

SWOSU Receives \$156,186 Grant from the National Science Foundation

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Among those involved in the Dr. Andrea Holgado (bottom second from right) National Science Foundation research grant include (top row from left): Nathan Bernhard, Thomas; Tim Stein, Enid; Kody McKay, Rush Springs; and Sean O'Brien, Midwest City. Second row from top—Ashley Rodriguez, Clinton; LaKeshia Seals, Tulsa; Dr. Bing Zhang (co principal investigator); SWOSU Biological Sciences Department Chair Dr. Jody Maness; and Caleb Hubbard, Claremore. Bottom row—Monte Stone, Calumet; Mandi Foutch, Seiling; Erica Benda, Yukon; Dr. Andrea Holgado; and Tyler McLemore, Oklahoma City. Not pictured are Claudia NKeih and Elizabeth St John.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Dr. Andrea Holgado, assistant professor in the Biological Sciences Department in Weatherford, recently received a \$156,186 grant from the National Science Foundation for scientific research.

Dr. Holgado's project titled "Modulation of Synaptic Vesicle Exocytosis in *C. elegans* FY12" will enhance and promote career development, education and community outreach.

This continuing grant is a four-year grant from NSF for a total amount of \$708,585. Dr. Holgado is working with co-principal investigator Dr. Bing Zhang, associate professor in the Zoology Department at the University of Oklahoma.

The research for the grant will primarily be conducted by undergraduate students enrolled at SWOSU. Holgado said this project will not only represent an exceptional opportunity for SWOSU students to experience this unexplored scientific world but will also aid in the discovery of strategies to enhance nerve cell communication and fight neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's disease.

For more information about this project, contact Dr. Holgado at 580.774.3230 or andrea.holgado@swosu.edu.