

SWOSU Pair Chosen for STEMentor Program

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This quartet is involved in the SWOSU's STEMentor program on the Weatherford campus. They are (from left) Bruce Belanger, Department of Education; students Breann Whitaker of Caddo Mills (TX) and Jordon Sage of Binger; and Madeline Baugher, computer science instructor.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University students Jordon Sage, an engineering technology major from Binger, and Breann Whitaker, a special education major from Caddo Mills (TX), will be working together as part of a newly-introduced STEMentor program on the Weatherford campus.

The STEMentor program is designed to pair a junior education major and a freshman engineering technology major for the purposes of increasing the interest and knowledge of future educators in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields while also encouraging retention of college students in the STEM areas.

The program will help prepare Whitaker for the Middle/Intermediate Level Math Oklahoma Subject Area Test (OSAT) teacher certification exam. Passing this exam will allow her to earn the credential to teach mid level/intermediate math.

In addition to mentoring and tutoring one another weekly this spring semester, the two will also attend the Mission to Planet Earth (MTPE) program being held this June in Norman. At MTPE, the duo will present a lesson over a STEM topic to Oklahoma teachers. Sage and Whitaker will work with Oklahoma Space Grant Education Coordinator Dorinda Risenhoover to create their lesson. While at MTPE, Jordan and Breann will also attend a one-day flight ground school and be allowed to help fly a plane.

The students will each receive a scholarship funded by the NASA Oklahoma Space Grant Consortium. Faculty Madeline Baugher and Bruce Belanger collaborated to create the STEMentor program at SWOSU. Baugher is a computer science instructor and Belanger is coordinator of student teaching/field experiences in the Department of Education.