

Southwest Oklahoma Impact Coalition Receives \$112,850 Grant

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The Southwest Oklahoma Impact Coalition (SOIC) has received an \$112,850 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to assist in its regional development work. The grant will be administered through the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Center for Economic and Business Development. Meeting recently to discuss the grant were (from left): SWOSU CEBC Director Dr. Marvin Hankins; SOIC Executive Director Marilyn Feaver; SOIC Chairman of the Board and USAO President Dr. John Feaver; SWODA Director of Community and Economic Development Debora Glasgow; SWOSU President Randy Beutler; and ASCOG Executive Director Blaine Smith.

The Southwest Oklahoma Impact Coalition (SOIC) has received notification that the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) has awarded grant funding to the organization to assist in its regional development work.

The \$112,850 grant, administered through Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Center for Economic and Business Development in Weatherford, is an EDA University Center Program that provides funding to higher education institutions throughout the United States for the support of local and regional economic development.

Dr. Marvin Hankins, head of SWOSU's Center, said the University Center Program is designed to leverage institutional and regional resources with an additional emphasis on planning and collaboration outside traditional jurisdictions.

SOIC is a unique voluntary association consisting of five institutions of higher education, six career tech centers and two regional councils of local governments in southwest Oklahoma. Members in the partnership include Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Western Oklahoma State College, Cameron University, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Redlands Community College, Caddo Kiowa Technology Center, Canadian Valley Technology Center, Western Technology Center, Southwest Technology Center, Great Plains Technology Center, Red River Technology Center, Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments and South Western Oklahoma Development Authority.

"EDA is especially supportive of long-term, coordinated and collaborative regional economic development approaches," said Dr. John Feaver, SOIC Chairman of the Board. "SOIC reflects that priority with its program of work focused towards regional solutions that address economic and workforce development initiatives as well as infrastructure projects and programs in southwest Oklahoma."

This year marks 45 years of public service for EDA. The organization is an agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce that partners with communities and non-profit organizations throughout the United States to foster job creation, collaboration and innovation.

Additional information about SOIC is available by contacting Executive Director Marilyn Feaver at (405) 574-1368.