

# SWOSU Students Spend Summer Working on NASA Research Project

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A team of Southwestern Oklahoma State University computer science and engineering technology students in Weatherford received Victoria Snowden Memorial Scholarships this past summer to work on a NASA research project.

NASA Oklahoma Space Grant provided funds for the undergraduate students, who were to determine the efficacy of running weather forecasting software on various computer systems.

Students in the project were Madison Matli, Enid (Chisholm); Nicholas McDaniel, Mustang; Jacob Miller, Duncan (Bray-Doyle); Shelby Steiner, Weatherford; Dylan Ortega, Del City; and Sweksha Poudel, Nepal.

During the summer, students gained insight and knowledge into the functions and capability of high-performance computing (HPC) systems of varying computational power. By communicating directly with members of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the University of Oklahoma's Supercomputing Center for Education and Research (OSCER), and Oklahoma State University's High Performance Computing Center (HPCC), the research team was able to progress from a limited knowledge about HPC systems to understanding many of the fundamental concepts of HPC architecture and uses. Following this, the team documented their work to allow future SWOSU student researchers to continue to make progress on the project.

The Snowden scholarship fund was created in honor of Dr. Victoria Duca Snowden, who passed away in August of 2016. She served as a long-time director of the NASA Oklahoma Space Grant Consortium and is remembered for the passion she carried for her work, as well as her caring nature, according to Madeline Baugher, SWOSU's representative for the Oklahoma NASA Space Grant.