

SWOSU Students Selected for Mission to Planet Earth Summer Institute

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University education students (front) Matthew Cooper of Oklahoma City (Westmoore) and Bonnie Lightfoot of Weatherford have been selected to attend the Mission To Planet Earth Summer Institute, hosted by the Oklahoma Space Grant Consortium. With them are SWOSU faculty members (from left) Bruce Belanger, Sherri Brogden and Madeline Baugher.

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The 11-day institute uses the excitement of aerospace education to prepare teachers to motivate students with a research-based, hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) curriculum across all subject areas.

SWOSU faculty Madeline Baugher, Bruce Belanger and Sherri Brogden collaborated to encourage the students to apply for this competitively-selected opportunity. Baugher is a computer science instructor and Oklahoma NASA Space Grant Consortium program coordinator. Brogden is an assistant professor and Belanger is coordinator of student teaching/field experiences in the Department of Education.

In addition to the summer institute, Cooper and Lightfoot will attend a four-day MTPE follow-up trip to one of NASA's research centers, Johnson Space Center, in October and a weekend "Teaching with an iPad Seminar" in September. This institute will enable the participants to enhance their teaching by aligning the motivational activities with the National Standards and the Oklahoma Common CORE curriculum.