

Report to the Community 2016



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA



From the President

I am delighted to present this year's update on the University of Central Oklahoma and some of our current initiatives.

For more than 126 years, UCO has consistently championed educational creativity and change in Oklahoma, 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 encouraging the development of productive, creative, ethical, and engaged citizens and leaders. Our values are grounded in student success, transformative learning, value and place. UCO is here to serve.

We embrace the dynamic future of the metro and the state of Oklahoma as we actively partner with education, industry, government and non-profit organizations. We understand the power of connection, connection to confidence, opportunity and purpose.

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

UCO is creating Oklahoma's future, the educated workforce and the responsible, engaged citizens

required for a sustained economic development and a vibrant, equitable society.

I sincerely hope you find this concise overview of UCO's intentions and initiatives informative and useful.

My best wishes,

Don Betz
President



Keepers of the Flame

When humanity learned to use fire, their lives changed forever. Fire gave them a life like never before — light in the dark, heat in the cold, protection from predators.

That's why when leaders in higher education say we are the "keepers of the flame," it's not said lightly. What fire did for early man, what the printed word and free land did for those who followed, that's what higher education means today.

That's why we believe our work at UCO has great value. We are helping create a better tomorrow for our students and our communities here, across the nation and the world.

*In times
of change,
learners shall
inherit the
earth.*

— Eric Hoffer

Percentage of Generation in Poverty, by Educational Attainment

	ALL	COLLEGE GRADUATE	2-YEAR DEGREE/ SOME COLLEGE	HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE
Millenials in 2013	16	6	15	22
Gen Xers in 1995	13	3	10	15
Late Boomers in 1986	12	4	8	12
Early boomers in 1979	8	3	6	7

Notes: "All" includes those who are not high school graduates. Poverty is based on the respondent's family income in the calendar year preceding the survey. Silent generation not shown because poverty measures are not available before 1968.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Stewards of Place

Over the last 20 years, the role of higher education has expanded. We are no longer focused on just our students, but on the state, particularly the metropolitan area. Today, we embrace our role in growing the economy of the Oklahoma City metropolitan area, as well as the state. We work to connect our students to the area's workforce needs, while also helping to improve the community where our graduates will live and work. To achieve these goals, UCO leaders seek out meaningful partnerships including:

- Helping develop Oklahoma City's Innovation District;
- Working with the Hispanic Chamber to increase opportunities for its community;
- Assisting the Oklahoma City Chamber to advance important area issues; and,
- Assisting any number of other groups, where we stand ready to ask, "What can we do?"

One example of that effort is the development of UCO's Student Transformative Learning Record — abbreviated as STLR and pronounced as stellar — that is receiving international recognition. STLR helps college students show the skills they master that are critical to their workplace, citizenship and personal success — skills such as problem solving, interacting in a multicultural environment and working with a team. In the fall of 2015, UCO introduced STLR to all incoming freshmen following a successful 2014 pilot version. The program is funded in part by a 5-year, \$7.7 million U.S. Department of Education Strengthening Institutions Program Grant. Collège La Cité, the largest French-language college in Ontario, Canada, has become the first postsecondary institution to adopt UCO's innovative STLR program

We believe it serves our students and our state to be good Stewards of Place.



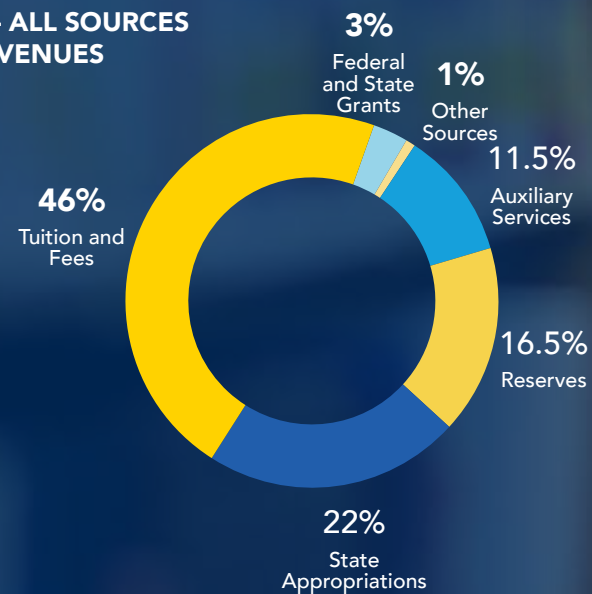
Funding Challenges

The road we travel is a precarious one today, made more critical by decreases in state support. We increasingly face more opportunities than resources. Student demand is exceeding our financial ability to offer classes. As of early summer 2016, already 50 fall classes had waiting lists. Funding to increase the number of advisers — key to improving our student retention rates — has long been lacking. Salaries of support personnel and faculty lag behind market rates, making it increasingly difficult to retain or hire associates.

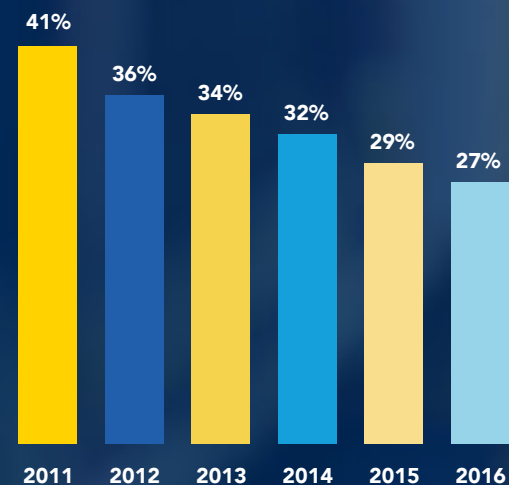
We have found creative ways to meet funding cuts and continue to provide a quality education to our students. However, we regret necessary tuition increases, knowing that more than half of our students already are graduating with student debt.

- Since 2000, UCO's state funding has dropped from 60% of our budget to less than 24%.
- For 2015-16, we lost 12% of our state funding
- For 2016-17, funding was reduced 15.92%.
- Two-thirds of our 2016-17 decline in funding will be covered by a 9.9% increase in tuition and mandatory fees.

FY16 – ALL SOURCES OF REVENUES



STATE FUNDING (last 6 years) AS % OF EDUCATION/GENERAL EXPENSE



Efforts Rewarded

Despite challenges, we believe we are a solution to increasing our state's per capita income, to enhancing its quality of life, as well as the lives of our graduates. We are committed to making student success our No. 1 goal. We will work to provide our graduates with more than facts and figures, helping them to experience transformative learning, while knowing they are in the right location, making a smart investment in their future.



- UCO is once again ranked as the top public regional university in the state and for the first time as the top public regional university for veterans on the 2016 Best Colleges list from *U.S. News & World Report*.
- *The Military Times* ranked UCO No. 43 among all surveyed four-year colleges and universities in the U.S. on its 2016 "Best for Vets: Colleges" list. UCO was the only Oklahoma school recognized. Central also was named to Victory Media's 2016 "Military Friendly Schools" list for the fourth consecutive year.



- *Indian Higher Education Review Magazine* recognized UCO as an International University of the Year for 2015. The award followed recognition from the Institute of International Education, which named Central a top institution of higher learning for international students.
- Central's W. Roger Webb Forensic Science Institute is now the only university in North America with three accredited undergraduate forensic science programs — forensic molecular biology, forensic chemistry and digital forensics.



- This past year, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* once again included UCO in its national "Best Colleges to Work For" Honor Roll, putting Central in the Top 10 Large University Category, with Notre Dame, Duke, the University of Southern California and other elite institutions. UCO has received the award for seven of the last eight years.
- The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has recognized UCO's community impact with the foundation's prestigious 2015 Community Engagement Classification, received this year by only 82 other colleges and universities nationwide.



Growing Graduates

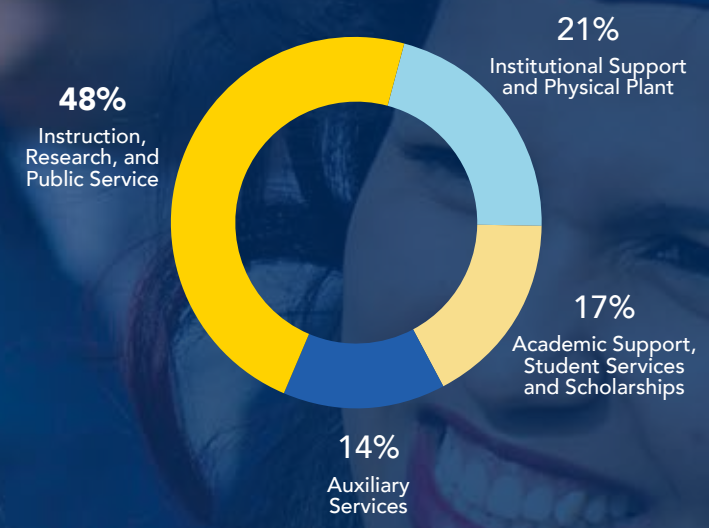
More than half of the students beginning their college experience at UCO this fall will be the first in their families to attend college. We continue to seek ways to keep these students as well as their peers engaged and moving forward toward graduation.

UCO has been one of the few Oklahoma colleges to meet its Complete College America goals.

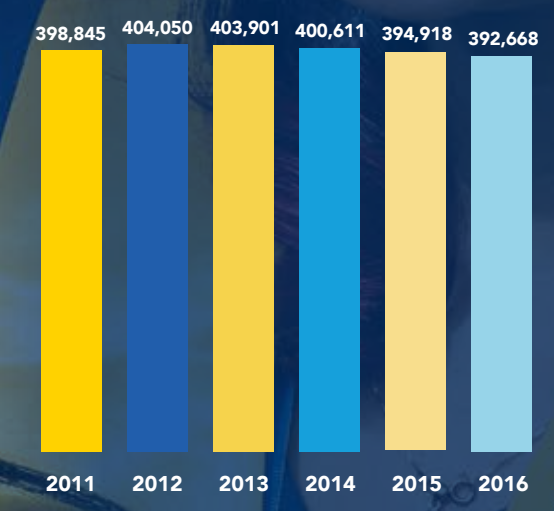
UCO awarded 3,237 degrees in the 2015-16 academic year. Central's December commencement ceremonies represented the largest fall graduating class in UCO history.

We believe we are not only preparing graduates who will sustain our area's workforce needs, but who also will lead quality lives with the ability to build a better society for all.

FY16 – USES OF REVENUES



CREDIT HOURS PRODUCED (last 6 years)



Building for Tomorrow

As easy as it might be to let someone in the future worry about dilapidated buildings and space shortages, UCO leadership is committed to making sure the UCO campus is equipped for our students today as well as those who will follow.

As a result, we have several projects that are either nearing completion or scheduled to begin in the 2016-17 academic year.



- **Mitchell Hall Backstage:** With funding from the "Build Mitchell Hall" capital campaign, a \$5.75 million expansion will provide 20,000 square feet of greatly needed space for Central's historic performance and classroom venue, plus a 500-person storm shelter. Completion is expected in March.

- **Sports:** Central's new softball field complex will be completed in February, with a 35,000-square-foot sports complex expected in June 2018. Both are bond projects.



- **Old North:** Central's historic Old North is reopening in Fall 2016 after being closed for 15 years for vital renovations. In addition, a new entry for the west side of campus will be completed this fall, making Old North the focal point she enjoyed as the first building on campus, classes first held there in 1893.

- **South Central Plant:** Construction has begun on a two-year project to build a new heating-and-cooling plant to meet current demand more efficiently, while meeting future demand for the next 20-30 years. The project is being financed with bond revenues, which will be repaid over the next 20 years through cost savings.



- **Murdaugh Hall:** Renovation is underway on Central's oldest residence hall, first opened in 1937. Completion is expected in May. Housing revenues are paying for the project.

- **STEM Center:** Plans are being finalized for an Interdisciplinary STEM Teaching and Research Center, to be located south of Thatcher. The classroom facility will provide 55,000-square-feet of new space. Construction will start in early 2017 with a June 2018 completion date. Bond revenues will finance the project.

University Leadership



Richard Bernard, Ph.D.
Dean, Jackson
College of Graduate
Studies



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



Mickey Hepner, Ph.D.
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Business



James Machell, Ph.D.
Dean, College of
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Professional Studies



Pamela Washington, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Fine Arts
and Design



Catherine Webster, Ph.D.
Dean, College of
Liberal Arts



Anne Holzberlein
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Development/UCO Foundation
Executive Director

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University Communications

Cynthia E. Rolfe, Ph.D.
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Information Technology

Mark Kinders, Ed.D.
Vice President for
Public Affairs

Joe Muller
Athletic Director

Don Betz, Ph.D.
President

Donald Chrusciel, Ph.D.
Vice President for
Administration

John Barthell, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President
for Academic Affairs

Myron L. Pope, Ed.D.
Vice President for
Student 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.

UCO —


Providing

Opportunities

for All

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.



*Oklahoma's
Metropolitan
University*



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