



22 June,
2018



SWOSU Receives Women's Foundation of Oklahoma Grant to Support Single Parents' Network

Photo Caption: The Southwestern Oklahoma State University Single Parents' Network on the Weatherford campus recently received a grant from the Women's Foundation of Oklahoma to implement programming to enhance the retention of students with children, providing both academic and social support.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University has received a \$4,500 grant from the Women's Foundation of Oklahoma (WFO) to support the Single Parents' Network on the Weatherford campus.

The WFO, in their effort to create economic self-sufficiency for Oklahoma women and girls, awarded grants to 14 Oklahoma higher education campuses.

WFO Executive Director Teresa Rose Crook said the grants were awarded based on the ability to provide support for single mother students and the proposed program's ability for broad impact on a significant number of students.

"We are thrilled to work with the Single Parents' Network at Southwestern Oklahoma State University to help improve the experience of single parents attending college," Crook said. "Our goal is to eliminate barriers that may be in the way of degree completion and create better quality of life for these families."

Dr. Ruth Boyd, vice president of student affairs at SWOSU, said the Single Parents' Network will use the grant to implement programming to enhance the retention of students with children, providing both academic and social support.

The WFO initiative began in 2015 when the Women's Foundation of Oklahoma awarded its first seven grants to Oklahoma educational institutions. In addition to providing funds, the grants have helped raise awareness of the need for focused support of the single parent population on campuses. Single mother student activities and/or programs are now on higher education campuses in Oklahoma.

The Women's Foundation of Oklahoma, an endowed fund of Communities Foundation of Oklahoma, has paid over \$550,000 to organizations, which are providing direct services to the single parent population and dedicated to the economic self-sufficiency of Oklahoma women and girls. The WFO Endowment is managed by Communities Foundation of Oklahoma. For more information on both, please visit www.wfok.org and www.cfok.org.

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Weatherford, OK 73096

Sayre Campus

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