

SWOSU Receives \$350,000 Grant for Technology Upgrade Project

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SWOSU Engineering Technology Department faculty recently celebrated a \$350,000 grant for a technology upgrade project on the Weatherford campus. The award came from the U.S. Department of Education. Senator Jim Inhofe and Representative Frank Lucas, along with SWOSU President Randy Beutler and Provost Blake Sonobe, were instrumental in obtaining the grant. Pictured are (front from left) Sonobe and Beutler. Middle from left-faculty Frank White, Richard Baugher and Jeff Short. Back from left-faculty Dick Kurtz, department chair Brad Bryant and faculty Brad Fitzgerald.

The Engineering Technology Department at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford has been awarded a \$350,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for a technology upgrade project.

Senator Jim Inhofe and Representative Frank Lucas, along with SWOSU President Randy Beutler and Provost Blake Sonobe, were instrumental in obtaining this grant for the technology program at SWOSU.

The purpose of the grant is to provide necessary equipment and software to educate students on leading-edge technologies utilized in industry. The grant enables "hands on" learning in critical areas of applied engineering, according to ET Department Chair Brad Bryant.

The grant coincides with the recent opening of the renovated Technology Building on the SWOSU campus. Both laboratory and classroom spaces were expanded. Bryant said the addition of the new equipment, along with the building renovation, provides SWOSU engineering technology students a state-of-the-art education experience and a competitive edge in today's market place. An open house is planned November 4 for area residents.

The Engineering Technology Department at SWOSU offers accredited programs in engineering technology and industrial technology. Many SWOSU graduates are working in various technical positions around the state and region.