

# Upward Bound Students Attend State Conference

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SWOSU Upward Bound students who attended the recent state conference in Tulsa were (from left): Jon Samaniego, Oklahoma City (Putnam City); Billy Verjan, Weatherford; Mindy Hooper, Mt. View-Gotebo; Susie Wetselline, Mt. View-Gotebo; Dara Anderson, Burns Flat-Dill City; and Jessica Kelly, Clinton.

Six Upward Bound students at Southwestern Oklahoma State University were recently selected to attend the 29th annual state-wide Upward Bound Leadership Conference.

Over 250 students attended the Tulsa conference, which was hosted by the Northeastern A & M program.

Students who attended from the SWOSU Upward Bound Program were: Jon Samaniego, Oklahoma City (Putnam City); Billy Verjan, Weatherford; Mindy Hooper, Mt. View-Gotebo; Susie Wetselline, Mt. View-Gotebo; Dara Anderson, Burns Flat-Dill City; and Jessica Kelly, Clinton.

On the first day of the conference, the students enjoyed a visit to the Oklahoma Aquarium in Jenks followed by a trip to the mall. That evening, the students attended a banquet that featured keynote speaker Kendrick Davis, a graduate student at the University of Oklahoma. According to SWOSU Upward Bound Director Jamie Ayers, Davis was a dynamic speaker and was able to relate his story of struggles to overcome obstacles in his life to those faced by Upward Bound students. A student talent show and social activities followed the banquet.

On Saturday, students attended several workshops geared toward providing them with the skills and motivation necessary to become leaders. The conference concluded with motivational speaker Lindy Waters. He spoke to the students about what it meant to be a leader and what the characteristics of a good leader are. Ayers said he was very energetic and kept the audience engaged. The conference ended with his positive message, encouraging each student to find the leader within each of them.

Additional information about the SWOSU Upward Bound program is available by calling 580.774. 7129.