

# Five SWOSU Upward Bound Students Selected for Leadership Conference

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Five Upward Bound students at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford were recently selected to attend the 31st annual state-wide Upward Bound Leadership Conference in Oklahoma City. Students who attended from the SWOSU program were: Lorena Medina, Weatherford; David Hawkins, Ft. Cobb-Broxtton; Amy Ratliff, Carnegie; Dalton Holdge, Ft. Cobb-Broxtton; and Beaux Perry, Carnegie.

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Approximately 175 students attended this years' conference, which had the theme "Building Leaders for Life". Students who attended from the SWOSU Upward Bound Program were: David Hawkins and Dalton Holdge, both of Ft. Cobb-Broxtton; Lorena Medina, Weatherford; and Amy Ratliff and Beaux Perry, both of Carnegie.

Among the activities for the students were:

- Banquet that featured keynote speaker Carlos Rodriguez, assistant director of the Ronald E. McNair program at the University of Oklahoma. SWOSU Upward Bound Director Jamie Novey said Rodriguez was very effective in relating his story of struggling to overcome obstacles in his life, similar to many Upward Bound students face today.
- Group activities encouraging teamwork and communication.
- Dance
- Guest speaker Deborah Binkley-Jackson, director of student support services at the University of Oklahoma, who strongly encouraged students to take what they learned at the conference and share it with others. She asked them to take advantage of the opportunity they have been given by assuming a leadership role, if it is within them, in their school, church, or community.
- Seniors attending the conference were given a special presentation with information on how they can successfully make the transition from high school to college and the career path of their choice. By attending the presentation "Making College & Career Count", seniors were eligible to apply for one national \$5,000 and five regional \$1,000 scholarships awarded by non-profit organization Making it Count.
- Other workshops included "Developing Leadership Skills", "Credit Character", "Your Leadership, Your Potential", and "It's My Life, My Body".

Additional information about the SWOSU Upward Bound program is available by calling 580.774.7029.