

Statement from SWOSU President Randy Beutler and Eight Other University Presidents About Possible New Athletic Conference

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STATEMENT FROM:

Jack Lassiter, Chancellor, University of Arkansas at Monticello

Robert C. Brown, President, Arkansas Tech University

John Hargrave, President, East Central University

David Burks, President, Harding University

Charles Welch, President, Henderson State University

Rex Horne, President, Ouachita Baptist University

Larry Minks, President, Southeastern Oklahoma State University

David Rankin, President, Southern Arkansas University

Randy Beutler, President, Southwestern Oklahoma State University

The presidents, chancellors and directors of athletics from the University of Arkansas at Monticello, Arkansas Tech University, East Central University, Harding University, Henderson State University, Ouachita Baptist University, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Southern Arkansas University and Southwestern Oklahoma State University held a meeting in Russellville, Ark., today to discuss the possibility of forming a new NCAA Division II conference.

Our ongoing discussion is producing positive results as we analyze the feasibility of creating a new conference that would reduce the amount of missed class time by our student-athletes and reduce our operating costs.

We found during the course of our meeting that we have similar concerns and that we are like-minded in our approach to intercollegiate athletics.

Regardless of the final results of these discussions, our athletic schedules for the 2010-11 academic year will not be affected.