

Bar-S Foods and SWOSU Presented Partnership Excellence Award

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Twenty-eight business and higher education partnerships throughout the state were recently recognized for innovative collaborations that further the education of Oklahoma's workforce, and among the partnerships recognized at the reception in Edmond were Southwestern Oklahoma State University and Bar-S Foods.

Bar-S Foods was given the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award.

The award is designed to highlight successful partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses and to further cultivate the higher learning environment through State Regents' Economic Development Grants.

Bar-S Foods is a dominant player in the packaged foods industry of franks, sliced luncheon meats, sliced bacon and smoked sausage. Bar-s has facilities in Altus, Clinton, Lawton, Seminole and Elk City.

SWOSU and Bar-S have partnered on the university's training and student intern programs. By identifying emergent leaders and by giving those workers the right training and tools to make them successful once they are promoted, Bar-S ensures that its operations remain strong, stable and prosperous. Through a partnership with SWOSU's Center for Economic and Business Development (CEBD), Bar-S has recruited new employees from the student intern program and has enhanced the skills of its current employees with the supervisory training program.

CEBD internships provide students with real-world experience. The CEBD's training program focuses on team building and leadership, taught by some of SWOSU's finest faculty and administrators, which gives supervisors the confidence they need to relate to employees.

"Our state system institutions collaborate with the business community to link academic programs directly to employment needs," said OSRHE Chancellor Glen D. Johnson. "These partnerships allow our colleges and universities to provide innovative, interactive learning experiences for students that align with workforce requirements today and in the future."