

# Non-Traditional Student at SWOSU Selected for NASA Institute

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Christine Price (front) of Martha is a non-traditional student at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford who is one of 20 participants from across the United States selected to attend a prestigious summer institute at the NASA Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Her story involving her daughters (Layne and Madyson) is an inspiration to all who seek a better education.

Christine Price, a SWOSU Department of Education pre-service teacher from Martha (OK), is one of 20 participants from across the United States selected to attend a prestigious summer institute at the NASA Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Price, who is a non-traditional student who is back in college for the third time at age 44, will attend the May 28-June 7 NASA Pre-Service Teacher Institute (PSTI), which is a program designed for early childhood, elementary education and middle school education majors. The attendees will be exposed to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities for their classrooms.

The interns will work in teams of two, developing problem-based lessons for students. PSTI concludes with the teams presenting their lessons to local Florida school children. All travel and lodging expenses are paid for by the program, and in addition, each intern receives a \$1,000 stipend for food and other costs.

Price likens the internship to winning the educational lottery. She said that living in southwestern Oklahoma with some low socio-economic status schools, students receive little direct exposure to the type of educational learning she will study at NASA. Price believes it is her responsibility to share what she discovers with her fellow students at SWOSU and eventually in her own classroom. She wants to give back and teach the educationally deprived.

Price graduated valedictorian from Kennedale (TX) High School in 1987. Her oldest daughter, Layne Boddy, is also a senior in SWOSU's Department of Education. Both Layne and Christine are distance learners, taking classes remotely at Western Oklahoma State College in Altus.

Price has worked full-time as a hairstylist to pay for school while taking 22 hours of classes this semester. Boddy is a waitress full-time and is also enrolled in seven classes. The two push each other to perform in class. Price said the two are very competitive and independent, self-driven learners with unique learning habits. Price will complete her student teaching at Sunset Elementary in Altus, while Boddy will conduct hers at Washington Elementary in Clinton.

Madyson Boddy, Price's younger daughter, is a senior at Altus High School. She is concurrently enrolled at WOSC. All three women are enrolled in the same statistics class at the same time forming a family row in the classroom.

And, this Saturday, May 11, both Christine and Layne will walk across the stage at SWOSU's graduation. Two weeks later, Madyson will graduate from Altus High School.

“It’s all the culmination of a dream,” Price said. “It’s validation that you really can do anything if you work hard enough.”