

# Parrish Wins Governor's Arts Award for Community Service

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John Parrish, who works on special projects with the president's office at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, will receive a Community Service Award at the 2006 Governor's Arts Awards.

Parrish directed the recent Colony Labor Day Festival and Colony GooberFest events and is currently preparing for another event, Christmas in Colony. The projects have been a joint effort between the town of Colony and SWOSU.

Since 1992, Parrish has been involved in non-profit, cultural and social services organizations with an emphasis on history, American Indian society and services for individuals needing assistance with life transitions and chemical dependency.

Over the last 15 years, he has been on the board of directors for Red Earth, Inc; the Eagle Flight Program; Neighborhood Services Organization; the Delaware Tribe Rehabilitation Service; Norman Arts Council; Oklahoma City PowWow Club; and Celebrations School. He has served as president of Neighborhood Services Organization and vice chairman of the Oklahoma City PowWow Club.

Parrish had a 22-year career in banking and worked in banks in Oklahoma City, Kiowa and Enid before leaving the industry in 1988. He served as president/chief executive officer of three banks.

He then operated rental properties and ran a restaurant in Enid. In 1990, Parrish returned to living in Oklahoma City where he was born.

From 1997 to 2005, Parrish was executive director of The Jacobson House Native Art Center in Norman. The Jacobson is an American Indian Cultural Center which mounts fine art exhibits and holds cultural events.

Parrish has three married sons. One lives in Santa Fe, one is in the United States Army Dental Corps stationed in Georgia, and one is attending Auburn University in Alabama.

Parrish will be honored November 29 from 4-6 p.m. in the 4th floor rotunda of the Oklahoma State Capitol.