

-December 2016

STLR leads to transformative experiences

STLR has funded 171 transformative learning (TL) projects since Summer 2015. Individual students have completed projects, while others have worked in groups; some projects have more than 10 contributing students. In this newsletter, we wanted to share the experiences of a few students who worked on projects this semester.

As you read about their experiences, think about your own STLR story! Tell us about your experience on social media with the hashtag #ucostlr or tag us @ucostlr.

TL Student Project Spotlight: *Cashion Music Project, Fall 2015-Spring 2018*

How would you put a music program in a school? That was the class assignment that spurred the idea for the Cashion Music Project. Now, two years after becoming STLR-funded, UCO students have developed a music program in Cashion Public Schools, after the district went six years without one.

"People talk about win-win situations, this really is win-win," Project Supervisor Keith White said. "No losers in this one."

The initial class assignment

was given to graduate students, one of whom wanted to see UCO students actually teaching in schools. About the time the student proposed this idea was when the superintendent of Cashion Public Schools called to ask for teachers, and when STLR began.

The project has led to students in Cashion schools having daily access to instruments. The district is close to having a 30-piece junior high band for next year.

White and David Hanan supervise 11 students who work as teaching assistants and interns. These students are learning how to teach effectively and how to lead a classroom.

"We have learned so many



Photos provided by Keith White

useful techniques for teaching a class of many different age groups, and we will use them in our future classrooms," Sophomore students Brian Dunagan and Dailey Quinton said.

STLR tenets: All tenets

See more Student Spotlights on Page 2



Energy Efficiency Evaluation and Solution Plan

The campus is getting a greenhouse to benefit the Central Pantry and Central Station, thanks to the work of Senior STLR student Benjamin Zimmer.

Zimmer's project, "Energy Efficiency Evaluation and Solution Plan," encompasses designing and building the greenhouse, as well as researching data to help the university achieve the guidelines set in Senate Bill 1096 in 2012. The bill is also known as 20% \times 2020 and requires state owned and funded facilities to reduce their energy consumption by 20 percent by 2020.

While Zimmer works to identify what buildings on campus consume the most energy



and why, the greenhouse is a special project.

"That's kind of my brainchild that I'm really passionate about," he

said.

The greenhouse is about more than data; it is to help improve students' health by providing organic options on campus.

"The whole idea behind the greenhouse project is that we are going to create a place that can produce produce all year round for the Central Station," he said.

The greenhouse project will pick up in January. It will be one of two greenhouses located on the south side of Howell Hall; the other will belong to the Biology department. Zimmer and the department are collaborating on the projects.

STLR tenets: HW, RCSA

Socially Integrating Non-Traditional Students into Campus Life

It is often challenging for non-traditional students to feel involved at universities. So, Junior Theresa Bodman took on a project to help ensure that single parents can interact with faculty, peers and campus activities.

"Socially Integrating Non-Traditional Students into Campus Life via Faculty and Peers" creates events specifically for UCO students who are single parents. Bodman coordinates events between Bronchos with Kids and other student organizations.

"It's been really neat, people are really excited to be involved with it," she said.

Bodman also works with the Center for Active Living and Learning through Intern UCO. She teaches se-

nior fitness classes three days a week and has learned how to assess the fitness capabilities of older adults.

"I really enjoy working with STLR because it makes my classroom experience feel much more applicable," she said.

Bodman appreciates that STLR has helped her to feel at home at UCO, after coming to the university as a transfer student.

STLR tenets: HW, LEAD, RCSA, SLCE

To see all of the projects students are working on, visit uco.edu/stlr.



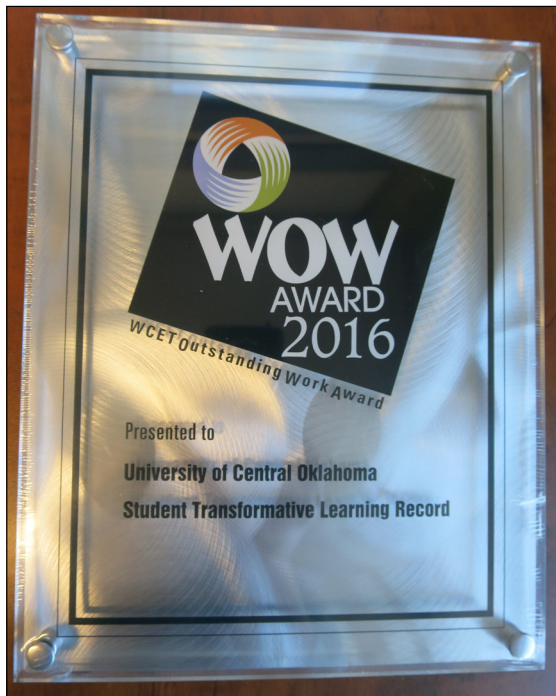
STLR Updates: What We've Been Up To This Semester

Awards:

The University of Central Oklahoma received two awards this semester, with STLR being attributed for both recognitions.

- UCO received the 2016 Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education Cooperative for Educational Technology (WCET) Outstanding Work (WOW) Award for STLR in September.

The award is given to universities that are using creativity to solve problems in higher education. Five universities in the country received the award this year.



- Also in September, the university was ranked sixth in the nation for Top Student Engagement on the Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College Rankings list. Six other institutions nationwide received the same ranking. The rankings were given based on survey results from students; students cited STLR as contributing to their campus engagement.

Student Ambassadors:

This semester, STLR initiated a group of Student Ambassadors to help spread the word about STLR throughout the campus.

Our Ambassadors have promoted the initiative, attended STLR-tagged events to share on social media, and talked about STLR with other students through tabling events.

Students who have achieved "Transformation" in at least one of the Central Six tenets are eligible to

become Ambassadors. If that's you, be sure to check your email for the invitation to join! Contact us at stlr@uco.edu with questions.

Project Proposals:

Eighty funding proposals for student transformative learning projects for the spring and summer were submitted in November. STLR will disperse \$275,000 among projects that receive approval. These funds will pay for student salaries and supplies for some projects. Follow us on social media for updates on projects that are funded!

Comprehensive Student Record:

A Comprehensive Student Record (CSR) is being developed to allow students to combine their academic transcript and their STLR record to show employers after graduation.

The Lumina Foundation awarded a grant to fund the CSR and to help build it. Students can expect to use the CSR starting in March.

STLR tip:

Push assignments and assessments to your ePortfolio on D2L before courses close!

Intern UCO Off-Campus:

Intern UCO is a STLR-funded program to provide paid internships on campus. For the first time, Intern UCO is offering off-campus positions as well. Interested in applying? Visit jobs.uco.edu.

INTERN UCO-OFF CAMPUS

\$10.00 an hour 2017 Spring and Summer Semesters 10 hours per week

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

Seventy Seven Energy Health & Wellness Seventy Seven Energy Benefits

Black Chamber of Commerce Member Relations COSTEMA Administrative/Social Media

i2E Rural Startup Outreach Bio Marketplace OKC Startups

City Rescue Mission

Stay tuned for more opportunities!

 **INTERN UCO** For more information and to apply visit jobs.uco.edu or hirebronchos.com

Cording Ceremony for Graduates

STLR will host a cording ceremony for students graduating in December who have achieved Transformation in at least one of the Central Six tenets. These students are eligible to receive graduation cords of that tenet color.

Students from every UCO college will be recognized. Provost John Barthell will attend to help honor these graduates.

The cording ceremony will be December 16, at 10 a.m. in the Radke Auditorium in the Center for Transformative Learning.



-Courtesy of UCO Photographic Services

