

City of Weatherford Presented Business Partnership Excellence Award

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The City of Weatherford was recently presented the Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for its partnership with Southwestern Oklahoma State University on the new Event Center being built on the SWOSU campus. Accepting for the City of Weatherford were (second from left) Mayor Mike Brown and Economic Development Director Chuck Dougherty. Making the presentation were (from left): Oklahoma Chancellor for Higher Education Glen Johnson; SWOSU Center for Economic & Business Development Director Doug Misak; SWOSU President Randy Beutler; and Oklahoma Lt. Governor Todd Lamb.

Twenty-seven business and higher education partnerships throughout the state were recently recognized for innovative collaborations that strengthen Oklahoma's workforce.

Among the partnerships recognized at the reception in Edmond were Southwestern Oklahoma State University and the City of Weatherford. The City of Weatherford was given the Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

The award is designed to highlight successful partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses and to further cultivate the higher learning environment through State Regents' Economic Development Grants.

The City of Weatherford was recognized for its partnership with SWOSU on the new Event Center that is being built on the SWOSU campus. Voters designated sales tax funds for the state-of-the-art center, and city and university officials will assist in the center's oversight.

Scheduled to open in 2014, this 93,000-square-foot center will seat 4,000 people and is expected to draw an average of 150,000 visitors per year to western Oklahoma. The event center will be the only facility of its size and type in an area stretching from Amarillo (TX) to Oklahoma City and from Wichita Falls (TX) to Dodge City (KS).

A focal point of the facility will be the SWOSU Foundation Club Suite, which will be furnished and equipped for functions ranging from VIP galas to student recruiting events.