

SWOSU Small Business Development Center Wins National Award

05.21.2009

Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Small Business Development Center in Weatherford has won a national award for its efforts in advancing small business growth and development. SWOSU was recognized at several National Small Business Week functions in Washington, D.C., including a visit with President Barack Obama. Accepting the "Small Business Development Center Service Excellence and Innovation Center Award" were SWOSU employees (from left): Lisa Rockett, program coordinator; Lisa Snider, business development specialist; Doug Misak, director of the SWOSU SBDC; Dr. Marvin Hankins, director of the SWOSU Center for Economic and Business Development; and Mary Eichinger, business coordinator at the SWOSU Lawton SBDC site.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Small Business Development Center in Weatherford has won yet another award-this time a national award from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

SWOSU SBDC employees were honored for its achievements in advancing small business growth and development at several functions this week in Washington, D.C., including a personal visit with President Barack Obama.

SWOSU-as well as a California SCORE chapter and New Jersey Women's Business Center-were recognized for their exceptional service and support of their regional small business communities. The national awards were announced at a breakfast event at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel and Conference Center in observance of National Small Business Week.

Accepting the "Small Business Development Center Service Excellence and Innovation Center Award" were SWOSU employees Dr. Marvin Hankins, director of the SWOSU Center for Economic and Business Development; Doug Misak, director of the SWOSU SBDC; Mary Eichinger, business coordinator at the SWOSU Lawton SBDC site; Lisa Snider, business development specialist; and Lisa Rockett, program coordinator.

"SWOSU is very proud of this award," President John Hays said. "Our Center for Economic and Business Development continues to work hard for small businesses in southwest Oklahoma and this award is a testament to the efforts that have been made in recent years."

The Small Business Development Center Service Excellence and Innovation Center Award honors an SBDC Service Center for its excellence in providing value to small businesses and advancing program delivery and management through innovation. The SWOSU SBDC provides key resources and services to the state's small business community.

The SWOSU SBDC has consistently exceeded its goal of capital infusion. These funds, received from SBA loans, private bank loans, venture capital, and individual direct investments to help local firms get started, totaled more than \$16 million last year alone.

In addition, it assisted in the start-up of 37 new businesses. The SWOSU Center is known statewide for its reputation of dedication to the success of entrepreneurs, particularly the underserved. It serves 15 rural counties of southwest Oklahoma and, specializes in providing counseling and training, financial assistance, and assistance to veterans.