make up the organization's 2021-2022 cohort of Newman Civic Fellows, and Southwestern Oklahoma State University student Elah Alcuítas of Enid has been selected to represent the Weatherford university.

The Newman Civic Fellowship is a yearlong program for students from Campus Compact member institutions. The students selected for the fellowship are leaders on their campuses who are changemakers and public problem-solvers.

At SWOSU, Alcuítas is a junior majoring in biomedical sciences and biochemistry. She has served as vice president for the SWOSU Honors Program and has served as a research assistant in the Biology Department. Alcuítas incorporates her STEM expertise to assist the local Agape Free Medical Clinic, Remote Area Medical Clinic, and the SAGE STEAM Camp, a cohort of middle school girls interested in STEM.

Her focus on social issues has been the impetus for her work with a local elementary school reading program and the Weatherford Recycling Center. To promote student awareness of social justice issues, she is active in the Student Government Association and has founded a new student organization on campus, the Student Diversity League. Her mentor is Dr. Rickey Cothran, chair of the SWOSU Department of Biological Sciences.

The fellowship is named for the late Frank Newman, one of Campus Compact's founders, who was a tireless advocate for civic engagement in higher education. In the spirit of Dr. Newman's leadership, Campus Compact member presidents and chancellors may nominate one student from their institution for the fellowship and SWOSU President Randy Beutler nominated Alcuítas.

Through the fellowship, Campus Compact provides the students with a variety of virtual learning and networking opportunities as part of a national network of engaged student leaders and an optional in-person convening. The fellowship also provides fellows with pathways to apply for exclusive scholarship and post-graduate opportunities.

