

# SWOSU Receives Grant for Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Program

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Celebrating a \$26,817 grant to help increase awareness of organ and tissue donations are (from left) Southwestern Oklahoma State University Provost Dr. Blake Sonobe, Director of Sponsored Programs Anita Blankenship, Nursing Instructor Tamra Weimer, School of Nursing Chair Barbara Patterson and President Randy Beutler.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University and Nursing Instructor Tamra Weimer have received a \$26,817 grant for its "Increasing Awareness of Organ and Tissue Donation through Education" program.

The award is from the Oklahoma Organ Donor Education & Awareness Program Advisory Council through the Oklahoma State Department of Health. This is SWOSU's third year of grant funding for the awareness program.

The program has given senior nursing students at SWOSU the opportunity to enroll in an elective course, titled "Increasing Awareness of Organ and Tissue Donation Through Education." The primary project for this third-year grant is for SWOSU student nurses to present the developed program to other Bachelor of Science nursing programs in Oklahoma to encourage development of this elective course work at their respective institution.

Also, SWOSU student nurses will take this educational program to local high schools to offer a school-based educational program on organ and tissue donation. The first program was started at Weatherford High School two years ago. Then, last year, the nursing students went to Thomas High School, Clinton High School and Western Technology Center. This year they plan to be at Hydro-Eakly High School and El Reno High School.

The effort by Weimer focuses on professional development that increases awareness of donation by providing the tools for an open discussion. For more information regarding organ and tissue donation, contact Weimer at 580.774.7007 or by email at [tamra.weimer@swosu.edu](mailto:tamra.weimer@swosu.edu).