

SWOSU Student Named Newman Civic Fellow

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Ten Oklahoma higher education students—including Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Devin Smoot of Weatherford—were named 2017-2018 Newman Civic Fellows by Campus Compact as part of a group of 273 students from 36 states, Washington, D.C., and Mexico.

Campus Compact is a Boston-based non-profit organization working to advance the public purposes of higher education.

Smoot is majoring in computer science at SWOSU. He is involved in the Blue Thunder Alley project to develop the SWOSU High Performance Computing Cluster for undergraduate research. He was selected to represent the SWOSU team in meeting with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center researchers to establish research collaborations, which resulted in research awards.

Smoot served his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps and has been active developing a computer network at his church. Because of his Native American heritage and through tribal security work for an Oklahoma Native American tribe, Smoot gained insight into the serious need for education applicable to current job markets and developed a goal to begin a non-profit organization to teach various programming and computer skills to minorities in Oklahoma.

The Newman Civic Fellowship is a one-year fellowship for community-committed college students from Campus Compact member institutions. The students, nominated by their presidents, are individuals who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country and abroad. They are recognized by the Oklahoma State Regents and awarded a \$500 scholarship from Oklahoma Campus Compact.

Through the fellowship, Campus Compact provides learning opportunities focused on the skills fellows need in order to serve as effective agents of change in addressing public problems and building equitable communities. The Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellows program is supported by the KPMG Foundation and the Newman's Own Foundation.