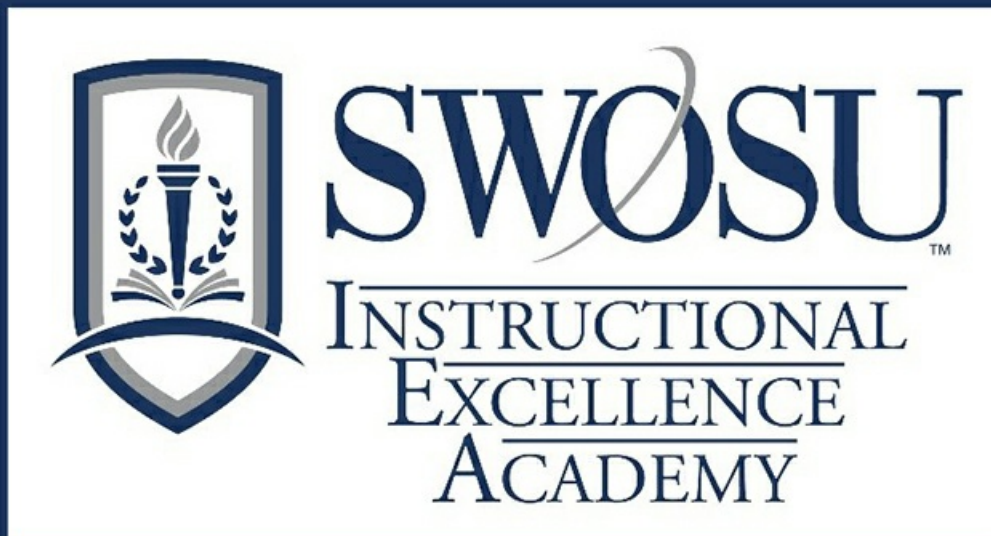




9 November,
2018



SWOSU to Start Instructional Excellence Academy

Southwestern Oklahoma State University has announced a new initiative to provide resources to university instructors who wish to improve teaching and learning in their classrooms.

The SWOSU Instructional Excellence Academy (IEA) will begin its first class in January 2019. The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) at SWOSU on the Weatherford campus will implement the initiative.

The IEA is a two-semester hybrid learning experience for 10 faculty members in each class, encompassing both online and in-person activities. Faculty members may begin in either the fall or the spring semesters and will be paid for their participation.

"The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning has been diligently creating this academy for the past six months and is excited that the endeavor is ready to be implemented," said Marci Grant, director of the center. "Many emails have been received from faculty across the University who are excited about applying and participating in the academy."

Participants will apply for acceptance into the academy and, throughout the course, will receive resources to improve the quality of student engagement and depth of learning. Some of the training will be presented in online modules, and some will be collaborative face-to-face projects, which will be presented to their peers at lunchtime “brown bag” sessions. These sessions will focus on *Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Creativity, Communication, Community Service* and *Relevance*.

Upon successful completion of the course, faculty members will be known as SWOSU Instructional Excellence Fellows and will be able to display the logo of the academy on their office doors and email signatures. They will be recognized in the SWOSU course catalog faculty listing as SWOSU Instructional Excellence Fellows.

“SWOSU has always valued teaching and has always had great professors,” said SWOSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. James South. “This initiative allows us to invest in faculty members who want to continue to improve teaching and student learning. I look forward to seeing this program become a well-regarded resource for faculty.”

Funding for the Academy is provided by the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and the Faculty Development Committee at SWOSU.

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