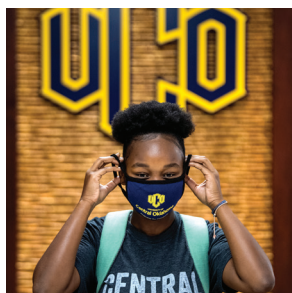




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UCO Recognized for ‘Expert Response’ in 2020

Great Value Colleges ranked Central No. 28 in the nation on its list of “30 U.S. Colleges That Handled The Crises of 2020 Well.” The ranking is based on evidence of a college keeping on-campus coronavirus cases low, making significant changes to promote racial justice and having strong overall university strategies at the start of 2021. The ranking recognized Central for its shift to virtual learning and its ongoing commitment to making transformative learning more equal. UCO joins other notable schools on the list, such as Howard, Rice, Brown, Princeton, Cornell, Georgetown and Harvard Universities.



Provencio Named New Director of Leadership Minor

The UCO College of Liberal Arts named Alyssa Provencio, Ph.D., the new director of the leadership minor at Central. Provencio, an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science, serves as president of the Latino Faculty and Staff Association and on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)/Undocumented Student Task Force. Additionally, she has contributed to many interdisciplinary programs at UCO and currently is sponsoring a proposal for an undergraduate major in disaster management. UCO’s leadership minor, established in fall 2006, provides students with a foundation for modeling effective change and can be tailored to fit any degree program.



UCO Forensic Science Degree Ranked Top in Nation

Study.com ranked Central's bachelor's degree in forensic science as the top degree program of its kind in the nation. Out of the top 34 programs on the list, UCO came in first, named as "the most interdisciplinary, comprehensive and open-ended forensic science undergraduate program" for allowing students to craft their own course of study alongside another related degree and earn two distinct bachelor's degrees upon graduation. Schools were ranked based on their offering of comprehensive curricula in both physical sciences and the criminal justice system, accessibility, affordability, internship and research opportunities, faculty expertise and extracurricular opportunities.



Atkins Selected for Early Childhood Success Committee

The Oklahoma Secretary of Human Services Justin Brown selected LaDonna Atkins, Ed.D., professor in the UCO Department of Human Environmental Services, to serve on the research committee for the newly established Oklahoma Clearinghouse for Early Childhood Success. Launched in December 2020, the clearinghouse will establish new initiatives and promote practices to improve the overall well-being for children and their families in the state. Atkins' role on the committee will include prioritizing outcomes and recommending research-informed practices to meet the needs of the Oklahoma early childhood system.



Central Recognized for Top Training Graduate Program

Great Business Schools ranked UCO No. 16 on its list of "25 Best Master's in Training and Development for 2021." Programs were ranked based on cost, salary potential and student satisfaction. Central's M.Ed. in Adult and Higher Education, with a concentration in talent development, was highlighted for preparing its students to work as educational consultants, administrators of adult education programs, business and industry trainers, as well as adult and higher education teachers.



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