SWOSU Students Win 1st Place at Oklahoma High Performance Computing Contest

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University students won first place in a recent statewide High Performance Computing (HPC) competition hosted by the University of Tulsa.

Represent SWOSU were students Jordyn Hartzell, Weatherford; Sweksha Poudel, Nepal; Prasun Thapa, Nepal; Indap Pun Magar, Nepal; Madison Matli, Enid; Camon Buller, Midwest City; Kenny Kruckenberg, Mooreland; Jason Hartlein, Weatherford; Jeremy McKellips, Hydro; and Dylan Ortega, Guthrie.

SWOSU Computer Science faculty and coach Jeremy Evert said the event was an outstanding opportunity for SWOSU students and allowed for hands-on experience for many of the concepts and principles in computer science.

"The students were very happy to win the competition and add a useful skill set to their resumes," Evert said. "The challenges presented in this competition are similar to problems faced by leading researchers around the world. The students learned to address problems in a way that will benefit them for the rest of their education and careers."

The students constructed a small cluster computer for about $700. This small cluster runs the same software as some of the world's most powerful supercomputers, including the National Center for Supercomputing Applications' $208M Blue Waters Supercomputer

University of Oklahoma coach David Akin, a senior systems analyst on the $12M Schooner supercomputer, brought a team of graduate students to the competition. The SWOSU students enjoyed visiting with Akin and his graduate students about how to get the best performance out of their $35 computers.

The SWOSU students also mentored a high school team from Moore Norman Technology Center (MNTC), the first high school team to sign up for the competition. SWOSU student Devin Smoot provided instructions to the MNTC team on how to assemble and configure a cluster. MNTC coach Rachel Hurt said several of her graduating students will be attending SWOSU this fall.