

SWOSU Student Organizations Granted \$63,000

10.31.2011

Forty-eight student organizations at Southwestern Oklahoma State University received funds totaling over \$63,000 during the recent Student Activities Allocations Committee hearings on the Weatherford campus.

The allocation committee is comprised of 12 students, and their task is to hear presentations from student organizations and then determine funding for the various student organizations based on the 2011-12 budget of \$63,000. The total requests made during the hearings totaled \$197,493.78.

The five organizations allocated the most were Chi Alpha and the American Pharmacists Association, both receiving \$7,000; Southwestern International Students Association, \$4,840.50; Biology Club, \$4,000; and the Black Student Association, \$3,790.

The American Pharmacists Association plans to use their allocation on multiple patient care programs offered throughout the community. The first, Operation Diabetes, provides screening and information on prevention, management and the risks of diabetes. Another program, Operation Immunization, provides over 300 patients with influenza vaccinations and educating over 1,900 people on the health benefits of immunizations. Also, the group's Heartburn Awareness Challenge educates more than 300 patients in Weatherford and Woodward on effective ways of managing heartburn.

Chi Alpha is a student organization focused on providing service throughout the campus and promoting fellowship through community action. Chi Alpha provides a free lunch for all SWOSU students every Thursday.

Southwestern International Students Association uses funds allotted to conduct various social, educational and charitable events. The group hosts International Day, when visitors come to eat home-cooked meals prepared by the international students. Over 100 usually attend to eat meals from Nepal, Cameroon, Taiwan and many other countries. The organization benefits all of SWOSU's international students with assistance and also increases diversity among all students.

The Biology Club will host the Tri-Beta convention this year, which includes students from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Tri-Beta is an honors society that unites some of the best student minds from across the area. Students present novel research projects performed under faculty supervision.

The SWOSU Black Student Association enriches leadership capabilities of students who attend SWOSU. The organization uses student funds to hold events celebrating Black History Month and other activities that increase diversity. BSA strives to increase cultural awareness of all students and create an atmosphere of tolerance.

Cindy Dougherty, dean of students at SWOSU, said all funds allocated are generated through student fees. Members of the allocation committee are faculty-recommended and officially nominated by one of SWOSU's four deans. Each dean recommends three students.