

# SWOSU and Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal College Students Win Honors at Conference

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Honoring Our People's Existence (H.O.P.E.) Club of Southwestern Oklahoma State University and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal College recently won several awards at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Oklahoma Native American Students in Higher Education (ONASHE) Conference held recently in Tahlequah. Attending were (front from left): sponsor Gail Wilcox, Loni Prairie Chief, Weatherford; Sharon Antelope, Thomas; Oveta Lira, Clinton; Ada Hainta, Carnegie; Rachel Perkins, Weatherford; and Brandy Terry, Enid. Back from left-Shanique Baldwin, Clinton; Marleta Fletcher, Clinton; Kemaine Thurston, San Bernardino (CA) and Sonny Klinekole, Anadarko.

Thirteen students of the Honoring Our People's Existence (H.O.P.E.) Club of Southwestern Oklahoma State University and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal College recently won several awards at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Oklahoma Native American Students in Higher Education (ONASHE) Conference held recently in Tahlequah.

Nick Barton, graduate student from Clinton, won the 2011 Outstanding Graduate Student Award, while Clinton's Oveta Lira, a student and administrative assistant of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal College, accepted the 2011 Outstanding Leader Award. Lira was also the recipient of the 2009 Outstanding Up and Coming Leader Award.

Gail Wilcox, admissions and administrative officer for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal College and sponsor for the H.O.P.E. Club, accepted the Outstanding Role Model Award.

In addition, the H.O.P.E Club was honored with this year's Outstanding Organization Award. The club has worked very hard to highlight Native American awareness on the SWOSU campus. The members worked especially hard during November which is Native American Month by bringing guest speaker, Lance Henson, to the SWOSU campus to discuss his writings and poetry. Workshops in shawl making and dream catchers were well received and at the end of the month, the Native foods fundraiser and dance exhibition were successful.

The goal of the ONASHE conference is to provide opportunities for Native American students and professionals from various institutions across the state of Oklahoma to continue to develop and strengthen their leadership skills by interacting with current tribal leaders, participate in workshops that are relevant to contemporary student and leadership issues and create powerful networks promoting higher education for Native students.

Other SWOSU students who attended the conference were: Ada Hainta and Jackie Hainta, both of Carnegie; Sharon Antelope, Thomas; Gregory "Sonny" Klinekole, Anadarko; Marleta Fletcher and Shanique Baldwin, both of Clinton; Loni Prairie Chief

and Rachel Perkins, both of Weatherford; Brandy Terry, Enid; and Kemaine Thurston, San Bernardino (CA).