



connect to Central

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UCO Marks Ten Years as ‘Great College to Work For’

The Chronicle of Higher Education named UCO as one of the “2018 Great Colleges to Work For.” Central also is 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. Central joined Baylor University, Texas Christian University and University of Notre Dame on the list of the 10 universities named to the large institution honor roll by The Chronicle of Higher Education, widely viewed as one of the most prestigious higher education publications in the nation. Within the survey’s 11-year history, this is the 10th year in which Central has been named to the list, with past recognitions in 2008 and 2010-17.



Central Nationally Recognized for STLR Excellence

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) named UCO one of its 2018 Excellence and Innovation Award winners, recognizing the university’s Student Transformative Learning Record (STLR) and its role in student success and retention. For its work with STLR, Central received the Student Success and College Completion Award. A reflection of student success through the program was captured among a target group of first-time, first-year students, comprised of low-income, first-generation and/or underrepresented students – all of whom participated in STLR. Retention for the group, who began in fall 2015, increased 13 percent and student grade point averages, increased, on average, by 0.56 points. Additionally, many Spring 2019 graduates will comprise the first group who will leave UCO with four years of STLR experiences, supporting their future goals alongside their earned bachelor degrees.

UCO Receives Grant to Support Foster Youth

The UCO Foundation and the UCO Center for Counseling and Well-Being received a three-year, \$147,054 grant from Eckerd Connects to help reverse the trend of foster youth who graduate high school without plans to pursue higher education. The grant will support a full-time case manager for Fostering Youth Success, an initiative that assists foster youth with college planning. The case manager will serve as an advocate, a social and clinical resource expert, a mentor for foster youth and a partner alongside high school guidance counselors in Oklahoma County.





Central Breaks Ground on New Dining Center

As part of this evolving landscape, Central recently broke ground on a new campus dining center. The 50,000-square-foot, two-story facility aims to provide students with a greater variety of meal options that are healthier and prepared fresh. The center will feature a range of serving stations, seating for more than 500 people, a private dining room, a new retail location and campus office space. ADG, in coordination with Lingo Construction Services, Inc. and Central's Architectural and Engineering Services, designed the addition, with a cost of \$19 million, primarily funded through bond issue funds and contributions from Chartwells Higher Education.



UCO Musical Theatre Nationally Ranked 'Top 10'

Central's Musical Theatre program recently was recognized as one of the best in the nation, as OnStage Blog ranked UCO No. 8 on its list of "The Top 10 Bachelor of Music – Musical Theatre Programs for 2018-19." OnStage Blog compiles its rankings based on quality of facilities; cost and scholarship opportunities; quality of faculty; admissions, auditions and selectivity; quality of curriculum; career and alumni support; and performance opportunities. UCO joins Arizona State University and Manhattan School of Music on this year's list.



OKA+ Schools to Receive \$15,000 Grant

The Oklahoma Arts Council recently approved a bid from UCO-based Oklahoma A+ Schools (OKA+) to coordinate and implement the national Poetry Out Loud competition in Oklahoma for the 2018-19 academic year. Bid approval includes a \$15,000 grant, provided with National Endowment for the Arts funding, for competition facilitation. Poetry Out Loud is a competition that encourages the nation's youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation. The program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence and learn about literary heritage. OKA+ Schools will provide arts integration workshops for secondary teachers, focusing on theater and English language arts standards, in an effort to help promote Poetry Out Loud participation.



President Betz Earns Lifetime Achievement Award

The Oklahoma Political Science Association (OPSA) recently presented UCO President Don Betz with the Robert Darcy Lifetime Achievement Award. OPSA presents its lifetime achievement award to members who have made a significant and lasting contribution in leadership, research and mentorship. The association recognized Betz specifically for his outstanding contribution to political science and for his distinguished record of public service. Betz is known for his excellence in teaching international relations and leadership, as well as practical application of his expertise. He worked with the United Nations, founding and chairing the International Coordinating Committee on the Question of Palestine (ICCP), a U.N.-affiliated non-governmental organization (NGO) network pursuing peace in the Middle East based on U.N. resolutions. Within Oklahoma, Betz has served as president of both Northeastern State University in Tahlequah and UCO in Edmond.

