

IOFINA

Northwest Oklahoma is one of three locations in the world where nature provided enough iodine to be commercially viable. Chile and Japan are the other two.

What does that mean? Big business in Northwest Oklahoma.

Iodine is used in products ranging from fumigants and disinfectants to health care devices such as x-ray machines. Computer screens and flat screen TVs also need iodine. The continual development of new uses and its compatibility to form compounds has increased iodine demand, particularly from pharmaceutical and industrial manufacturers.

Northwestern Oklahoma State University associate chemistry professor Jason Wickham, PhD, and Rebecca Fenton, quality control and quality assurance coordinator at Iofina, worked together to forward an award winning application for OCAST's Intern Partnership Program. That accomplishment cleared the way for Northwestern student interns and Alva iodine company Iofina to work together in a unique industry.



Wickham said the program enables students to work part-time for a company while finishing their degree. Arysta, a company acquired by Iofina, was a previous OCAST Internship partner, a fact not lost on Wickham and Fenton who used Arysta's success as a springboard to try again.

The new internship award began with the fall semester 2014, giving Iofina two Northwestern interns who will work 12 hours each week for the next two years.

Iofina's name is derived from iodine which is extracted using the company's exclusive Wellhead Extraction Technology™. Iofina PLC is the holding company of a group of companies involved in the exploration and production of iodine and natural gas on land the group acquired. In addition, they created a subsidiary, Iofina Chemical.

Iofina's location in Northwest Oklahoma's iodine field is due to the existence of ancient sea beds with a high concentration of sea weed that captured the mineral.

[Go to the Iofina website](#)