



News



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SWOSU Student Accepted to National Science Foundation Research Program

Southwestern Oklahoma State University junior Krishna Patel of Weatherford has been accepted to attend a 10-week National Science Foundation research summer program that introduces students to the fundamentals of big data analytics.

Patel will attend the Research Experience for Undergraduates: Big Data Analytics in Stillwater.

The program is led by principal investigator Dr. Esra Akbas, Patel will collaborate on cutting-edge research in cohorts mentored by Oklahoma State University faculty. Though the program is virtual this summer, students will attend seminars, develop research methods and technical skills, and co-author publications of their research.

At SWOSU, Patel is a computer science major studying software development with minors in business management and forensics. She became interested in a career in data science after taking the Introduction to Management Information Systems course with SWOSU Instructor Nate Hicks. She says she applied to the research program, because she wants to gain more experience in the field with the intention of attending graduate school for data science. In the future, Patel wants to work in the private sector as a data scientist or data administrator.

In the Fall of 2020, SWOSU debuted four new concentrations for computer science majors, including data science. While she will continue in her software development studies, Patel emphasizes that she has been supported by SWOSU faculty in her efforts to prepare for a career in data science. Dr. Jeremy Evert, associate professor of computer science, has worked to provide research projects and technical resources to Patel and other students looking to broaden their horizons, and Patel said she has his mentorship to thank for her continued interest in data science and research.

"Krishna has been my best student in data analytics," Evert said. "I am impressed that she formed a team and sought after a mentor to help advance her own skills several semesters ago. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity, and I know she will make the most of it."

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