



connect to Central

January 2021

www.uco.edu



UCO Receives Recognition for Social Mobility

CollegeNET ranked Central among the top higher education institutions in the nation for social mobility, according to its recent national ranking. UCO ranked No. 183 out of nearly 1,500 colleges and universities in the U.S. according to their contribution to economic mobility, placing Central in the top 12% in the nation. Rankings were determined based on the Social Mobility Index, which measures to what extent a higher education institution accepts students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and graduates them into well-paying jobs, according to factors such as cost of attendance, economic background of the student body, graduation rates and early-career salaries.



Central Receives Broadway World Awards

The UCO College of Fine Arts and Design (CFAD) won several awards for its musical theatre and theatre arts productions, as part of the 2020 Broadway World Regional Awards, for the Oklahoma region. Broadway World is a New York City-based theatre news website. This year's awards were given in the Best of the Decade categories, representing productions over the past 10 years. Central's winners included "Tribes" (2019) for Best Ensemble; Ryan Steer, in "Nine" (2020), for Dancer of the Decade; and, "Radium Girls" (2020) for Top Streaming Production/Performance.



UCO Names Charlotte Simmons as Provost

Central President Patti Neuhold-Ravikumar named Charlotte Simmons, Ph.D., as the university's provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. Prior to assuming the position, Simmons served as the co-interim vice president for Academic Affairs. In 2015, she was appointed associate vice president for Academic Affairs, previously serving the university and the College of Mathematics and Science as tenured faculty, chairperson of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, associate dean and dean.

Connected Campus Expands Online Degrees

UCO has added three new fully online programs through its Connected Campus. Central now offers a Master of Science in nursing and two Master of Public Administration (MPA) programs – urban management and public and nonprofit management. Other online degrees offered through the UCO Connected Campus include the Bachelor of Business Administration in human resource management or marketing, the professional Master of Business Administration and the Master of Education in library media education, as well as the RN to B.S. in nursing track.

Cowan Named Assistant Dean

UCO named J. Sunshine Cowan, Ph.D., professor of kinesiology and health studies, as assistant dean of its Jackson College of Graduate Studies. Cowan brings experience in both graduate and undergraduate studies to the new role, where she will work alongside current graduate college leadership to advance the university's quality initiative and the new first-year experience. Cowan has served on the University Core Curriculum Committee, Academic Affairs Curriculum Council, UConnect Online Course Evaluation Committee, Healthy Campus Leadership Team and the Transformative Learning Steering Committee.

