UCO Again Named Top Public Regional University

Central once again ranked as the top public regional university in the state, announced on the 2021 Best Colleges list from U.S. News and World Report. UCO ranked No. 32 in the "Top Public Schools: Regional Universities – West" category and No. 68 in the overall list of regional universities, both public and private, in the west. U.S. News and World Report releases its list of Best Colleges annually. Regional universities are divided into four categories: North, South, Midwest, and West and are defined as universities that offer "a full range of undergraduate programs and some master's programs but few doctoral programs."

Central Receives Six Department of Education Grants

UCO received more than $7.7 million through six U.S. Department of Education Federal TRIO Programs grants, more than any other higher education institution in the state. Additionally, Central was the only university in the nation to receive grants for all six iterations of the Student Support Services programs. The funds will be awarded over five years. Each grant provides funding to support unique segments of Central's student body from veterans to future teachers and those pursuing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields, who are low-income, first-generation and/or have disabilities. The individual programs offer services like one-on-one tutoring; peer, faculty and community mentoring; academic and career exploration workshops; financial literacy programming; cultural activities; persistence coaching; leadership development; graduate school visits; and, scholarship opportunities.

UCO Business Analytics Receives SAS Designation

Central's Master of Science in business analytics (MSBA) program received an SAS Tier-3 Academic Specialization from the SAS Institute for integrating cutting-edge SAS technologies into its curriculum. SAS stands for "statistical analysis system." SAS software is used to analyze data in a host of industries – government, medical, banking and academics. The SAS Institute is the global leader in analytics, machine learning, data science and artificial intelligence. The Tier-3 designation is the most advanced analytics education level and provides the best benefits for students seeking careers in the growing field of data analytics. UCO is one of a few hundred institutions worldwide to be honored with the SAS designation.

OKA+ at UCO Receives National Arts Grant

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) awarded a $50,000 grant as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to Oklahoma A+ Schools Institute at UCO. The grant will be used primarily for assistance with salary and a small portion for facilities programming costs. OKA+ qualified for the NEA CARES grant due to being an NEA awardee of other grants within the past four years.

UCO Professor Partners with CMA

Lani Garner, Ph.D., assistant professor in Central's School of Music, helped facilitate Unified Voices for Music Education (UVME), a series of music lessons and tools for music teachers to use in virtual classrooms. UVME is a national initiative hosted by the Country Music Association (CMA) Foundation. Garner was a facilitator for the elementary music sessions of UVME. UVME is a collective effort of music educators from across the United States in response to challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The tools and lessons created by UVME can be accessed and tailored by teachers to fit the needs of their students.