



SWOSU Foundation, Inc. Names Harper and Valdez to Board of Trustees

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Lori Harper



Cammi Valdez

Lori Harper of Gulfport (MS) and Cammi Valdez of Tahlequah have been named to the Board of Trustees of the Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) Foundation, Inc.

Harper (SWOSU Class of 1993) was named to the SWOSU Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame in 2017.

Harper retired in 2018 as vice president of Supply Chain Management at Ingalls Shipbuilding. Harper joined Ingalls in 2002 and held leadership positions in multiple areas. Prior to joining Ingalls, Harper held leadership positions with several Fortune 500 companies in the aerospace and defense, petrochemical, and services industries. Harper holds a BBA from SWOSU and an MBA from William Carey College. She has completed leadership training at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business and is a certified Six Sigma Green Belt. In 2015, Harper was named one of Mississippi's Top 10 Business Women by Mississippi Business Journal.

Valdez (SWOSU Class of 2008) is currently an assistant professor of chemistry at Northeastern State University (NSU) in Tahlequah.

Valdez holds a PhD in biological chemistry and molecular pharmacology from Harvard University where she was president of the Graduate Student Research Council, a Robert Bosch Fellow, a National Science Foundation Fellow, and received recognition as an Outstanding Graduate Student. Most recently, Valdez served as the director of the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program at Wellesley College, which provides academic and professional support to first generation, low income, and students of color on their path to STEM graduate education. Previously, she was program manager of the Harvard-Amgen Scholars Program and program co-director of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Research Program at Harvard College.

"We are very pleased that Lori Harper and Cammi Valdez will be joining the Foundation's Board of Trustees," said SWOSU Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees Chair George Cohlma (SWOSU Class of 1974) of Edmond. "Their diverse experiences and expertise will help the Foundation to fulfill its purpose of advancing SWOSU during the university's second century."

Harper has been assigned to the Foundation Corporate Governance & Nominating Committee and Audit Committee. Valdez has been assigned to the Foundation Scholarships & Grants Committee and Development Committee.

The SWOSU Foundation was founded in 1977 to promote philanthropy, award scholarships, and distribute funds to support the activities and programs of SWOSU. Located on the Weatherford campus in the historic Burton House, the Foundation currently stewards over \$26 million in assets for the benefit of SWOSU. For more information, please visit www.SWOSUFoundation.com or call 580-774-3267.