

# Four SWOSU Students Receive Awards from AAUW

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Four Southwestern Oklahoma State University students at Weatherford were recently recognized for their academic excellence by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Weatherford branch.

Jazmin Alvarado of Elk City and Cheyenne Buckner of Weatherford received \$300 scholarships established by Nancy McClain, a former AAUW member and SWOSU faculty/administrator. This award is given annually to SWOSU students who display scholarly and extracurricular excellence.

Yajayara Perez of Oklahoma City and Baili Gunter of Edmond were recipients of travel scholarships to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

Alvarado is a graduate student working on a Master's in Education degree. After graduation, she plans to be a middle school Spanish teacher.

Buckner is a senior athletic training student. She is a member of Gamma Delta Kappa, Organization of Student Athletic Trainers, Medical Professions Club, and the Oklahoma Athletic Trainers Association Student Leadership Council. After graduation, she plans to continue her education and become a physician assistant.

Perez, sophomore education student, received a travel scholarship from both AAUW-Weatherford and the NCCWSL to attend the NCCWSL conference held each year at the University of Maryland. Perez hopes to be able to open doors for other students who have been through the same struggles she has faced and show them barriers can be overcome.

Gunter, freshman parks and wildlife law enforcement student, received a travel scholarship from the AAUW@SWOSU student branch to attend the conference with Perez. While connecting with thousands of other women, Gunter hopes to learn to build better leadership skills that will help her in the future. While looking to take on higher roles in society, she hopes the conference will equip her with the necessary tools to make changes in the realm of empowering women.

The purpose of the NCCWSL conference is to inspire student leaders, empower them personally and provide speakers and workshops that help them with new ideas to take back to their college campuses.

AAUW membership is open to all individuals who have completed a college/university degree (associate, bachelor's, master's or doctorate). Current college students are eligible for a free student e-affiliate membership. The AAUW Weatherford branch meets once each month, September through April, to conduct educational, community service and social activities. For more information about AAUW, contact Lori Gwyn at 580.774.3744 or visit the website <http://weatherford-ok.aauw.net/>.