



# connect to Central

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## UCO Named a 2017 ‘Top Workplace’

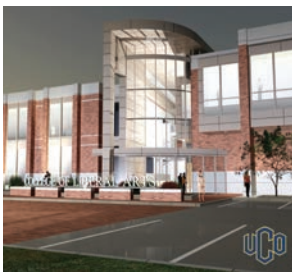
The Oklahoman named UCO as one of the state’s “Top Workplaces,” for the fourth consecutive year. Central ranked No. 20 in the newspaper’s large business category, which includes businesses with 350 or more employees, and was the only university included in the list of 80 workplaces. Rankings are determined by the results of a survey distributed to employees. Central’s faculty and staff identified that UCO exemplifies ranking factors such as effectively sharing different viewpoints and encouraging new ideas.

## Central Breaks Ground on Liberal Arts Addition

UCO broke ground on a new building addition to its Liberal Arts building during a ceremony near the existing Liberal Arts building, located on the eastern edge of campus. The 55,000-square-foot addition and renovation, scheduled to open in the fall of 2019, will include a state-of-the-art lecture hall, an atrium that frames a collaborative study stair area, a coffee bar, 15 new classrooms and 30 new faculty and staff offices. Beck Design, in coordination with Lippert Brothers, Inc., designed the addition, with a cost of \$18.3 million, funded through a master lease bond issue.

## UCO Ranked in Top Ten of ‘Military Times Best’

Central again earned recognition as a top school for student veterans and active military, as The Military Times announced Central as No. 10, among all surveyed four-year colleges and universities in the U.S., on its “Military Times Best: Colleges 2018” list. UCO jumped more than ten spots on the list, formerly known as “Best for Vets: Colleges,” and was recognized by The Military Times for its dedication to veterans for the third consecutive year.





## CeCE Nationally Recognized for Excellence

UCO's Center for eLearning and Connected Environments (CeCE) once again earned national recognition, as the Online Learning Consortium (OLC) awarded CeCE with the 2017 Excellence in Faculty Development for Online Teaching Award. Tracy Fairless, director of eLearning for CeCE, and CeCE's Learning Design team received the award for guiding collaborative efforts across the university to deliver meaningful, innovative, flexible and customized development for Central's faculty who teach online, blended or technology-enhanced courses. Additionally, Bucky Dodd, Ph.D., the university's chief learning and innovation officer and director of CeCE's Institute for Learning Environment Design, added to the list of accolades by winning the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education Cooperative for Educational Technology (WCET) Sally M. Johnstone Award. The award recognizes a professional who has made an outstanding contribution to the technology-enhanced teaching and learning community, while also acknowledging thought leadership, excellence in practice and demonstrated leadership capabilities.



## KUCO's Brad Ferguson Earns Governor's Arts Award

The Oklahoma Arts Council selected Brad Ferguson, general manager of the University of Central Oklahoma-based radio station Classical KUCO, as the recipient of the 2018 Governor's Arts Awards, Media in the Arts category, for his contributions to the Oklahoma arts community. Ferguson will receive the award, along with 18 individual recipients and organizations, at the 42nd Annual Governor's Arts Awards ceremony on Feb. 28 at the Oklahoma Capitol.



## UCO Welcomes Monetti to Alumni Relations

Central recently named Lauri Monetti as its new director of alumni relations. She began serving in the position on Jan. 2. Monetti comes to UCO after serving as development director for WovenLife (formerly Easter Seals Oklahoma). She graduated with her Master of Education in adult education from Central in 2008. Prior to WovenLife, Monetti served for nearly a decade in the nonprofit sector, coordinating development, communications and events for organizations such as the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, City Arts Center and the American Red Cross. She also served as an adjunct professor at Central from 2008-10 and as the assistant director and interim director for UCO Career Services from 2003-07. Monetti primarily will work through the UCO Alumni Association, which fosters relationships among alumni and friends, while advocating for the benefit of the university, supporting students and creating "Bronchos for Life."



## UCO Professor Appointed to SoonerStart Council

Gov. Mary Fallin has appointed UCO professor Lori Beasley, Ed.D., to the SoonerStart Interagency Coordinating Council, which advises and assists the State Department of Education in planning family-centered services to help infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities. Beasley, a professor in UCO's Department of Human Environmental Sciences, joined Central as a faculty member in 1996. She teaches courses that focus on the development of children, adolescents and middle childhood, as well as parent education and family life education.



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