

# Contracts for New Events Center at SWOSU to be Issued by July 22

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Proposed Event Room in the new Events Center at SWOSU.

Contracts for the majority of work on the new events center at Southwestern Oklahoma State University are expected to be issued by July 22.

SWOSU Vice President Tom Fagan said the majority of the value engineering reviews have also been completed. Several contracts were re-bid, and site preparation continues with workers burying utility lines and improving water drainage issues.

Funding for the events center is made possible by the *Yes! Weatherford* sales tax campaign, SWOSU students and other university sources.

"It may take a little more time than we had originally planned, but we want to make sure that we build the type of facility that is everything the community and students expect," SWOSU President Randy Beutler said. "We want a center that western Oklahoma citizens will be proud of for decades to come. It is going to be a positive enhancement for student recruitment for SWOSU and economic development in western Oklahoma."

Weatherford voters approved in April 2010 a penny sales tax extension to finance various projects as part of the *Yes! Weatherford* campaign, and one of the projects receiving support was the new 90,000 plus square foot events center, which is being built just south of Milam Stadium on the SWOSU campus.

A design team that was comprised of university, city and community representatives has worked nearly one year on the project. As promised in the *Yes! Weatherford* campaign, the facility will have multiple uses such as conferences, trade shows, concerts/entertainment, athletic events, tournaments and more. The center will also serve as the new home for the SWOSU men's and women's basketball teams and women's volleyball squad.

Expected completion date of the center is late 2012/early 2013.