

SWOSU Receives Large Grant to Provide Summer Math Institutes for Teachers

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Summer institutes in mathematics for K-8 teachers in Oklahoma will be provided thanks to a \$171,200 grant received by Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. Among those involved in the program are (from left): Dr. Don Wilson, SWOSU Department of Education professor emeritus; Jan Sands, master teacher; Dr. John Woods, grant principal investigator and chair of the SWOSU Department of Mathematics; Anita Blankenship, director of the SWOSU Office of Sponsored Programs; and Dr. Blake Sonobe, SWOSU provost.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford has received \$171,200 in grant funding to provide summer institutes in mathematics for K-8 teachers in Oklahoma.

The institutes are part of SWOSU's "KESAM SP 2009: K-8 Scholars Appreciating Mathematics Statewide Partnerships 2009" program.

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) authorized the Highly Qualified Teachers and Improving Teacher Quality State Grants program which is managed by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

The OSRHE awarded the NCLB grant to SWOSU and Dr. John Woods, principal investigator of the grant and chair/professor of the SWOSU Department of Mathematics.

The institutes will be held in June and July on the campuses of SWOSU in Weatherford, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami, and Carl Albert State College in Poteau. There will also be a follow-up workshop offered in November or February in Oklahoma City.

Woods said the goal of the program is to ensure that all students have highly qualified teachers of mathematics. This summer's primary goal is to train 96 K-8 Oklahoma teachers in mathematics content and pedagogy and the Oklahoma P.A.S.S. standards. Also, follow-up support will be provided for the participants during the 2009-10 academic year.

Teacher participants will come from high-need public and private local education agencies from all regions of Oklahoma. The program is a collaborative effort by Woods; Jan Sands, a master teacher and outstanding 30-year public school teacher; Dr. Don Wilson, SWOSU emeritus professor of education; three site directors-SWOSU instructor Cathy DeVaughan, NEO Dean of Science and Mathematics Dr. John Lomax, and CASCV Academic Vice President Dr. Jim Yates; and several partner local education agencies.

KESAM SP 2009 focuses on research-based professional development that strengthens algebraic thinking and understanding and best practices for the teaching/learning activities in K-8 classrooms. According to Woods, data collected from previous

participants shows that participation in KESAM leads to a significant gain in the teachers' student success rate in mathematics scores and greater student interest, understanding and enjoyment of math.

Selection of participants will be completed in March 2009. Information and application forms have been sent to each K-8 school site principal in Oklahoma. Interested teachers should get their applications in by March 5. To get application forms, they can contact their principal or contact Dr. John Woods at 580.774.3038 or email john.woods@swosu.edu.