

# Music Therapy Awareness Expo Planned Wednesday at SWOSU

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Music Therapy Awareness Week 2014 will be celebrated through Friday, February 28, on the Weatherford campus with the highlight being an awareness expo on Wednesday.

The 7th annual Music Therapy Awareness Expo will be held Wednesday from 4-5 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center Ballroom. Everyone is invited and admission is free.

Dr. ChihChen Sophia Lee, MT-BC, director of the music therapy program at SWOSU, said the keynote speakers are Rachel West Nowels, MT-BC, Jennifer Shafer, MT-BC, and Brooke Roulet, MT, of the Children's Center of Bethany. Nowels and Roulet are also graduates of the SWOSU music therapy program. They will speak about the application of music therapy in pediatric and adolescent medical practices. Additional poster presentations on the clinical applications of music therapy in early intervention, pediatric medicine & adolescent acute physical rehabilitation, school-age children with special needs, and geriatrics will be displayed.

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 students. Musicians of melodic instruments are encouraged to bring their instruments along for the experience.

The activities are organized by the SWOSU Music Therapy Student Association (SWOSU-MTSA) in conjunction with February being the national Music Therapy Month grass root celebration month.

An Open Mic Night is also planned Friday night at The Cup in Weatherford Towne Centre as part of the week's activities.

The summary on events planned on the SWOSU campus in Weatherford each day to raise the awareness of the community to music therapy are as follows:

SWOSU has the only music therapy program in the state of Oklahoma and is accredited by the National Association of School of Music and American Music Therapy Association. SWOSU graduates since 2002 have a near 100% passing rate on the National Board Certification Exam for Music Therapists. There are approximately 30 students currently in the SWOSU Music Therapy program.

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