

SWOSU Introduces Management Training for Western Oklahoma Companies

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Twelve managers from Bar-S Foods Company in Clinton recently graduated from Southwestern Oklahoma State University's new Leadership Development Class.

Working with Clinton Bar-S Vice President Max Pyron and Operations Human Resources Director Jerry Ulrich, SWOSU's College of Professional and Graduate Studies under Dr. Ken Rose developed the class to provide managers with leadership skills to succeed in the advancement and supervision of employees.

Bar-S Foods welcomed the class.

"We do a lot of management training at Bar-S and in the past have had to either fly instructors in or send our people off to Oklahoma City, Dallas, Phoenix or wherever we found the appropriate classes," Pyron said. "By utilizing the resources at SWOSU, we received training from instructors that better related to our managers, were aware of the local conditions and tailored the training to our needs."

Pyron said one of the supervisors, who has worked for other national companies, said it was the best day of training he had ever attended.

"To receive training from highly qualified instructors in several different fields twenty minutes from our plant was a huge benefit to Bar-S," Pyron said. "I feel that this program has the potential to be a major asset to companies throughout western Oklahoma."

Bar-S Foods graduates were Carlos Ruiz, Barry Hardgrave, Courtney Kester, Manuel Martinez, Jimmy Mitchell, Karen Murray, Nelzon Navarrate, Keith Neugebauer, Jim Oliver, Amber Turney, Ruben Uribe and Michelle Williams.

Dr. Larry McKee, associate dean of the SWOSU School of Business and Technology and Dr. Chad Kinder, associate dean of the School of Behavioral Sciences and Education, developed the curriculum to match the needs of Bar-S Foods.

Topics covered by the School of Business and Technology included **management styles, jurisprudence for managers, personal finance/financial plan for success, workplace violence, drug abuse, sexual harassment, and lean manufacturing.** Instructors from SWOSU's School of Business and Technology included Dr. Larry McKee, Dr. Les Crall, Jim Long, John May and Jeff Short.

McKee said SWOSU was pleased to work with Bar-S and looks forward to working with many more western Oklahoma companies in the near future.

Team building using SWOSU's School of Behavioral Sciences and Education ropes course at Crowder Lake will be provided after the weather improves. This course is designed to enhance group cohesion, communications skills, trust, problem solving abilities, self confidence and leadership.

The Leadership Development Class is part of an ongoing effort by SWOSU to assist in the improvement of the western Oklahoma economy by helping companies in the region become increasingly more successful.

Paul Walenciak with SWOSU's Center for Economic and Business Development said the class can be adjusted in length and by subject to meet individual company needs. Additional classes are being planned. More information is available by contacting Walenciak at 580.774.7071.