

# SWOSU Student Selected For Freightliner Internship

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SWOSU student Hiren Patel (center) has been selected for an internship position at Freightliner Specialty Vehicles in Clinton. With him are (left) Ryan Kelley, internship director for Freightliner, and Madeline Baugher of the SWOSU Department of Entrepreneurship and Computer Systems.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Department of Entrepreneurship and Computer Systems in the School of Business and Technology is continuing its partnership with Freightliner Specialty Vehicles Inc. by participating in a student internship program at Freightliner.

Hiren Patel is the latest student intern selected for the position.

A selected SWOSU student intern with an adequate background in computer science provides technical support under the supervision of Freightliner's management in designing, testing, and implementing software programs for enhancing the operational efficiency at Freightliner's production and assembly at the Clinton facility.

Through the internship program, SWOSU undergraduate students are encouraged to prepare for careers in scientific and technical fields as well as ancillary areas that support Oklahoma high-tech companies. The student intern works on tasks identified by Freightliner and receives hands-on experience through the internship arrangement. The student is also compensated for the work.

The student intern has the opportunity to work on a real project in industry, learn new industrial processes and technology, and improve analytical skills and knowledge in quality assurance.

Internship programs, such as the one with Freightliner, are an important step in pursuing opportunities for a student to "learn and earn" while at SWOSU, according to Madeline Baugher, instructor at SWOSU. Internship arrangements are an excellent strategy for giving a student an opportunity to apply learning to "real life" situations. Such opportunities encourage the student to pursue advanced degrees and/or careers in science and technology. Additionally, good performance by the intern enhances their employability after graduation.

SWOSU plans to pursue additional internship partnerships with other Oklahoma-based industry.