

SWOSU-Sayre Celebrates 30th Anniversary

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University expanded to include a campus at Sayre 30 years ago in July.

SWOSU-Sayre was founded as Sayre Junior College in 1938 under legislative authorization permitting public high schools to add a 13th and 14th year of study. The Oklahoma legislature merged SJC with Southwestern Oklahoma State University in July 1987.

“We are proud to have the Sayre campus as a part of the important mission of SWOSU,” said SWOSU President Randy Beutler. “This presence is an important outreach to rural Oklahoma for access to higher educational opportunities.”

Sayre Junior College underwent a brief name change in 1940 but quickly reverted to the original name. The first degrees were awarded in 1940. As with some other higher education institutions, SJC closed during World War II and reopened in 1946.

In 1956 SJC moved from facilities occupied jointly with Sayre High School to its current location on Sayre’s east side.

Classrooms and conference rooms have been added, and each fall and spring SWOSU-Sayre serves more than 500 on-campus students, online class students, and high school juniors and seniors who utilize cameras and speakers to take classes at their western Oklahoma high schools.

SWOSU-Sayre awards the associate in science and associate in applied science degrees. In addition to the general education programs offered for students seeking bachelor’s degrees, SWOSU-Sayre also offers nationally accredited Medical Laboratory Technician and Radiologic Technology programs.