Discipline Knowledge	Global & Cultural Competencies	Health & Wellness	Leadership	Research, Creative & Scholarly Activities	Service Learning & Civic Engagement

STLR leads to transformative experiences

UCO's Student Transformative Learning Record is an important way to prepare for life after graduation. The ePortfolio and experience from being involved with STLR shows that you are more than the grades on your academic transcript. While STLR is an experience in personal growth, you are not alone in this journey. We created this newsletter to help connect you to your fellow STLR Bronchos.

Social media is a great way to connect to others. Like or follow us (@UCOSTLR) on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram to connect to STLR and others.

Transformative Learning Project Spotlights:
Veterans History Project, Spring 2017

Students are spending the semester interviewing veterans to submit video interviews to the Library of Congress for archiving and to be published on the Library's website, loc.gov.

"UCO Students Engaged in the American Red Cross and Library of Congress Veterans History Project" received STLR funding this semester. Ten students are participating in the project.

Destine O'Brien, a senior majoring in General History, said her favorite part of the project is conducting interviews.

"These are distinguished men and women who deserve to have their sacrifices recognized and memorialized for future generations," O'Brien said.

In addition to honoring veterans, she believes the project will benefit her in a future career.

"This is preparing me for a career in public service and research; I believe that any form of volunteering is a humbling

Students were trained on how to conduct interviews by the Red Cross.
-Photo provided by Patti Loughlin

experience and one that is worth the time it takes to complete a project," she said.

T.J. Butler is a graduate student studying history. Not only is he contacting veterans to interview, but he is a veteran himself.

"It's transformative learning. We're using oral histories, we're using the actual accounts from the boots on the ground, instead of relying on the documented battle reports or field reports," Butler said.

The project is in partnership with the American Red Cross's regional Service to the Armed Forces department, led by Richard Unda.

Unda said students conduct research to learn as much as they can about an individual before meeting with them.

"The stories coming back are just incredible. What's neat about it is that you can't just look at someone and know what they've done," Unda said.

Project Supervisor and U.S. History Professor Dr. Patti Loughlin estimates that the students will interview 15-20 veterans this semester.

Video interviews are typically published within six months of being submitted to the Library, so the interviews could be posted online before the end of the year. The students conducting the interviews will be recognized on the website.

"I'm excited for the students. They get to utilize their research training as historians, they also get to engage in oral history and working with veterans to share stories," Loughlin said.

STLR tenets: RCSA, SLCE

Social Media Interns for Painted Sky Opera, Spring 2017

Three voice performance majors are social media interns for Painted Sky Opera, a company co-founded by UCO Professor Dr. Rob Glaubitz.

The students manage the company's Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube accounts. They generate content for these platforms, which includes creating videos.

While this project benefits Painted Sky Opera, it is also preparing these students to market themselves for a future career.

Glaubitz said social media marketing is an important component to having a successful career in a non-profit or arts based organization.

"Today especially, social media marketing is a really big part of it. (It is) super big, super important, especially for people who come out of arts degrees, to learn how to market themselves," he said. "You have to really make your own career happen."

In addition to managing social media, the students will plan a fundraiser for the company.

Glaubitz said his hope is that his students will understand how to connect the Central Six Tenets to their chosen careers.

STLR tenets: LEAD, SLCE

Nicole Van Every (right) practiced her role as Violetta in "La Traviata" with her voice teacher Kim Josephson. -Photo by Eriech Tapia, The Oklahoman

Creating and Assessing Engaging Calculus Activities, Spring 2017

Four students are working to develop an activities book to help teach calculus by engaging students. The project is called "Creating and Assessing Engaging Calculus Activities."

Project Supervisor Dr. Kristin Karber said the students have researched learning methods and activities that tend to enhance those methods. They are now developing activities that can engage students, help them understand concepts and show real-world uses of calculus.

The goal of creating the book is to provide calculus instructors with activities to help their students learn.

"The exciting aspect of this project is that there will be an end product. I am looking forward to seeing my research put to use in classrooms," Mathematics student Beth Rawlins said.

Karber said the idea for the project started when two UCO graduates, who are high school teachers, asked her to do a study with them about teaching calculus.

"After looking for content to assist us in this course, I came to realize that engaging materials for teaching Calculus is very limited," Karber said.

Rawlins and mathematics student Stephen Gregg are leading the project. Patricia Salas and Jacintha Lawrence are also contributing.

Rawlins is also working on another project in which she created an activity on the Mean Value Theorem. She is assessing the activity's effectiveness after giving pretests and post-tests to Karber's Calculus I students.

Rawlins will present her findings at the Oklahoma-Arkansas Section Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America in April.

STLR tenets: LEAD, RCSA, SLCE

STLR Updates Spring 2017
Student Research Poster Presentations

STLR students presented their research during a poster session at this year's Transformative Learning Conference on March 2. The conference was attended by professors and university staff from UCO and institutions across the state. Some even traveled from outside of the country to attend or present during sessions.

Some students also presented at Oklahoma Research Day in Enid on March 3. This year's theme was "Research, Innovation, Imagination: Explore Your Curiosity at ORD."

Project Proposal Application Is Open

The application to submit a STLR-funded project proposal is open through April 7. To submit a proposal for a summer, fall or fall 2017-spring 2018 project, visit ucostlr.infoready4.com.

Faculty, staff and students can submit project proposals. Each project is required to have a faculty or staff supervisor who is STLR-trained. To see past projects, visit our website at uco.edu/stlr.

Sixty-one projects received funding for Spring and Summer 2017. Projects are selected based on a demonstrated connection to the Central Six Tenets, probability of student transformative growth and evidence of benefiting STLR's target population.

Be sure to follow us on social media for updates on projects that receive funding!

Snapshot and CSR Coming Soon

The STLR Snapshot and Comprehensive Student Record (CSR) are being developed to allow students to showcase their STLR experiences independently or alongside an academic transcript. The Snapshot will be customizable for students to highlight the tenets or experiences they find most notable.

The Snapshot can be shared with potential employers or graduate schools to show evidence of transformative learning.

The Snapshot and CSR were funded by a grant from the Lumina Foundation. Students can expect to use these tools starting this summer.

ePortfolio Showcases Transformation

The ePortfolio tool on D2L can be used to store papers, projects or classwork. Students can build a presentation, which is like a personal web page, to showcase work samples and experiences. This presentation can then be shared with professors or potential employers. The STLR Employer Advisory Board has expressed interest in seeing these from UCO students.

The Technology Resource Center periodically offers trainings on how to use the ePortfolio. The next training will be April 3, from 3-4:30 p.m. in Room 101A of the Lillard Administration Building. To attend, RSVP to TRC@uco.edu.