

Blaine Boyd Named to SWOSU Presidential Order of Merit

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Blaine Boyd of Washington, D.C. has been named the 29th member of the Presidential Order of Merit at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

Boyd was recognized during a surprise ceremony recently at the White House where Boyd currently serves as Director of Correspondence for First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama.

SWOSU President Dr. Randy L. Beutler was present to personally confer the honor upon Boyd, a SWOSU Class of 2014 alumnus who studied English and Finance.

“Blaine Boyd was an exemplary student during his time at SWOSU. His personal integrity and selfless commitment to helping others saw him elected SWOSU’s Student Body President, and those same admirable qualities have marked his time of service in the Obama Administration,” Beutler said. “We are very honored to call Blaine one of our own, and so proud of the way he has represented the ideals and values of Southwestern Oklahoma State University in the public sphere.”

Boyd is a native of Weatherford. He is the son of SWOSU Assistant Professor Dr. Allen Boyd and SWOSU Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Ruth Boyd, and the grandson of Bud and Dody Boyd and Millie and the late Bob Maynard, all SWOSU alumni. Blaine’s brother, Brady, is currently a student at SWOSU.

Boyd is the second-youngest individual to have ever been inducted.

“I’m forever grateful to be part of the Southwestern Oklahoma State University family, and I’m incredibly humbled by this recognition,” said Boyd. “President Beutler has been a guiding influence and mentor for many years, and it meant so much that he’d take the time to make this recognition in person. It’s with great pride that I’ll always say I’m a SWOSU Bulldog.”

The SWOSU Presidential Order of Merit is an honor bestowed upon an individual who has shown outstanding achievement, on the state, national or international level, in the arts, sciences, business, industry, the professions, sports, social service or public service. The prestigious award represents recognition of significant distinction that a member of the SWOSU family has attained. SWOSU President Dr. John Hays introduced the award in 2004. The SWOSU Presidential Order of Merit is the highest honor in the personal gift of SWOSU's chief executive.

For more information about the SWOSU Presidential Order of Merit please contact the SWOSU Office of Institutional Advancement at 580-774-3267.