



News

25 August,  
2020

# SWOSU President Randy Beutler Announces Retirement



SWOSU President Randy Beutler

Southwestern Oklahoma State University President Randy Beutler has announced he will close out a 35-year career in education and public service with his upcoming retirement effective June 30, 2021.

Beutler was named the 17<sup>th</sup> president of SWOSU in February 2010. He will be completing nearly 12 years leading the institution, becoming the fourth longest-serving president in institutional history.

“SWOSU is a very special place, and I have been blessed to be part of the incredible Bulldog community,” Beutler said. “The work being done at this institution through teaching, learning, research, community engagement and academic partnerships is unprecedented in our 120-year history.”

Beutler said that he would continue to help guide the school through the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic. He said he has been contemplating a retirement date for some time.

“President Beutler has led SWOSU in providing an extraordinary education to students while increasing both degree and nationally-accredited programs, ensuring financial stability, and producing graduates ready to enter Oklahoma’s workforce,” said Susan Winchester, chair of the Regional University System of Oklahoma. “He has positioned SWOSU as a valuable educational asset for our entire state, and we appreciate his masterful leadership in higher education.”

Under his leadership, SWOSU has seen many projects and milestones accomplished. The largest building project in the history of the university was completed under his watch. The 93,000 square foot Pioneer Cellular Event Center was opened in January 2014. In addition, the ground-breaking partnership with Yukon Public Schools was conceived and implemented during Beutler’s tenure. He has also worked closely with the President’s Leadership Class, which he developed while working under former SWOSU President John Hays.

“I am very appreciative of the support that the Weatherford community gives to SWOSU,” Beutler said. “That is very unique among university towns, and it has been great to be able to work with city leaders in making this a successful institution.”

As to his plans in retirement, Beutler said he looks forward to being able to spend more time at his ranch and also working on his historical research and writing.

Prior to being named president of SWOSU, Beutler taught history and government for several years at Weatherford High School. In 1992, he was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives for District 60. During his tenure there, Beutler rose to the position of Majority Whip. He currently is a partner in Beutler-Redd Ranches, Limited, a cow-calf ranch that operates north of Elk City.

Beutler says that he plans to remain at his residence in Weatherford.

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