

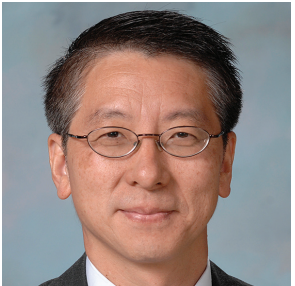


*Creating a
Culture of
Learning,
Leading
and Serving*



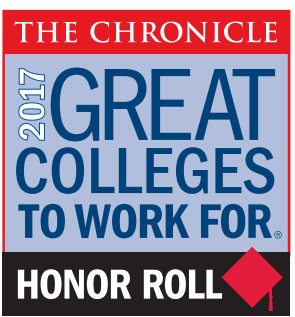
UCO Moves Up on 'Best Colleges' List

Central once again ranked as the top public regional university in the state on the 2018 Best Colleges list from U.S. News & World Report. UCO ranked No. 25 in the list of Tier One institutions in the "Top Public Schools: Regional Universities - West" category and No. 76 in the overall list of regional universities in the west. That's up from No. 32 on the Tier One list and No. 88 on the overall list in 2017.



Chen Receives National Grant for Cancer Research

The National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health awarded Wei Chen, Ph.D., professor of biomedical engineering and dean of UCO's College of Mathematics and Science, with a five-year Research Project Grant (R01), totaling \$1,374,355, to support the continuation of his long-term work on his unique cancer treatment method, laser immunotherapy (LIT). LIT uses the combination of local laser irradiation and the local administration of an immunological stimulant to treat tumors. LIT could potentially provide effective therapy for patients facing severely limited options. As a result of Chen's hard work and innovative research, UCO is the only non-research institution in Oklahoma to receive NIH R01 funding, elevating the cancer research at Central to the national competitive level.



Central Repeats as 'Great College to Work For'

The Chronicle of Higher Education named UCO as one of the "2017 Great Colleges to Work For." Central is also one of only a handful of institutions in the nation given the distinction of being named to the "Honor Roll" for being cited most often among all the recognition categories. The university ranked among the best nationally in nine of the survey's 12 categories: collaborative governance, confidence in senior leadership, job satisfaction and support, professional/career development programs, respect and appreciation, supervisor/department chair relationship, teaching environment, tenure and clarity process, and work/life balance. Central joined University of Washington, the University of Mississippi, and Texas Christian University on the list of the 10 universities named to the large institution honor roll by The Chronicle of Higher Education.



School of Music Dedicates New Mitchell Education Center

The UCO School of Music hosted the grand opening of the Mitchell Education Center – a 17,000 square-foot addition to the historic Mitchell Hall Theatre – on Aug. 31. The build-out, designed by Elliott + Associates Architects, includes two new rehearsal spaces, dressing rooms, classrooms, a green room, a full costume shop, make-up lab, an open gallery, indoor and outdoor student study lounges, faculty offices and a storm shelter that can hold more than 700 people.



Central’s Black Male Initiative Earns National Award

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) named the University of Central Oklahoma as one of its 2017 Excellence and Innovation Award winners. Central was recognized, alongside California State University, Fresno, with the Student Success and College Completion Award, specifically for the creation and continued efforts of its Black Male Initiative. The Black Male Initiative was created to address the retention and graduation rates of African American men at the UCO. The program offers peer mentoring between the Black Male Initiative freshmen and the upperclassmen who serve as fellows, tuition waivers available to assist students in their academic pursuits and intentional and tenacious monitoring of student social and academic success.



UCO’s McKibbin Becomes Athletic Trainer Hall of Famer

The National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA) Hall of Fame inducted Jeff McKibbin, an educator in Central’s athletic training program, since 1980, an honor only four Oklahomans have garnered in the 67-year history of the organization. McKibbin, director of Central’s graduate athletic training program, was one of seven individuals from throughout the U.S. to be honored at the association’s 68th Clinical Symposia and Expo in Houston. The NATA Hall of Fame is the highest honor an athletic trainer can receive. Honorees are recognized for contributions that enhance the quality of health care provided by athletic trainers and advance the profession.



Central Veteran Support Services Staff Awarded for Excellence

Veterans for Global Leadership (VGL) named Brad Ward, coordinator of VetHERO at Central, as one of its 2017 VGL Fellows. The VGL fellowship program recognizes exceptional student veterans that display a passion for service, a commitment to assist other veterans, an entrepreneurial spirit, a strong work ethic and proven leadership skills. Ward, who served for eight years in the U.S. Army and began serving in Veteran Support Services in 2015, is currently pursuing his master’s in public administration and joins other student veterans from schools like Yale University, Dartmouth College and Georgetown University. Additionally, the Blinded Veterans Association awarded retired Lt. Col. Kennan Horn, project manager for Central’s SALUTE program, with the 2017 Major General Melvin J. Maas Achievement Award, which is presented annually to a service-connected blinded veteran, who has proven to be outstanding in his or her field of employment, in community service and in his or her adjustment to daily living. Horn served in the U.S. Army for 24 years and has an 80 percent disability in his eyesight.



UCO Music Student Named Oklahoma Outstanding Collegiate Jazz Musician

Central School of Music student Evan Drumm was selected as the Oklahoma Jazz Educators and Oklahoma Music Educators Association 2017 Outstanding Collegiate Jazz Musician at the Oklahoma Bandmasters Association Convention. Drumm, who is from Edmond, graduated in May 2017 with a Bachelor of Music Education – Instrumental degree and plans to attend graduate school at UCO to obtain a Master of Jazz Studies – Commercial Production degree.



UCO Recommended for HLC Continuing Accreditation

As part of its mid-cycle Assurance Review from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), of which UCO is a member, Central has earned an unqualified recommendation from an HLC peer review team, indicating the university has met all review criteria. Pending further review and action from HLC’s Institutional Actions Council and President Betz’s receipt of positive confirmation from the commission, UCO will have successfully completed the mid-cycle Assurance Review process. The review’s conclusion is expected to be finalized later this fall, with a full evaluation for UCO’s reaffirmation of accreditation set for 2022.