



**Report
to the
Community
2015**



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA



Our No. 1 goal is **STUDENT SUCCESS**, ensuring that we provide our students with more than facts and figures, that they also experience **TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING**, knowing they are in the right **LOCATION**, making a **SMART INVESTMENT**.

From the President

ONCE AGAIN, I AM DELIGHTED TO PRESENT THIS

annual update on the University of Central Oklahoma and some of our current initiatives.

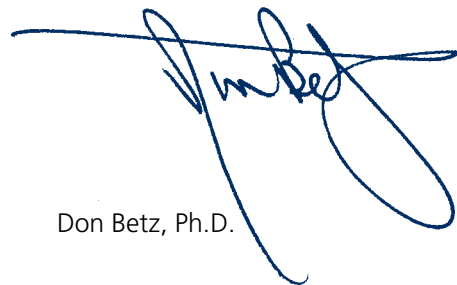
Here, we have highlighted the progress of our strategic plan, Vision 2020, designed to strengthen the university to meet the needs and aspirations of the people of this region. We know the power of building bridges and forging collaborative relationships to create opportunities and solve problems in a unified way.

This year marks the 125th since Central's founding in 1890. Since its inception as the Territorial Normal School of Oklahoma, UCO has consistently been in the forefront of educational creativity and change, providing our citizens with relevant and effective tools and learning opportunities to build meaningful, successful futures. We are committed to helping students learn and to intentionally encouraging the development of productive, creative, ethical and engaged citizens and leaders.

As we commemorate UCO@125, we embrace the dynamic future of the metro and Oklahoma as we actively partner with education, industry, government and nonprofit organizations to effectively contribute to the state's growth and development. We believe we create Oklahoma's future through the values and work of its citizens.

At Central, we envision an Oklahoma comprised of an abundance of citizens with enhanced critical thinking, and communication and collaboration capacities to imagine, create, innovate and solve problems. In this way, Oklahoma will thrive in this knowledge-driven, global era.

My best wishes,



Don Betz, Ph.D.



Embracing Our Role

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA, WE UNDERSTAND THAT LIFE IS ABOUT relationships, that learning happens and lives change because of the quality of those connections — relationships between students, between students and faculty, between the campus community and our alumni, as well as our community, state, nation and the world.

In January, we began offering classes at UCO Downtown, in the heart of Oklahoma City's business district in the Carnegie Centre. We want to make it easier for metro-area students to complete their four-year degrees, while also expanding our ability to customize classes for the metro area's business needs. Connecting our students with the local business community, serving the needs of our metro area, building stronger relationships for all — that is the work we are doing.

In April, UCO officially opened the doors of the new CHK Central Boathouse on the Oklahoma River. Not only will this facility house our Women's Rowing team, but it also offers the metropolitan area a venue for entertainment with the MidFirst Bank Performance Hall and the Martha Burger Art Gallery. UCO has created a space where art meets the river — and new relationships are forged.



UCO Downtown



This past year, we also created a new partnership with the Greater Oklahoma City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. With the UCO Conference Room in place at the chamber's headquarters, planning began to offer customized education courses, certifications, conferences, community workshops and student programming specifically designed to impact the lives of the metro area's growing Hispanic community. UCO also will work to educate and prepare the area's Hispanic students and their families for college life.

Through efforts such as these, we are serving our community and our students by strengthening relationships that will make their future brighter.



Hispanic Chamber

Honoring UCO@125



Lizzie Griffin

WALKING BETWEEN OLD NORTH AND EVANS HALL, A campus visitor can see a bronze plaque beside a blue bench. The plaque honors Lizzie Griffin, whose dreams for her children and their education mirror those of students and families today who are working hard to achieve graduation goals.

In late 1891, Lizzie found herself widowed with six children, ages 2 to 17. The next year, seeking new opportunity, the family moved from Independence, Kansas, to a farm 10 miles northwest of Edmond. Then, in 1899, to make it easier for her children to attend Central, she moved to Edmond, where she lived an active life until her death at age 90 in 1939.

With her eye on the future and a belief in education, Lizzie Griffin made sure her children attended Central. At the time the plaque was created, 25 more of her descendants had attended. One of those was Bob Griffin, a Central Class of '38 graduate. He felt that this good woman's legacy of

Studies show that the most powerful instrument of economic mobility for low-income Americans is the four-year college degree.

education should be honored and remembered, and so he donated funds to have the plaque created.

Lizzie Griffin's investment in her children and their education was no doubt great in effort and cost to her. The return on her investment is not quantifiable, but surely vast.

In honoring UCO@125, we continue our commitment to make the Central experience a smart investment, one deserving of the efforts of people like Lizzie Griffin and her modern day counterparts.



Return on Investment

AT CENTRAL, OUR MISSION IS TO HELP STUDENTS

learn through transformative educational experiences, growing productive, creative, ethical and engaged citizens and leaders.

Our state funding for the past year was flat, leaving us to find ways to cover mandatory cost increases such as repairs, maintenance, insurance, etc. Our 2015-16 fiscal budget has a 3.5% decrease in state funding, about a \$1.9 million cut.

In the last 14 years, state funding has dropped from almost 60% of our budget to around 29% with lower levels of support possible in the future. Part of what that means



is that our students today are paying for more of their educational costs than ever. In fiscal year 2015, 54 percent of our revenues will come from tuition and fees.

Because of the gap in funding, we made the difficult decision to increase tuition and mandatory fees by 5% for the 2015-16 school year. A typical UCO student now will pay \$9.65 more per credit hour in 2015-16 than they did last year. However, with this increase — putting us at \$203.20 per credit hour for undergraduate fees and tuition — UCO remains at 79.5% of the average cost of its peer institutions.

As we celebrate 125 years of teaching and service excellence, we are ever mindful of the sacrifices many of our students and families must make to fund a college education. We renew our commitment to cost efficient and strategic operations. And, we remain mindful that statistics show that Oklahoma taxpayers earn nearly \$10 for every \$1 they invest in a UCO student.



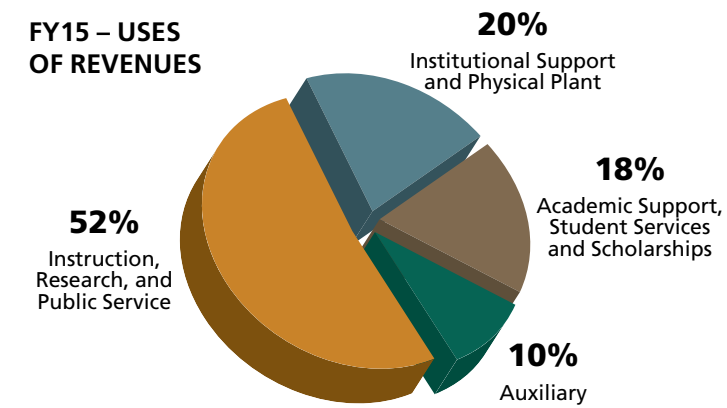
By the Numbers



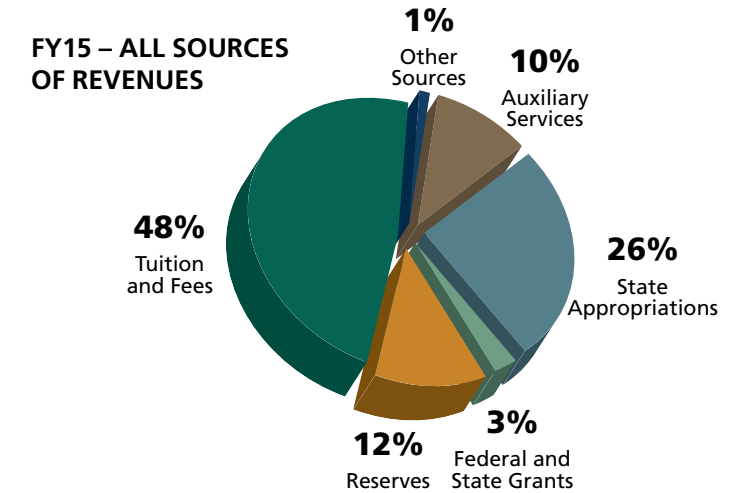
We have a need for more scholarships, more full-time faculty, more alumni involvement, more non-state support from a

spectrum of sources, and continuing enhancement of faculty and staff compensation.

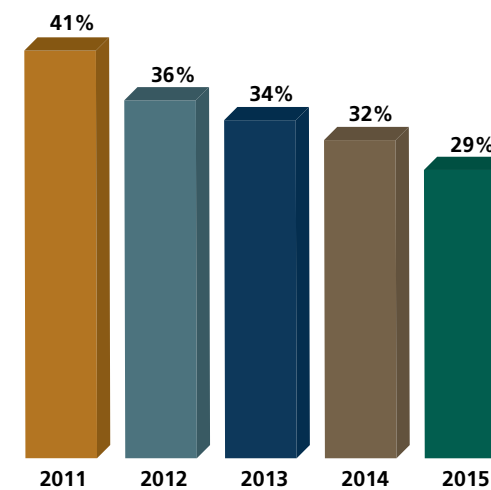
FY15 – USES OF REVENUES



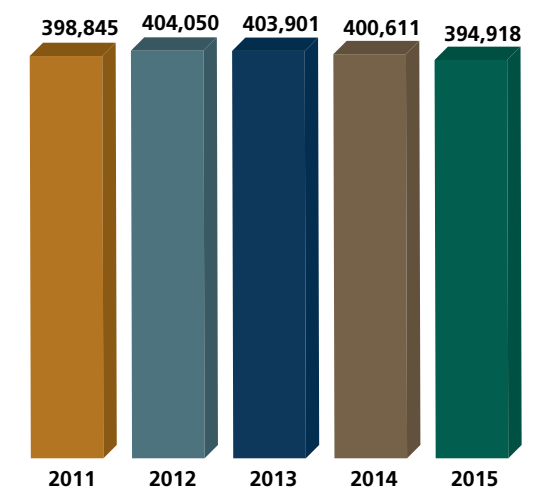
FY15 – ALL SOURCES OF REVENUES



STATE FUNDING (last 5 years) AS % OF EDUCATION/GENERAL EXPENSE



CREDIT HOURS PRODUCED (last 5 years)



Finding Needed Funding

AS WE ASK MORE FROM OUR STUDENTS, WE ARE WORKING TO KEEP COSTS DOWN, using our resources wisely and seeking out other revenue and funding opportunities.

In fall 2014, we met our \$40 million goal for our Always Central fund drive. Nearly 7,000 alumni and friends, including several charitable foundations, helped make the campaign a success. We were particularly impressed that 64 percent of our supporters were first-time donors to Central.

With the Always Central funds, we completed the CHKICentral Boathouse, provided more than \$10 million each to program support and scholarships, and steered \$1.9 million to teaching support. Another \$5 million came from planned giving. The campaign also raised most of the funds needed to complete Old North, which will provide much needed classroom and office space on campus. A campaign continues to raise the final funds for that project, about \$500,000 needed as of June. Our goal is to have Old North completed and re-opened in the fall of 2016.

In addition, funding is being raised to double the size of Mitchell Hall, our historic performance venue. Construction starts in August on the \$4.1 million project that will allow us to expand our performance-related degree programs. All but \$600,000 of the project is being funded through the state's master lease bond program.

This fall, students begin living in our new 440-bed residence hall, named the Transformative Learning Quadrangle or "The Quad." The structure offers common living and study areas, even for non-resident students. KSQ Architects designed the \$28 million project, built with a bond issue that will be repaid through student rental payments.



“An antidote for the perennial poverty cycle is recommitting ourselves to public education.”

—UCO President Don Betz



Grants Launch New Programs



CENTRAL'S TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING EFFORTS AND its desire to see more Oklahoma students college ready both got big boosts this year with the U.S. Department of Education awarding UCO \$12.7 million in grants.

The first announcement in fall 2014 was for a \$7.7 million, 5-year grant to fund UCO's innovative Student Transformative Learning Record (STLR). Central is in the educational forefront, creating the first student transcript to track, assess and provide information to help college

students develop and use skills critical to their workplace, citizenship and personal success. When students graduate, this same transcript will show future employers the job-ready skills they have beyond the grades showing their mastery of academic subjects.

That grant was followed with the awarding of a \$5 million grant under the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP). The funding allows Central to fund and staff a seven-year effort to help low-income students in the Oklahoma City public schools become college-ready. The program starts this fall with 899 students as they enter middle school. Our mentors will continue to work with them and their families through high school to ensure these students have the skills needed. The \$5 million grant is being matched by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education, MidFirst Bank and UCO for a total budget of \$11.4 million over the seven-year effort.

Both of these major efforts are about Central using our resources — both financial and educational — to better serve our students and our metropolitan area.



Increasing College Graduates

UCO STARTED 125 YEARS AGO AS A TERRITORIAL

Normal School charged with preparing teachers for the one-room schools springing up across the territory.

So, the idea of meeting more than the needs of students, of meeting the needs of the whole state, is not new. Today, with Gov. Mary Fallin's challenge to reach the goals of Complete College America, we continue to serve our state and the metro by finding ways to meet the demands for a college-educated workforce.

One of the ways we are doing this is through a program called Project Persist, offering our freshmen extra coaching to be sure they not only finish their first year, but that they succeed in completing their college goals. Financial literacy training, one-on-one and group tutoring, individualized coaching sessions, and academic and life skills workshops are just some of the ways we are making sure our students get the help needed to successfully complete their college careers.

Another program focuses on helping students who want to major in science, technology, engineering or math — those areas with high demand for career-ready graduates. With more than 2,000 UCO students majoring in those areas, Central has developed the Center for Undergraduate Research and Education with Student Support Services in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (CURE-SS-STEM) to not only help them complete their course work, but to be career ready. Scholarly research with faculty, faculty mentors, free tutoring, academic workshops and community mentors are just some of the benefits.

UCO's Student Support Services offers other leadership, learning and tutoring services to our students, just some of the many ways we are working to make sure students not only enroll in college, but finish!

“If we want to help low-income students succeed, we need to address their doubts, misconceptions and fears.”

—UCO President Don Betz



Central Highlights

UCO — Named 'Great College to Work For'

UCO once again was honored to be on the "2015 Great Colleges to Work For" by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. UCO made the "Honor Roll," one of the Top 10 in the nation, alongside Duke and Baylor. This is the seventh time in the past eight years the university has made the list.

OKDHS, UCO Expand Career Opportunities

UCO's Department of Career Services and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) in

March made state recruiting at Central a priority. The university hopes to follow this model with other corporations and agencies going forward.

UCO Hosts Inaugural Black Male Summit

UCO's Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) hosted its inaugural Black Male Summit in March, welcoming more than 250 high school students to campus from nine Edmond and Oklahoma City metropolitan area schools. The event empowered and encouraged young



African-American men to pursue a college degree. Attendees had opportunities for personal and professional development, networking and workshops on the rigors of higher education.

Athletes Take Dual National Championships

The UCO hockey club won its first ACHA Division I National Championship with the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) later naming UCO head coach Craig McAlister the 2015 Division I Coach of

the Year. UCO wrestler Chris Watson capped an undefeated season to capture the 165-pound national title and earn Outstanding Wrestler honors on March 14 at the NCAA Division II Wrestling Championships in St. Louis.

UCO Gets Top Ranking from Internationals

Central was again recognized as a top institution of higher learning for international students. UCO ranked 13th for enrollment among all master's level institutions

in the U.S., according to the Open Doors Report on International Education Exchange. Central is the only university in Oklahoma to be ranked in the top 40.

UCO, OSUIT Partner for Degree Completion

Central and the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology (OSUIT) completed an agreement in January that ensures OSUIT courses will transfer to Central. This will allow

a greater number of OSUIT students to complete a bachelor's degree at Central.

Campus Tours Now Offered in Spanish

Spanish-language campus tours were introduced at UCO in fall 2014 to simplify the college selection process for bilingual prospective students. The tours came in response to requests from parents and students, as well as the rapid growth of the Hispanic population



in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area.

UCO Receives 'Best for Vets' Top Ranking

The Military Times ranked UCO as 40th among the "Best for Vets: Colleges 2015" on its annual list of four-year colleges and universities nationwide. UCO was the highest ranked in Oklahoma.

UCO to Host 2018 Research Conference

The Council on Undergraduate Research has selected Central to host the 2018 National Conference on Undergraduate Research. The three-day conference will gather as many as 5,000 students and faculty to events on UCO's campus and in locations throughout the Oklahoma City metro in March 2018.



UCO, 'Best Colleges' List

U.S. News & World Report's 2015 Best Colleges list once again ranked UCO among the top in the nation. Central ranked as the top public regional university in the state, No. 29 in the list of Tier One institutions in the "Top Public Schools: Regional Universities - West" category and No. 75 in the overall list of regional universities in the west.

Leadership



Central's executive officers are, from left, front row, Myron Pope, Ed.D., vice president for Student Affairs; John Barthell, Ph.D., provost and vice president for Academic Affairs; President Don Betz, Ph.D.; Don Chrusciel, Ph.D., vice president for Administration. Back row are Joe Muller, Athletics director; Anne Holzberlein, vice president for Development and UCO Foundation executive director; Charles Johnson, vice president for University Relations; Cynthia E. Rolfe, Ph.D., vice president for Information Technology; and Mark Kinders, Ed.D., vice president for Public Affairs.

Mission

The University of Central Oklahoma exists to help students learn by providing transformative educational experiences to students so that they may become productive, creative, ethical and engaged citizens and leaders serving our global community. UCO contributes to the intellectual, cultural, economic and social advancement of the communities and individuals it serves.

Vision

UCO will become a recognized metropolitan university by providing a transformative education as well as development experiences that help learners achieve their highest level of leadership potential.



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Wei R. Chen, Ph.D.
Interim Dean, College of Mathematics and Science



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