



connect to Central

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Central Named 'Top Workplace' in Oklahoma

The Oklahoman named Central one of the state's "Top Workplaces" for the third consecutive year. UCO ranked No. 12 in the large business category, which includes businesses with at least 350 employees, on the Top Workplaces 2016 list. UCO was the only university included on the list. In addition, UCO received a Top Workplaces "Leadership Award" for employee confidence in the leadership of President Don Betz.



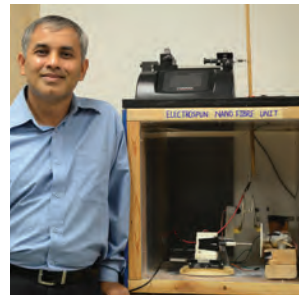
UCO Recognized for Dedication to Veterans

Central was named a gold-level "Military Friendly Award" recipient in the category of public universities with more than 10,000 students, as part of Victory Media's "Military Friendly Awards." UCO also earned a spot on Victory Media's "Military Friendly Schools" list for the fifth consecutive year. In addition, the Military Times ranked Central No. 21 among all surveyed four-year colleges and universities in the U.S. on its 2017 "Best for Vets: Colleges" list. UCO was the only Oklahoma school recognized.



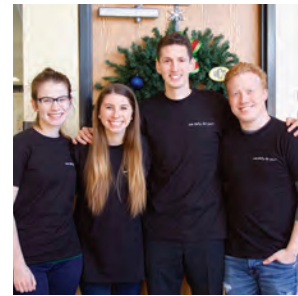
CHK|Central Boathouse Design Awarded

UCO's CHK|Central Boathouse received the only Honor Award in the category of Commercial Architecture from the Central Oklahoma Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), as part of the 2016 AIA Central Oklahoma Design Excellence Awards. The awards serve as the chapter's highest recognition of works that exemplify excellence in architecture, interior architecture and urban design. Oklahoma City-based Elliot + Associates Architects, led by Rand Elliot, designed UCO's CHK|Central Boathouse, which was selected from more than 50 submissions.



Professors Awarded Grants for Excellence

The Oklahoma Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Network for Biomedical Research Excellence (OK-INBRE) awarded UCO College of Mathematics and Science professors Morshed Khandaker, Ph.D., associate professor of engineering and physics, and Lillian Chooback, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry, each with a 2.5-year, \$200,000 Research Project Investigator grant. Khandaker's grant proposal, titled "Effect of Nanoscale Surface Treatments on the Biomechanical Performances of Titanium Implant," aims to improve the design of biomedical implants. Chooback's goal is to identify enzyme inhibitors, which may play an important roll in new antibacterial drug development, with her project, "Development of New Antibiotics: Inhibiting Escherichia Coli Dihydropdipicolinate Synthase as a Target for Antibiotic Design."



Students Nationally Recognized for Defying Extremism

A group of UCO mass communication students qualified as one of four national finalists for the EdVenture Partners Peer to Peer: Challenging Extremism (P2P) competition, sponsored by Facebook and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The UCO group developed the uDefy Project for the competition, which challenges college students to confront extremism through social media. The Central team includes four senior strategic communication majors, Yusuf Shurbaji, from Ardmore; Ashley Neese, from Edmond; Tommy Johnson, from Oklahoma City; Kaitlyn Britschgi, from Reno, Nevada; and recent strategic communications graduate Laura Goehler, from Cincinnati, Ohio. In addition to an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C., the group earned the opportunity to present their project to an audience of cross-agency government, military and private sector officials and executives.



Governor Fallin Appoints Karen Youngblood

Governor Mary Fallin appointed Karen Youngblood, director of Customized Education at UCO, to the Oklahoma Board of Juvenile Affairs, the governing body for the state's Office of Juvenile Affairs. Youngblood will fill the unexpired term of Wendell Hixson, who resigned from the board, representing Congressional District 3 and serving until the term expires in July 2018.



Central Educators Attend National Summit

Educators from UCO attended the Teach to Lead Teacher Preparation Summit, hosted in Washington, D.C. by the U.S. Department of Education, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, to share and present their new teacher preparation initiative. UCO was the only school from Oklahoma invited to take part in the summit. The Central delegation worked with national experts to enhance strategies that future teachers can use during their internships in schools, which included drafting plans for school-based clinical rotations for early childhood and elementary education teacher candidates. UCO will pilot the new initiative during the spring 2017 semester.



UCO a Certified Healthy Campus, Business

Central maintained its status as a Certified Healthy Campus for the sixth consecutive year and as a Certified Healthy Business for the third year. The dual certification highlights UCO's efforts to promote health and wellness among students, faculty and staff across campus. As part of the Oklahoma State Department of Health's "Shape Your Future" campaign, Central earned the highest level of certification, receiving the excellence designation.



Central Sales Team Places Nationally

UCO's College of Business Sales Team, which includes students Ryan Loghry and Long Ha, placed sixth at the 10th annual National Sales Challenge, hosted by the Russ Berrie Institute for Professional Sales at William Patterson University in Wayne, New Jersey. The competition, which includes speed-selling and sales call role-play, is designed to strengthen students' skills and provide networking opportunities with business executives from companies around the U.S. Manoshi Samaraweera, Ph.D., UCO assistant professor of marketing, accompanied the team.



Singleton Named State Psychologist of the Year

Scott Singleton, Psy.D., an associate psychology professor at UCO, was named School Psychologist of the Year for 2016-17 by the Oklahoma School Psychologist Association, which qualifies him to compete for the national honor, presented at the National Association of School Psychologists Convention in February in San Antonio.

2016 Highlights



Wall Street Journal Names UCO to ‘Top Engagement’ List

UCO earned national recognition for its dedication to student engagement, ranking No. 6 on the list of ‘Top Schools for Engagement,’ in The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College Rankings. Central tied with six other universities and colleges for sixth place, including institutions like Auburn University and Michigan State University, based on rankings determined by scoring colleges on how engaged students feel they are with their professors and their education.



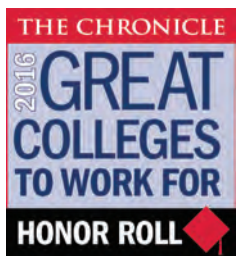
Central Student Transformative Learning Record Awarded

UCO received the 2016 Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education Cooperative for Educational Technology (WCET) Outstanding Work (WOW) Award for its Student Transformative Learning Record. The university was one of five in the nation to receive the award in 2016. The initiative began Spring 2012 and is still proving successful as a way to design activities, assignments and learning environments that promote Transformative Learning.



UCO-Based Paralympians Get the Gold

The U.S. Women's Sitting Volleyball Team, based at UCO, won the team's first-ever gold medal, defeating China at the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In addition, the team was named Best Team of the Paralympic Games at the 2016 Team USA Awards, the United States Olympic Committee's annual award ceremony. UCO has served as an official Paralympic Training Site for the U.S. Olympic Committee since 2005 and as an Olympic Training Site since 2009.



UCO Repeats as ‘Great College to Work For’

The Chronicle of Higher Education named UCO as one of the “2016 Great Colleges to Work For.” Central was the only public higher education institution in the state recognized on the list, and one of only a handful of institutions in the nation given the distinction of being named to the “Honor Roll” for being cited most often among the recognition categories. This was the eighth time in the past nine years the university made the list, with previous recognition in 2008 and 2010-15.



Top Alma Mater for Board Certified Teachers

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards recognized Central as one of the top 50 alma maters in the U.S. for National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT) with 444 total certifications. NBCTs are nationally recognized as being among the best teachers in the profession. Participation is voluntary and to earn the certification teachers must take written assessments, submit examples of student work and agree to an analysis of teaching practices.



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