

Jason Johnson Namd Chair of SWOSU Department of Chemistry and Physics

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Dr. Jason L Johnson has been named chair of the Department of Chemistry and Physics at Southwestern Oklahoma State University effective Fall 2015.

Johnson has been a member of SWOSU's faculty since 1996, earning tenure and promotion to the associate level in 2001 and promotion to professor in 2006. He has taught General Chemistry, Biochemistry and Advanced Metabolism on a regular basis.

Johnson earned a B.S. in Chemistry and in National Science Education from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in 1988. In 1993, he earned a doctorate in Biochemistry from the University of Oklahoma, focusing on the mechanisms of allostery regulating key enzymes in carbohydrate metabolism. Upon graduation, Johnson received a National Research Service Award from NIH that provided three years of support as a Post-Doctoral Research Assistant at Texas A&M University.

Since arriving at SWOSU, Johnson has expanded his research interests toward understanding the modes of communication that synchronize active sites within enzymes, particularly those representing key targets for anti-cancer drugs. In support of this project, he has procured over \$700,000 in grant dollars and mentored over 30 SWOSU undergraduate researchers. He has also assumed various leadership positions across campus, including serving as secretary / treasurer of Faculty Senate, chair of the Institutional BioSafety Committee, chair of the Research and Scholarly Activity Committee, and a long-term member of the Pre-Medical Advisory Committee.

Johnson lives in Weatherford with his wife, Dr. Lisa Appeddu, and two sheltie children, Luci and Marty.