



News



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SWOSU and OSU-CHS Sign MOU to Explore Expansion of Rural Healthcare Education

Southwestern Oklahoma State University's (SWOSU) College of Pharmacy in Weatherford and Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences (OSU-CHS) in Tulsa have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to cooperate to serve students and the citizens of Oklahoma through expansion of rural healthcare education.

The MOU was signed by SWOSU President Dr. Randy L. Beutler and OSU-CHS President Dr. Kayse Shrum, who will take over as president of Oklahoma State University in Stillwater on July 1.

SWOSU and OSU-CHS will explore options for a dual-degree partnership involving SWOSU's Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) program and the OSU-CHS Physician Assistant (P.A.) program.

"We greatly appreciate the opportunity to begin a closer relationship with Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences that will lead to future enhancement of health-related programs at both institutions," Beutler said. "This is a partnership with great potential."

SWOSU recently received the largest single donation in the history of the university (\$5 million) from longtime SWOSU benefactors Jerry and Margaret Hodge of Amarillo (TX). That gift is enabling SWOSU to take the next steps toward construction of a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to healthcare education and pharmacy.

SWOSU and OSU-CHS will cooperate on intra-professional education opportunities through electronic or physical means at the earliest possible opportunity. The two higher education institutions will be looking at possibilities and planning methods to utilize selected clinical rotations from one institution's program to meet requirements for clinical rotations of the other institution's program.

In addition, discussion will take place about the guaranteed admission slots into the OSU-CHS P.A. program for SWOSU Pharm.D. graduates, once the probationary accreditation class size cap on the OSU-CHS P.A. program is lifted, provided pre-requisites are met. And discussion will take place on the logistics of guaranteed admission slots into the SWOSU Pharm.D. program for OSU-CHS P.A. graduates, provided pre-requisites are met.

Beutler said the two entities will explore other methods in which SWOSU can collaborate with OSU-CHS to expand rural healthcare opportunities for students and citizens, including the physical expansion of the OSU-CHS P.A. program into western Oklahoma at a site on SWOSU's Weatherford campus, when OSU-CHS' P.A. accreditation and funding levels allow consideration of such an expansion.