

News



20 November,
2018

Nelson Sims Presented SWOSU College of Pharmacy Award

Photo Caption: Nelson Sims (right) of Key Largo (FL) was recently presented the 2018 Southwestern Oklahoma State University College of Pharmacy Outstanding Pharmacy Alumnus Award on the Weatherford campus. Making the presentation was SWOSU College of Pharmacy Dean Dr. David Ralph.

Nelson Sims of Key Largo (FL) was recently presented the 2018 Southwestern Oklahoma State University College of Pharmacy Outstanding Pharmacy Alumnus Award on the Weatherford campus.

The Outstanding Pharmacy Alumnus Award is presented each year to a SWOSU pharmacy graduate who has demonstrated exceptional support of the College of Pharmacy and outstanding personal achievements in the pharmacy profession.

Sims, a hometown product of Watonga, graduated from SWOSU in 1971 with a pharmacy degree. He is a corporate director with over 35 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry.

Sims served as an executive with Eli Lilly and Company for 29 years prior to his retirement in 2001. His assignments included president of Eli Lilly Canada, Inc., from 1991- 1999, and he was elected chair of the board for the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Association. From 2003 – 2005, Sims was president and CEO of Novavax, Inc. He is currently a board member for several companies and is a partner of RCI Private Equity, LLC.

He also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Foundation. He has been a lifetime member of the SWOSU Pharmacy Alumni Association since 1990. Sims has had numerous career achievements including being a graduate of the Dartmouth School of Business Tuck Executive Program and receiving SWOSU's Distinguished Alumni Award in 1992.

In addition to his years of dedication and service in the pharmacy profession, he and his wife, Janie (also a 1971 SWOSU graduate and a SWOSU Distinguished Alumni Award recipient), have been generous supporters of SWOSU and committed to the advancement of the university and the College of Pharmacy. With their donation of \$250,000 to the SWOSU Foundation in 2012, which was matched with state funding for a total of \$500,000, the Nelson M. Sims Endowed Chair was established for the SWOSU College of Pharmacy.

This endowed chair has led to the College of Pharmacy Center of Excellence and Leadership Development Program, which provides an opportunity for qualified Doctor of Pharmacy students to obtain a degree specialization. This specialization includes coursework and experiences focusing on innovative approaches to quality improvement in healthcare. The graduates are uniquely qualified to address the challenges created by the quality gap that exists in healthcare today.

The Sims reside in the Florida Keys during the winter months and in Edwards (CO) in the summer. They are the parents of two children.

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