

New Statewide College Program for Adults Available at SWOSU

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Chancellor Glen D. Johnson, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, announces the official kickoff of ReachHigher. The program is designed for Oklahomans who want to return to college to finish their bachelor's degrees. In the background are SWOSU President John Hays and Northeastern State University Interim President Kim Cherry.

Oklahomans can now enroll for the fall in a statewide program to finish their college degrees, and Southwestern Oklahoma State University with locations in Weatherford and Sayre is one of eight participating public regional universities in the new program.

“ReachHigher: Oklahoma’s Degree Completion Program” is designed for adults who attended at least two years of college but did not complete a bachelor’s degree.

Chancellor Glen D. Johnson said ReachHigher is designed especially for adults who have considered finishing their degree, but hesitated because they worried about the time and cost.

“For the thousands of Oklahomans who wish they could finish their college degrees, their opportunity is now,” Johnson said. “ReachHigher will help them complete their degree at their own pace, at an affordable cost, from one of Oklahoma’s outstanding public universities.”

Universities that currently offer the degree include: Cameron University in Lawton, East Central University in Ada, Langston University in both Langston and Oklahoma City, Northeastern State University in both Tahlequah and Muskogee, Northwestern Oklahoma State University in both Alva and Enid, Rogers State University in Claremore, Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, and the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

To qualify for ReachHigher, students must already have earned at least 72 credit hours, hold at least a 2.0 grade point average, be at least 21 years old and not enrolled as a full-time student for at least one year. Participants take college courses in a flexible, adult-friendly format and, when finished, will have earned a Bachelor of Science in organizational leadership.

With a degree in organizational leadership, graduates will be prepared for job promotions, pay raises or new careers that require a bachelor’s degree. They will be equipped with communication skills, data analysis proficiency, leadership ability, and other knowledge and skills that are relevant in the workforce.

ReachHigher has been operating since March, when it launched a pilot semester for spring 2007. Since then, 75 students have joined the program. Officials said hundreds more have called or inquired about enrolling.

Classes cost about \$147 per credit hour. Students can apply for the program by calling (800) 951-0768 or visiting www.ReachHigherOklahoma.org.