

SWOSU Hosts Physics Day

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Weatherford High School student Cole Essary has his hands on the Van de Graaf generator at the recent Southwestern Oklahoma State University Physics Day event on the Weatherford campus.

The generator builds up a very high voltage on the metal sphere (about 100,000 volts). On a good day, according to SWOSU instructor Wayne Trail (left), the charge that transfers to the student will cause his hair to stand up because the like charges in adjacent hairs repel one another.

If there is some moisture in the air, that charge can leak off without the "hair-raising" experience. SWOSU Physics Day attracted nearly 130 students from 10 schools in western Oklahoma.