

SWOSU-Sayre Then and Now

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University at Sayre has a familiar face, but do you know its history?

For example, did you know that SWOSU-Sayre was founded as Sayre Junior College in 1938 under legislative authorization that permitted public high schools to add a 13th and 14th year of study to their curricula? Or, that the first degrees were conferred in May, 1940? Or, that so many faculty and staff answered the call to duty that the school closed during World War II and reopened in 1946?

Probably not.

Here's another question. Did you know that in 1956 Sayre Junior College moved from facilities occupied jointly with Sayre High School to its present location on old Highway 66?

And there's more.

In 1960, two additional classroom buildings were added, and in 1968 the Mackey Hall dormitory was opened. Since then, changes in the physical plant have continued with expansion of the main classroom building; the addition of new classrooms, a conference room, and student service facilities; and the conversion of Mackey Hall to classroom space and library facilities.

Then came the biggest change of all.

On July 1, 1987, Sayre Junior College merged with Southwestern Oklahoma State University as a branch campus, becoming SWOSU-Sayre.

The Sayre campus is located 60 miles west of the main campus at Weatherford on Interstate 40. It serves western Oklahoma and the Texas panhandle within a 60 mile radius of Sayre.

The Sayre campus offers open admission to high school graduates as well as to students who do not hold a high school diploma.

Each fall and spring, approximately 500 full-time and part-time SWOSU-Sayre students work towards completing Associate in Science and Associate in Applied Science Degrees in 10 different majors.

The fall semester begins August 22.