

Mike North Establishes Scholarship Endowment at SWOSU

03.06.2013

Mike North (third from left) of Edmond recently gave \$40,000 to Southwestern Oklahoma State University to support the President's Leadership Class program on the Weatherford campus. Accepting for SWOSU were (from left) Alumni Association Board Member Johnny Beech, President Randy Beutler and Assistant to the President Rouben Tourian.

The Lucille and Mike North Endowment to support the President's Leadership Class at Southwestern Oklahoma State University has been established with the SWOSU Foundation in Weatherford.

Mike North of Edmond has given \$40,000 to the scholarship endowment that supports a PLC student each year in the program. The selection has an emphasis on students of veterans or students who are intending to enter the military.

"We at SWOSU are very appreciative of Mike's commitment to our institution and this important leadership program," said SWOSU President Randy Beutler. "We are proud to have this endowment in his and his grandmother's name. Lucille was a great inspiration to many in the Weatherford community due to her commitment to service and education."

Lucille North (1905-2002) is the late grandmother of Mike. She grew up in Weatherford and graduated in 1927 with an education degree from SWOSU. After graduation, she began her teaching career in Okeene and Corn before her marriage to Roy North in 1931. She received her master's degree in education in the mid-1950s and then taught third grade at Weatherford East Elementary School until her retirement in 1971.

Lucille then became one of Weatherford's best-ever volunteers with involvement in the Kiwanis Club, Weatherford Area Chamber of Commerce and Meals on Wheels program. She

drove the senior citizens' van, taking seniors to doctor's appointments and church functions. She did these volunteer efforts while in her late 70s. She was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Weatherford Area Chamber of Commerce at the age of 85.

Mike grew up in Weatherford and graduated from Weatherford High School in 1973. He entered the U.S. Navy after high school and served four years, being honorably discharged in July of 1977. Mike then entered SWOSU in the fall of 1977 and graduated in December of 1980 with BS degrees in accounting and economics.

He worked in public accounting for two and a half years before entering real estate development and syndication businesses. In 1986, Mike purchased a small child care center and over the next 25 years developed and built the business into 11 large child care centers with the capacity to serve 1,750 children. In 2011 the child care business was sold to a national company.