

SWOSU Sayre Student Named Winner in Writers Competition

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SWOSU-Sayre student Miroslava Pryor (right) of Elk City recently received an award as an OCTE Outstanding Writer and was given a copy of the *Mosaic Voices Anthology* in which her work is published. SWOSU-Sayre Language Arts instructor Terry Ford (left) was awarded a certificate for submitting Pryor's winning work.

SWOSU at Sayre student Miroslava Pryor of Elk City was selected as winner of the Oklahoma Young Writers Competition with her short story "Innocence Lost."

Her entry was published in the 2008 "Mosaic Voices" Anthology. She, along with 37 out of 107 others, were selected as winners and invited to a recent awards luncheon in Oklahoma City.

Student winners were invited to attend a presentation by acclaimed poet Jimmy Santiago Baca followed by the awards luncheon. Winners were provided with copies of the anthology, and their writings were critiqued in sessions by the judges. Pryor's work was submitted by SWOSU-Sayre Language Arts instructor Terry Ford, who also received recognition.

Attending the awards luncheon and accepting on behalf of Pryor and Ford was Judy Haught, a language arts instructor at SWOSU-Sayre. The luncheon was part of the spring conference of the Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English.

One of the highlights of the conference was the reading of poetry by Baca. In addition to having written several books of prose, Baca is a renowned poet.

"To comprehend the impact of sitting in Mr. Baca's audience, you must realize that to an English teacher such an event is the equivalent of seeing a rock star," Haught said. "Baca's life is a testament to the fact that education and reading can not only transform but literally rescue a person from poverty and despair."

Also at the conference, Geraldine Burns Awards were given to outstanding English instructors. Making the presentations were Dr. Jerry Nye, professor emeritus at SWOSU, and Susan Al-Jarrah, instructor at SWOSU.