

Financial Enhancement Program Available for Social Work Students at SWOSU

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A financial enhancement program to help college students who elect to work in child welfare after graduation is available from the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, and Southwestern Oklahoma State University in conjunction with the DHS is looking for students who want to work on a Bachelor of Social Work degree on the Weatherford campus.

Debbi McFarlin, director of the social work program at SWOSU, said the financial aid program has been a tremendous help for students. The Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program is aimed at professionalizing the child welfare work force, and the DHS is seeking social work students that aspire to work in child welfare.

The SWOSU social work program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Both McFarlin and Sarah Schulz lead the program at SWOSU, which is offered on-campus as well as via distance education with classes available at SWOSU-Sayre, Western Oklahoma State College in Altus, Redlands Community College in El Reno and numerous other sites through a collaborative effort with other educational institutions.

McFarlin said SWOSU students are frequently hired upon graduation, and the university is currently recruiting students for the DHS professional enhancement program. Eligible students will receive monetary funds to pursue their education.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, social work is one of the fastest growing careers in the United States. Professional social workers are found in every facet of community life—in schools, hospitals, mental health clinics, senior centers, elected office, private practices, prisons, military, corporations, and in numerous public and private agencies that serve individuals and families in need.

Information about social work education and the DHS program are available by calling SWOSU at 580.774.7087 or visiting the SWOSU website at www.swosu.edu.