

SWOSU Group Competes at NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge

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SWOSU students from Weatherford recently attended the NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge in Huntsville (AL) and the SWOSU teams placed 14th and 24th at the competition. Attending were (front from left): Derek Lawrence, Jaclyn Hammond, Madeline Baugher and Cindi Albrightson, both faculty, Alex Scarborough, Tiler Rose, Ingrid Law, Nick Rymer and Nathan Brooks, faculty. Back from left—Jeremy McKellips, Kevin Fischer, Nico Cornu De Olmos, Brittney Reed, Amanda Adney, Jacob Wall, Jay Penner and Department of Engineering Technology Chair Brad Bryant. Not pictured is Dr. Ric Baugher.

Fourteen students and five faculty from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford recently attended the NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge in Huntsville (AL) and the SWOSU teams placed 14th and 24th at the competition.

The challenge, held April 16-19, focused on designing, constructing and testing technologies for mobility devices to perform in NASA's engineering design challenge focuses to explore planets, moons, asteroids and comets.

There were 95 student teams from high schools, colleges and universities in 18 states and Puerto Rico as well as international teams from Germany, India, Mexico and Russia. Team Russia of Moscow won the university division, while Team Germany of Leipzig finished second and Middle Tennessee State University placed third.

Cindi Albrightson, instructor in the SWOSU Department of Engineering Technology, said rovers were human-powered and carried two students—one female and one male—over a half-mile obstacle course of a simulated extraterrestrial terrain of craters, boulders, ridges, inclines, crevasses and depressions. Each student team of six members was responsible for building their own rover, and the two course drivers were chosen from the team.

The winning teams had the shortest total times in assembling their rovers and traversing the course. Each team was permitted two runs on the course.