



*Creating a  
Culture of  
Learning,  
Leading  
and Serving*



### UCO Welcomes Eddie Griffin as Athletic Director

Central announced Eddie Griffin's return to his alma mater as the new director of athletics during a press conference on Oct. 5 at Wantland Stadium. Griffin comes to UCO after serving as the president of the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame and Jim Thorpe Association. He also served as an athletic director for Oklahoma City Public Schools and Northeastern State University, as well as head wrestling coach at Clemson University. Griffin, who graduated with his Master of Education from Central and later became the head wrestling coach for the Bronchos, helped lay a foundation for success in athletics at UCO. He led the Bronchos to three of their first four national championships in wrestling. In 2008, Griffin was inducted into the UCO Athletic Hall of Fame.



### Central Awarded \$1.3 Million for Student Veterans

The U.S. Department of Education recently awarded UCO a five-year, \$1.3 million grant to fund the UCO Veterans Upward Bound program, also known as the Student Transition Readiness Integration Program for Education Support (STRIPES). UCO STRIPES is designed to motivate and assist veterans in successfully enrolling and completing postsecondary education through counseling, mentoring, tutoring and academic instruction. The program aims to serve 125 low-income, first-generation veterans, in 13 targeted counties in Oklahoma, who are high-risk for academic failure. All of the targeted counties have a high concentration of veterans that exhibit high poverty rates and low educational levels. The counties include Caddo, Canadian, Cleveland, Comanche, Garfield, Grady, Kingfisher, Lincoln, Logan, Muskogee, Oklahoma, Pottawatomie and Tulsa.



### Adams Appointed as FEPAC Commissioner

The Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC) appointed Dwight Adams, Ph.D., director of UCO's W. Roger Webb Forensic Science Institute (FSI), as one of its commissioners. The six-year appointment demonstrates the high level of professionalism and quality found within Central's FSI programs and the recognition of FSI's excellence by other leading forensic science education programs and practitioners.



## Black Male Initiative Receives National Innovation Award

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) recognized UCO's Black Male Initiative with the Student Success and College Completion Award as a part of its 2017 Excellence and Innovation Awards. The initiative works to improve the persistence rate of black male students by matching 60 first-year, full-time students with 20 peer mentors, placing the students in cohort classes, implementing a mandatory study hall and co-curricular programs, and holding a Black Male Summit to connect students with institutional and community stakeholders. Before the initiative, first-year, full-time black male students were persisting at a rate of 48 percent from the first to second fall semester. Since implementation, retention rates have increased 20 percent and graduation rates 15 percent. University representatives accepted the award in October at AASCU's Annual Meeting in San Diego, California. UCO is the first university in Oklahoma to receive a national award from AASCU.



## UCO Hosts Carlotta Walls LaNier of 'Little Rock Nine'

UCO hosted Carlotta Walls LaNier for a speaking engagement on Oct. 26 in honor of the 60th anniversary of the momentous actions of the Little Rock Nine – a group of nine African-American students, who first integrated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957. LaNier, one of the nine students, discussed her book, "A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School," and answered questions from students. LaNier received the Congressional Gold Medal in 1998.



## Central Receives \$2.48 Million to Serve Metro Students

The U.S. Department of Education has again funded Central's Upward Bound Math and Science program, as well as awarded the university funding from the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program, also known as the McNair Scholars Program. With its five-year grant, totaling \$1.32 million, the UCO Upward Bound Math and Science program will continue its mission of strengthening the math and science skills of metro area students and encouraging the pursuit of postsecondary degrees in math and science. The program serves 62 eligible participants, who attend five high-poverty, low-performing high schools in Oklahoma City – Capitol Hill, Crooked Oak, Douglass, Northeast and Star Spencer. Central's McNair Scholars Program was funded with a five-year grant for \$1.16 million to serve 25 low-income, first-generation participants, as well as participants from groups underrepresented in graduate education, who are in pursuit of doctoral studies.



## Alumnus Chad Richison Gifts \$4 Million to Athletics

Central alumnus and former student-athlete Chad Richison, founder and CEO of Oklahoma City-based Paycom Software Inc., donated an additional \$4 million to the UCO Athletics "Complete the Dream" campaign. As the second largest gift in university history, Richison's recent contribution is surpassed only by his previous gift of \$10 million in 2015, the single-largest gift in university history and among the largest ever received by an NCAA Division II institution. Funds from the gift will be used to complete a significant annex to Hamilton Field House and improvements to Central's baseball facility. The annex will include a new wrestling facility, an auxiliary gymnasium and new locker rooms for multiple sports. This project is currently well into the design phase and is expected to be completed in fall 2019. Planning work has already commenced on several upgrades to the baseball facility, including artificial turf, fencing and dugouts. These improvements are expected to be completed in spring 2018.



## Multicultural Education Wins Global Citizen Award

The Multicultural Education Institute (MEI) at UCO was among the winners announced at the recent Global Citizen 2017 Awards Gala. The event was hosted by the World Experiences Foundation, which Central alumnus Akash Patel founded to promote global education and multicultural resources worldwide. MEI was named the 2017 Global Citizen in Education for its work with Oklahoma educators and its efforts to improve education in diverse communities.



## UCO.edu Named Best New Site at National Conference

UCO received Hannon Hill's Best New Site award for its website redesign at the 2017 Cassie Awards, during its annual Cascade User Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. The Best New Site award is given to the most impressive Cascade-powered site, in terms of design, content and implementation. UCO was selected for the award based on votes by peers attending the conference. The design was praised for putting an emphasis on the journey a prospective student would make. Hannon Hill's Cascade software facilitates the UCO website. The university launched its new design in February 2017, with implementation to all areas of the site ongoing.