

SWOSU Committee Receives Undergraduate Research Spotlight Award

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Dr. Jason Johnson, professor of chemistry at SWOSU, accepts the Undergraduate Research Program Spotlight Award from Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Chancellor Dr. Glen D. Johnson at a recent conference in Oklahoma City. SWOSU's Research and Scholarly Activity Committee (URSAC), chaired by Dr. Jason Johnson, received the award.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Research and Scholarly Activity Committee (URSAC) recently received the Undergraduate Research Program Spotlight Award from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

The Spotlight Award is given to honor one exemplary university program for undergraduate research each year. The award was given at the 5th annual Promoting Undergraduate Research Conference sponsored by the OSRHE.

Dr. Jason Johnson, professor of chemistry at SWOSU and chair of the URSAC, accepted the award on behalf of the committee. Presenting the award was OSRHE Chancellor Dr. Glen D. Johnson.

Undergraduate research has been a focus at SWOSU for many years, according to Johnson. Students work with faculty mentors to gain valuable experience in hands-on research. These experiences have proven valuable in preparing students for graduate/professional schools or the workplace.

Since its inception in 1993, URSAC has been instrumental in providing leadership in developing and implementing strategies that help maintain a healthy research base among the faculty and students. The committee also sponsors SWOSU's annual Research and Scholarly Activity Fair, which celebrated its 21st year in 2014 and featured around 200 student research projects.

Other members of the committee include: Dr. Randy Barnett (Psychology), Dr. Faruk Khan (Pharmaceutical Sciences), Ed Klein (Education), Dr. Denise Landrum-Geyer (Language and Literature), Jess Parker (Radiologic Technology), Dr. Richard Tirk (Music), Dr. Muatasem Ubeidat (Biological Sciences) and Dr. Yolanda Carr (Director, Office of Sponsored Programs), Ex-Officio.