

# Music Therapy Awareness Week Planned at SWOSU

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Music Therapy Awareness Week 2011 will be held February 21-25 on the Southwestern Oklahoma State University campus in Weatherford, and a highlight of the celebration will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Music Therapy Awareness Expo on Wednesday, February 23, at 4 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center Ballroom.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend the free event.

SWOSU has the only music therapy program in the state of Oklahoma, accredited by the National Association of School of Music and American Music Therapy Association. SWOSU graduates since 2002 have a 100% passing rate on the national board certification exam for music therapists.

The SWOSU Music Therapy Student Association and Oklahoma Music Therapists are co-sponsoring the expo.

Dr. ChihChen Sophia Lee, MT-BC, director of the music therapy program at SWOSU, said the keynote speaker is Tiffany Romasanta Lee, who is currently a music therapy intern at the Children's Center of Bethany. Also, poster presentations by SWOSU music therapy students in field studies will focus on the clinical applications of music therapy in early intervention, pediatric medicine and adolescent acute physical rehabilitation, school-age children with special needs, and geriatrics.

Participants will also experience the power of music therapy via drum circle, an active music making technique of music therapy, facilitated by SWOSU music therapy faculty member Yu-Chin Anthea Lin, MM, MT-BC.

"This is a wonderful hands-on event especially for high school students interested in pursuing music therapy as a career," Sophia Lee said.

Lee said it has been interesting to follow the case of Congresswoman Gabrielle Gifford, who was recently shot in Arizona, and her benefits from the power of music therapy in her intensive physical and speech rehabilitation at the Institute of Rehabilitation and Research.

There are other events planned on the SWOSU campus in Weatherford each day to raise the awareness of music therapy. There will be a booth with fliers about facts of music therapy and a bake sale at the SWOSU Memorial Student Center on Monday and Tuesday. An Evening at the Cup, featuring many young talented musicians of SWOSU, is scheduled from 7-9 p.m. on Friday, February 25, in downtown Weatherford.

Details on the planned event to increase the awareness of music therapy are also available at the SWOSU-MTSA website: <http://csxserver.swosu.edu/mtsa/>.

For additional information about the expo and other events of the SWOSU Music Therapy Awareness Week, contact Lee at 580.774.3218.