

# SWOSU Industrial Technology Accredited by ATMAE

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Department of Industrial and Engineering Technology was recently notified that its Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology has been accredited by the Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering.

The year-long effort to gain this prestigious accreditation was capped at the November 10 meeting of the Accreditation Board of ATMAE during the association's annual conference being held in Louisville, KY.

Brad Bryant, chair of the SWOSU Department of Industrial and Engineering Technology, presented the findings from a visiting team of investigators to the board and represented the program during the board hearings. Jeff Short of the department also represented SWOSU.

"We are very pleased that ATMAE has accredited our program." Bryant said. "I believe we have a strong program with a very good group of faculty, and this type of certification affirms my belief."

ATMAE, formerly the National Association of Industrial Technology, is faculty, students and industry professionals dedicated to solving complex technological problems and developing the competitive technologist and applied engineering workforce. ATMAE sets standards for academic program accreditation, personal certification and professional development for educators and industry professionals involved in integrating technology, leadership and design. The primary purpose of ATMAE accreditation is to encourage and recognize the attainment of certain professional goals and standards for industrial technology.

According to Short, who is an ATMAE certified senior technology manager and an instructor in SWOSU's program, the industrial technologist seeks to integrate engineering design with business objectives and plan execution.

"In order to make technology happen, someone has to interpret the plan, put it into practice, and achieve results for the organization. This is the role we prepare our students at SWOSU to fill," Short said.

"We at the University are excited about this program and the fact that it will soon be housed in a new facility," Bryant said.

Construction is currently underway on a complete remodel and expansion of the Technology Stone Building located on the east side of campus. Scheduled completion of the major construction is August, 2010. The new construction will provide a material processing lab, manufacturing lab and research center, a material testing lab, and many other new facilities for the department.

The ATMAE-accredited program is the second degree program offered by the SWOSU department to become accredited this year. Earlier this year the Bachelor of Science in Manufacturing Engineering Technology degree was accredited by the Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology.

SWOSU is the only university in Oklahoma to have these two prestigious accreditations for its programs.