

Tech Trek at SWOSU Receives \$10,000 for Math and Science Camp

06.12.2014

Tech Trek at SWOSU received \$10,000 from the Oklahoma Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) to assist in funding the math and science camp for girls this summer on the Weatherford campus. Among those involved in the award are (front from left): Dr. Lisa Appeddu, Dr. Patsy Parker, Dr. Lori Gwyn and Brandi Rizzi, Tech Trek at SWOSU Leadership Committee members; and SWOSU President Dr. Randy Beutler. Back from left—Oklahoma EPSCoR Director Dr. Jerry Malayer; Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Blake Sonobe; SWOSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. James South; Oklahoma NSF EPSCoR Associate Director Dr. James Wicksted.

Tech Trek at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford received \$10,000 from the Oklahoma Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) to assist in funding the second year of this week-long summer math and science camp for girls.

Tech Trek was founded in 1998 by the California American Association of University Women (AAUW), and, due to its success in reaching over 9,000 girls across eight college campuses, was expanded nationwide in the summer of 2013. Thirty campers from across the entire state of Oklahoma experienced the inaugural Tech Trek at SWOSU.

The Weatherford branch of the AAUW was chosen to host Tech Trek at SWOSU for a second year and will be held July 13-19. The camp has expanded to include 48 campers.

Other sponsors of the camp include the AAUW national office, City of Weatherford Hotel/Motel Tax Commission, Weatherford Kiwanis, Weatherford Rotary Club, Sorosis Club, American Jet Charter, Inc., Delta Kappa Gamma, Caddo Electric Cooperative, and Fisher Scientific, as well as individual donors and AAUW branches.

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.

In addition to Tech Trek at SWOSU, this transformational program will have camps at University of Alabama (Huntsville, AL), Eckerd College (St. Petersburg, FL), New Mexico State University (Las Cruces, NM), Bowling Green State University (Bowling Green, OH), Tillamook Bay Community College (Tillamook, OR), and Pacific Lutheran University (Tacoma, WA).

Dr. Lisa Appeddu, associate professor in the SWOSU College of Pharmacy, is camp director. Dr. Lori Gwyn, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry & Physics, is co-director and fundraising coordinator. Dr. Patsy Parker, associate professor and

chair of the Department of Accounting, Computer Science, and Entrepreneurship, is volunteer coordinator. Brandi Rizzi, director of marketing & public relations at the Stafford Air and Space Museum, is social media & marketing coordinator.

Other members of the camp leadership committee include: Dr. Andrea Holgado, associate professor and chair in the SWOSU Department of Biological Sciences, as assessment coordinator; Cindi Albrightson, instructor in the SWOSU Department of Engineering Technology, as program coordinator; Kathy O'Neal, instructor in the SWOSU Department of Mathematics, as financial coordinator; and Emily Brewer, administrative assistant in the SWOSU Department of Accounting, Computer Science, and Entrepreneurship, as student and family coordinator.

For more information about the camp and how to help, please email ttsuosu@gmail.com or visit the website: <http://techtrek-ok.aauw.net/>