

SWOSU's Thiessen Named Veteran Small Business Champion of Year

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Lisa Thiessen of the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Small Business Development Center in Weatherford has been named Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year for 2011.

Thiessen will be recognized April 21 at the Small Business Administration's awards luncheon at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

Thiessen works as a business development specialist for the SWOSU/Oklahoma Small Business Development Center in Weatherford that offers business counseling, economic development assistance and training to small businesses and prospective small businesses in 15 counties of southwest Oklahoma. Specializing in veteran assistance, Thiessen works closely with the Airman and Family Readiness Flight at Altus Air Force Base to help veterans prepare for business ownership. She has counseled over 60 veteran clients and continues to help increase business opportunities for veterans through monthly outreach.

In addition to their services to veterans, the Weatherford SBDC serves all of southwest Oklahoma including Beckham, Caddo, Cotton, Custer, Grady, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Jefferson, Kiowa, Roger Mills, Stephens, Tillman, and Washita counties. During the past five years, the SWOSU SBDC has assisted over 1,700 clients, resulting in 95 new businesses started and 1,248 jobs created and retained with a financial impact of over \$103 million.