SWOSU Organizes Class
Curriculum Around Oil and Gas

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Academic leaders at a Western Oklahoma university are answering a regional demand for business graduates who have studied oil and gas.

“Basically, our students help achieve what an engineer conceives. We’re different than engineering. Engineering schools work a lot as a concept. Our students are more applied. That makes them a good fit for this type of degree,” Brooks said.

Brooks went on to say, “In a typical engineering course, students are going to have very high level math courses. The way to compare our degree is the highest math that they take are applied like applied calculus. So instead of calculus, 1, 2 and 3 are courses. Our students are taking applied calculus plus other courses that are geared more to applied learning.”

“Every one of our courses that we teach like statics and strengths of materials, material test analysis – those all have labs. And many of our graduates in this area, they go to work in the energy industry anyway,” said Brooks.

Though Dean Chad Kinder had the vision for the Agricultural Business degree, the students are going to work in oil field related or some type of energy-related industry.

“The same thing happens with our engineering/technology students. They go to work for companies that are oil and gas related. However, previous to this, our program didn’t have any energy-related courses so that’s why we’re adding these.”

“It’s an energy technology minor will help those students learn more about that field and be more prepared when they hit the work force.”

The department is well on its way to rolling out the course and signing up prospective oil and gas students.

(SwOSU... next page)