

SWOSU Orientation Leaders Make Presentation at Regional Conference

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Three Southwestern Oklahoma State University Orientation Leaders (OLs) in Weatherford recently presented a program entitled "Dawg Days: Ride of a Lifetime" at the National Orientation Directors Association (NODA) Regional IV Conference in Arlington, TX. The SWOSU students making the presentation were (from left): Natalie Hopper of Mustang, Elizabeth Austin of Borger (TX) and Allison Helm of Geary.

Three SWOSU Orientation Leaders (OLs) recently presented a program entitled "Dawg Days: Ride of a Lifetime" at the National Orientation Directors Association (NODA) Regional IV Conference in Arlington, TX.

Region IV consists of Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, Arkansas and Missouri.

The theme of the conference was "Orientation: The Ultimate Thrill Ride." The SWOSU presentation detailed how to run a successful welcome week on a limited budget and how orientation leaders are crucial in helping freshmen get involved in campus life.

Representing SWOSU at the conference were Elizabeth Austin, a senior English major from Borger, TX; Allison Helm, a junior accounting major from Geary; and Natalie Hopper, a sophomore mass communication major from Mustang. They each serve on the SWOSU New Student Orientation (NSO) Advisory Board. Austin and Helm are in their third year as orientation leaders and Hopper is serving in her second year.

The NSO program offers additional leadership roles to selected students through the advisory board. In addition to fulfilling the duties of an orientation leader, members of the advisory board meet weekly and play a greater role in planning orientation and training sessions. The members serve as liaisons between the OLs and NSO staff.

Aaron Bark, first year OL from Oklahoma City (PC North); Shelby Adams, NSO coordinator; and Jena Skarda, NSO staff member also attended the conference.

NODA is open to programs that address the concerns of all member institutions, large and small, as well as those that cover a wide array of orientation, retention, and transition related concepts, such as student staff selection, parent and family programs and evaluation processes.

NODA was chartered in 1976 and continues the tradition of orientation, retention and transition professionals who have met annually for over 40 years. Through its awards, scholarships and internship program, NODA further encourages excellence in orientation, retention and transition programming.