

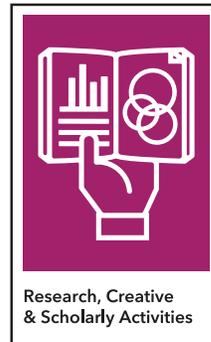
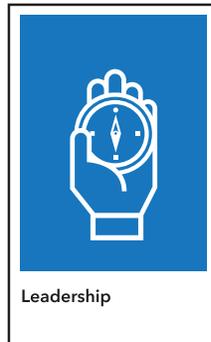
# STLR

STUDENT TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING RECORD

*Where We've* **Been**

*Where We* **Are**

*Where We're* **Going**



CENTRAL SIX TENETS OF TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

# Where We've Been

Conceived as a way to “operationalize” Transformative Learning at UCO, STLR allows UCO students to show employers competency in highly-sought “soft skills” fostered through experiences in UCO’s Central Six tenets of TL. It also provides the university a way to measure how well it is doing in delivering a transformative experience to its students.

In 2014, the university began training faculty and staff who would guide students through STLR experiences and moved toward implementation of a pilot of the program for the fall semester. Then, STLR got a big boost when the university received a \$7.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education in October 2014.

STLR expanded campuswide in fall 2015, and our fall 2015-to-fall 2016 STLR persistence results were, well, “stellar.” Fall 2017 will see the third incoming class living as STLRized Bronchos.

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*[Students] need something other than books in front of them to learn about what the world is like. And that is what STLR does, it gives them a picture of the world and what they can do to make it better.*

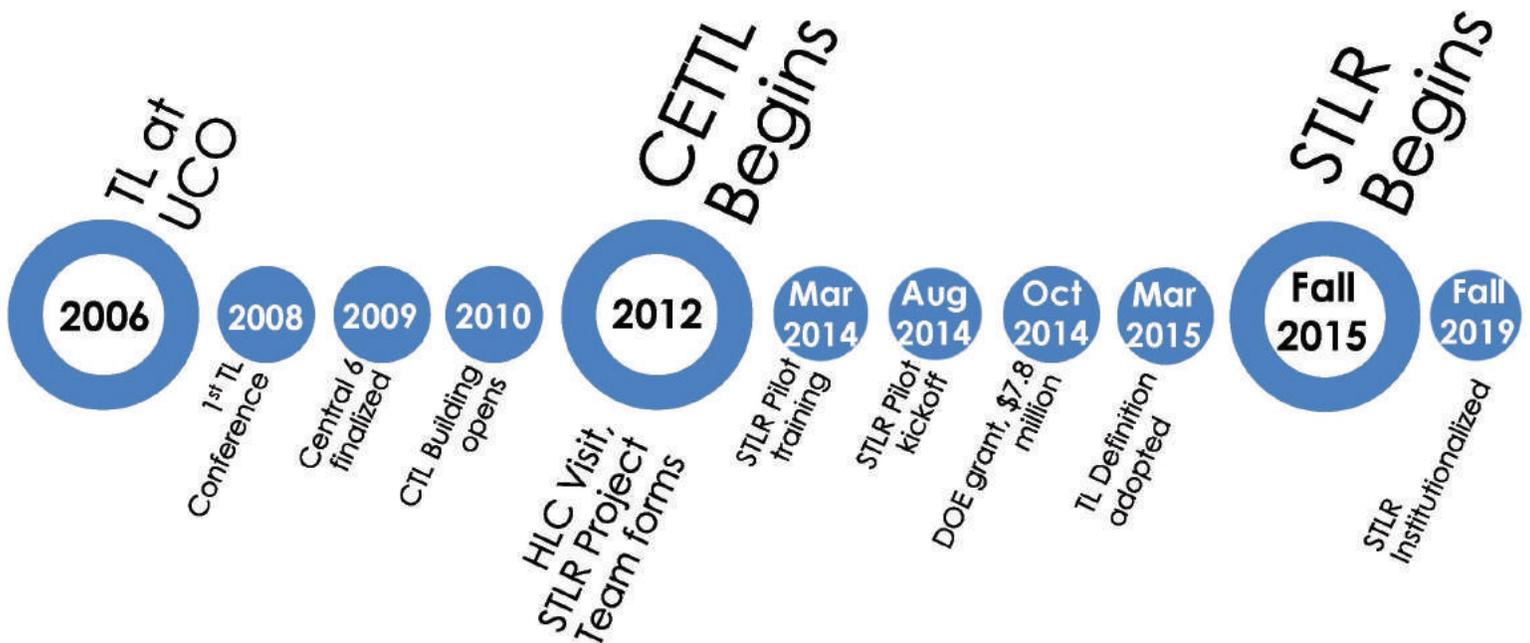
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- Undergraduate Student, Veteran\*

\*STLR qualitative research IRB parameters protect student identities.



STLR Cording Ceremony for Graduates



# Where We Are

To date, more than 400 faculty and staff have been trained. Trained faculty are able to associate one of the Central Six tenets to an assignment and assess the student's transformation level with STLR rubrics. Trained staff are able to assess student-generated content related to on-campus internships, student organization leadership, and other activities. Both faculty and staff mentor students in out-of-class projects, with STLR funds paying students \$10/hr to work on these projects. More than \$1.2 million has been awarded for student STLR projects so far.

We are also measuring the impact of STLR on student retention and achievement. The charts on this page provide a snapshot of our progress midway through the DOE grant. So far, the results are overwhelmingly positive.



*As a professor, this transformative learning assignment has resulted in some of the most significant and meaningful experiences I have had in my career. I have watched students become proficient at a skill that will be required in their future jobs, and have witnessed their transformation as they faced their fears and worked to provide an effective and meaningful training session for their clients. I am so appreciative to work at a university that emphasizes both the disciplinary and beyond-disciplinary skills students need to succeed.*



- Christy Vincent, Ph.D., Mass Communication



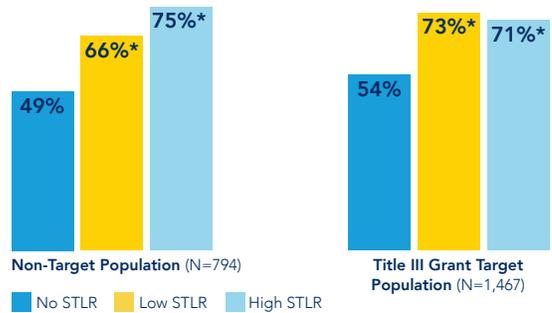
Middle C Project

## Examples of STLR Projects

- Oklahoma Lynching Research Project
- Modified Nanocomplex in Photothermal Therapy for Cancer Treatment
- Living-Learning Community Garden
- Middle C Project with Cashion High School band
- Intern UCO

## UCO Retention by STLR Engagement

(First-Time Full-Time Freshmen, Fall 2015-Fall 2016)

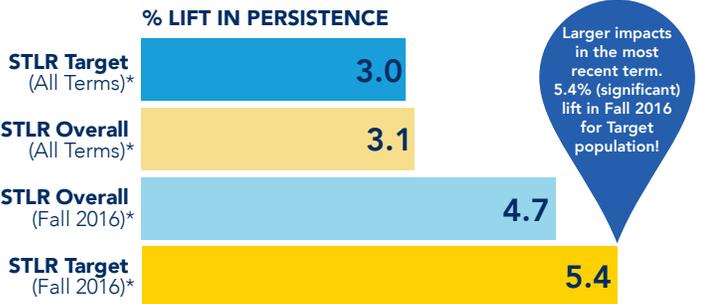


## Title III Target Group Semester GPA by STLR Engagement



\*Statistically significant at the 0.001 level. All confidence intervals and other statistical details are available in full report.

## Civitas Analysis of STLR Retention Improvement



\*For those students least likely to persist, engagement in STLR activities (in collaboration with other campus engagements) yields increases as high as 15.2% among students who are least likely to persist in the absence of STLR. Note: All results for this figure meet the  $p \leq 0.05$  threshold for statistical significance. (N=2,807)



# Where We're Going

## Leveraging STLR for Advancement

STLR is gaining international recognition in higher education. After receiving the DOE grant, the university was invited to participate in a Gates Foundation-funded grant project plus two Lumina Foundation-funded grant projects because of STLR.

Several other institutions have adopted/adapted STLR, including institutions in the U.S., Canada, and New Zealand. The university regularly hosts teams of faculty and administrators from other institutions to experience STLR firsthand. For example, Western Carolina University made its version of STLR a key focus of its institutional reaccreditation.

A university partnership with AT&T will allow the corporation to fast-track a group of STLRized UCO May 2018 graduates into corporate leadership development programs. We are working to create similar partnerships for our students.

It is becoming increasingly clear that with STLR, UCO is leading the way in preparing college graduates to meet the challenges of the 21st century and succeed in the workplace. The plan is to continue expanding STLR on the UCO campus and to the growing list of interested institutions.

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*We were truly impressed with the whole venture, especially the actual transformative learning part. From the cross-campus engagement and collaboration, to the data collection, to the coordination with other systems, STLR is deeply connected to and exemplary of, in our minds, what UCO is all about!*

”

**- Melanie Booth, Ph.D.,**

Executive Director, The Quality Assurance Commons



Big Pink Volleyball, a STLR-tagged event

## Institutionalizing STLR

The DOE grant enabled the university to scale STLR quickly, but the grant monies will end September 2019. UCO has already begun plans to continue all aspects of STLR after the grant. With STLR-generated financial benefits to UCO plus the incalculable benefits to student learning and transformation, institutionalizing STLR is a priority.

## Here's how faculty and staff can support STLR:

- Encourage students to visit [stlr.uco.edu/activities](http://stlr.uco.edu/activities) to find STLR opportunities.
- STLR-trained faculty and staff can tag student assignments, events, groups, and out-of-class projects through our OrgSync portal.
- Get trained. Register through the Learning Center at [learningcenter.uco.edu](http://learningcenter.uco.edu) or contact [stlr@uco.edu](mailto:stlr@uco.edu).
- Each March and October through spring 2019, STLR funding can be requested for TL Student Projects at <http://ucostlr.infoready4.com>.
- Direct some of your UCO giving through the UCO Foundation to the Student TL Endowment, which will generate funds to support student STLR projects.



STUDENT  
TRANSFORMATIVE  
LEARNING  
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