

SWOSU Student Teachers Visit Oklahoma City Public Schools

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As a token of appreciation for the opportunity to work with several Oklahoma City schools, the SWOSU Department of Education provided two elementary schools, Hillcrest and Stand Watie, each with a \$200 voucher for scholastic books or materials. The vouchers are made possible by the proceeds from the Scholastic Book Fair that the DOE hosts each year during the fall semester on the Weatherford campus. Presenting Stand Watie with the gift are (front row) Stand Watie students. Back row from left-- SWOSU student teachers Jennifer Woodard, Mustang; Deven Brandt, Chickasha; Jessica Hook, Canton; Brittney Gaisford, Arnett; Stand Watie Elementary School Principal Rick Brown; Stand Watie Library Media Specialist Dana Chappell; and Bruce Belanger, coordinator of student teaching and field experiences at SWOSU.

Fifty-seven Southwestern Oklahoma State University student teachers recently traveled to Oklahoma City for a field trip required for teacher candidates in their preservice training.

The SWOSU students visited the Oklahoma City Public Schools.

Shannon Freeman, administrator of recruitment and retention with the Oklahoma City Public Schools, worked with the SWOSU students in preparation for their trip. The future teachers spent the day with a teacher in one of 14 schools in the southern part of the Oklahoma City School district.

“Ten elementary schools, two middle schools and two high schools opened their doors for our student teachers and our faculty to experience their diverse educational settings,” said Bruce Belanger, coordinator of student teaching and field experiences at SWOSU.

As a token of appreciation for this opportunity, the SWOSU Department of Education provided two of the elementary schools, Hillcrest and Stand Watie, each with a \$200 voucher for scholastic books or materials. The vouchers are made possible by the proceeds from the Scholastic Book Fair that the DOE hosts each year during the fall semester on the Weatherford campus.

Each principal from these two schools will be able to develop a wish list of books or materials from the Scholastic website and then the SWOSU Department of Education will purchase items for them and will go directly to these schools to help improve the learning for their students, according to Belanger.

“The SWOSU Department of Education is excited to provide this opportunity for both their student teachers and these Oklahoma City school children,” Belanger said.

The field trip is organized as part of a NCATE requirement for teacher candidates to have a certain number of hours throughout their preservice teacher training in field experiences in diverse school settings.