

SWOSU Receives \$15,000 for National Pilot Program Tech Trek

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The Tech Trek Camp to be held at Southwestern Oklahoma State University on July 14-20 recently received \$15,000 from the Oklahoma Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) to assist in funding the science camp for girls.

SWOSU is one of five national pilot programs in the nation. Among those involved in the award were (from left): SWOSU Tech Trek Camp Director Dr. Lisa Appeddu; Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Blake Sonobe; Oklahoma *EPSCoR* State Program Director Dr. Jerry Malayer; SWOSU President Dr. Randy Beutler; SWOSU Director of Sponsored Programs Daphne Burns; and SWOSU Tech Trek Camp Co-Director Dr. Andrea Holgado.

Tech Trek at Southwestern Oklahoma State University recently received \$15,000 from the Oklahoma Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) to assist in funding the week-long math and science camp for girls this summer.

SWOSU, in partnership with the Weatherford branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), was selected to host one of five national pilot programs for a math and science camp for young women in middle school on July 14-20.

The Tech Trek camp started at Stanford University 14 years ago and previously had been held only on university campuses in the state of California. In addition to the camp at SWOSU, this pilot program will have camps at Bowling Green (OH) University, University of Central Florida, University of Texas at Tyler and Pacific Lutheran (WA) University.

Tech Trek is designed to develop interest, excitement and self-confidence in young women entering the eighth grade. The long-term goal of the camp is to increase participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The university experience also allows girls to see themselves seeking higher education and realizing the opportunities that come with a college degree.

Dr. Lisa Appeddu, associate professor in the SWOSU Department of Biological Sciences, is camp director. Dr. Andrea Holgado, associate professor in the SWOSU Department of Biological Sciences, is co-director and program co-coordinator. Dr. Lori Gwyn, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry & Physics, is co-director and fundraising co-coordinator.

For more information about the camp and how to help, please email techtrek@swosu.edu or visit the website: <http://www.swosu.edu/biology/tech-trek/>