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Dr. Chad Kinder Named SWOSU Special Assistant to the President for Strategic Partnerships



Dr. Chad Kinder has been named special assistant to the president for strategic partnerships at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) in Weatherford effective July 1.

Kinder will continue his duties as dean of the SWOSU College of Professional and Graduate Studies (CPGS).

In his added role, SWOSU incoming President Diana Lovell said Kinder will continue his innovative work at enlarging the opportunities for more students to obtain a great SWOSU education by establishing creative partnerships with other organizations such as school districts, workforce and technical centers, and institutions of higher education.

"Dr. Kinder has proven himself as a pioneering leader in this area, and I look forward to working with him in the future," Lovell said.

Kinder has been employed at SWOSU since 1997 and has been dean of the CPGS since 2016. Before that, he served as associate dean of the School of Behavioral Sciences and Education for some 10 years. He also served as founding chair of the Parks and Recreation Management Department, a position he held since the department's inception in 2003. For over nine years, Kinder served as park manager and law enforcement ranger at Crowder Lake University Park.

He has created numerous academic programs including degrees in parks and recreation management, parks and wildlife law enforcement, and wildland firefighting.

Prior to his employment at SWOSU, Kinder taught in the Custer City and Clinton Public Schools.

Kinder holds Bachelor of Science in Education and Master of Education degrees from SWOSU. He earned his Doctor of Education degree from Oklahoma State University.

Kinder is a past president and a two-time vice president of the Oklahoma Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and a director for the Southwest Park and Recreation Training Institute. He was the 2020 president of the Weatherford Rotary Club. He and his wife, Gayla, have two children—Natalie and Carson.

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