

SWOSU Offers New Adult Degree Completion Program

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford is part of a new statewide program that has started to help thousands of Oklahomans return to college to finish their bachelor's degrees.

"ReachHigher: Oklahoma's Degree Completion Program" is designed for adults who attended at least two years of college but did not complete a bachelor's degree.

Participants will take college courses in a flexible, adult-friendly format and, when finished, will have a Bachelor of Science in organizational leadership.

The universities that will offer the degree include: SWOSU; Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Cameron University in Lawton, East Central University in Ada, Langston University in Langston, Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva, Rogers State University in Claremore, Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, and the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

Dr. Les Crall, chair of the Department of Entrepreneurship and Computer Systems at SWOSU, has been working with a state-wide committee to design the new program.

With a degree in organizational leadership, graduates will be prepared for job promotions, pay raises or new careers that require a bachelor's degree. They will be equipped with communication skills, leadership concepts and other knowledge and skills that are relevant in the workforce.

To qualify for ReachHigher, students must already have earned at least 72 credit hours, hold at least a 2.0 grade point average, be at least 21 years old and not enrolled as a full-time student for at least one year.

Reach Higher was created because more than 69,000 Oklahomans have attended college for at least two years but do not have a bachelor's degree. In 2004 the State Regents began exploring a program that would help these Oklahomans get a degree. Business and industry leaders, education officials and former students were asked for their input. It was determined that a business-based degree was needed and a collaboration of universities across the state should offer the program.

Classes will cost about \$138 per credit hour. Students can apply for the program by calling the SWOSU Registrar's Office at 580.774.3777 or visiting www.reachhigheroklahoma.org.