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04-08-2019 SWOSU Foundation, Inc. Names DeFehr and Russell to Board of Trustees

Southwestern Oklahoma State University

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8 April, 2019



Jeff DeFehr



Mark Russell

SWOSU Foundation, Inc. Names DeFehr and Russell to Board of Trustees

Jeff DeFehr of Weatherford and Mark Russell of Elk City have been named to the Board of Trustees of the Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) Foundation, Inc.

DeFehr (SWOSU Class of 1990) is a co-owner of Western Equipment, a 101 year-old John Deere dealership with 14 locations and 400 employees in Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. DeFehr and his wife, Melanie, reside in Weatherford. They are the proud parents of three children: Will (SWOSU Class of 2015), Zoie and Ross. DeFehr sits on the governing board of the Stafford Air & Space Museum Foundation, Inc. He is a Deacon at the First Baptist Church of Weatherford where he and his family are active members.

Russell (SWOSU Class of 1986) is chief executive officer (CEO) of Great Plains Bank, a high-performing community bank with \$750 million in assets and 21 locations. In his tenure as CEO, Russell has led the organization into a period of unprecedented growth, expanding into new markets across the state of Oklahoma and Texas, as well as establishing a new corporate headquarters in Oklahoma City.

Russell serves as a board member for the Community Bankers Association of Oklahoma and the Wichita National Life Insurance Company. He previously served on the Oklahoma Bankers Association Board of Directors and as a Trustee of the Graduate School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University. Russell resides in Elk City with his wife, Tammy. His son, Tyler Russell, lives in Odessa (TX) and his daughter, Madison Russell Smith, and son-in-law Denver Smith live in Milford (CT).

Both DeFehr and Russell have been assigned to the Foundation's Investments Committee.

"We are very pleased that Jeff DeFehr and Mark Russell will be joining the Foundation's Board of Trustees," said SWOSU Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees Chair Dianne Hunter (SWOSU Classes of 1986 & 1990) of Edmond. "Their diverse experiences and expertise will help the Foundation to fulfill its purpose of advancing SWOSU during the university's second century."

The SWOSU Foundation was founded in 1977 to promote philanthropy and distribute funds to support the activities and programs of SWOSU. Located on the Weatherford campus in the historic Burton House, the Foundation currently stewards over \$25 million in assets for the benefit of SWOSU. For more information, please visit www.SWOSUFoundation.com or call 580-774-3267.

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