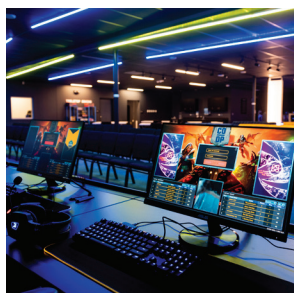




# connect to Central

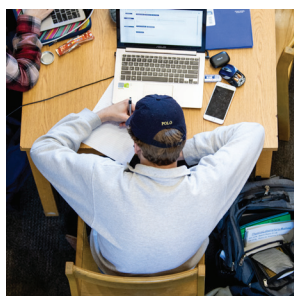
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## UCO Opens Esports Gaming Arena

Central continued its expansion into collegiate esports with the opening of its CO-OP Esports and Gaming Arena. The CO-OP allows UCO to host local, regional and national competitions and gives the university's esports teams a home. The 5,703-square-foot space houses more than 48 high-end PC gaming stations, two virtual reality booths, five Nintendo Switch consoles and a growing library of popular board and tabletop games. Esports, or electronic sports, is a form of competition using video games and connecting people from around the world through gaming – and it's growing rapidly on college campuses. Central launched collegiate esports in 2018 with a competitive esports club comprised of more than 350 members and credit courses in esports. The university hosts several junior varsity teams in various game titles and three varsity-level teams.



## UCO Expands Academic Offerings

New for the fall 2020 semester, UCO added two graduate programs and six undergraduate minors, now allowing students to choose from 118 undergraduate majors, 95 minors and 44 graduate programs during their time at Central. The UCO College of Education and Professional Studies introduced a new Master of Public Health in community engagement, which is designed for working professionals who are interested in expanding career options in public health policy and public health program management. Additionally, Central's W. Roger Webb Forensic Science Institute added a Master of Science in digital forensics – a research-oriented degree program that will include insights on forensic science, leadership and management, expert testimony and current professional issues within the field. UCO's new minor offerings include child life, energy economics, strategy, operations and supply chain management, songwriting and post-production audio.



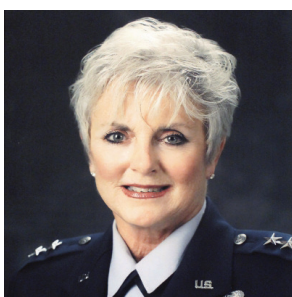
## Central Names New Vice President

Central's President Patti Neuhold-Ravikumar named Christopher Lynch as the university's vice president for Enrollment and Student Success. Lynch brings 29 years of successful enrollment management experience from four large public universities and colleges to this new role. He has a deep knowledge of higher education and demonstrated success in leading enrollment management, admissions and recruitment (domestic and international), new student orientation, international student services, financial aid, scholarship services, career services, communication/call centers, student employment and university articulation.



## UCO PGA Director Honored for Excellence

The PGA's South Central Section has awarded Lindsey Cook, director of Central's PGA golf management program, the PGA Horton Smith Award for both the South Central Section, as well as the Western Oklahoma Chapter. Cook is the first female recipient of both awards. The awards bestow special recognition to a PGA golf professional who displays a strong desire for lifelong education and continuous professional education contributions. Cook has taught in Central's PGA golf management program since October 2013, teaching courses such as advanced teaching and player development, turfgrass management and golf operations. She also is a Class A member of the PGA.



## UCO Scholarship to Honor Maj. Gen. Aragon

Central's College of Education and Professional Studies established the Elementary Education Endowed Scholarship in Honor of Maj. Gen. Rita Aragon through the UCO Foundation. The scholarship is named to honor the legacy and accomplishments of Aragon, a Central alumna. The scholarship will be awarded annually, providing financial assistance to UCO students pursuing a career in teaching. A lifelong education advocate, Aragon received both her bachelor's degree in elementary education and her master's degree in guidance and counseling from Central. She served as a teacher, principal and counselor in Oklahoma City Public Schools for nearly 25 years.



## UCO Names Interim Leadership

Central named Charleen Weidell, M.F.A., associate dean, as the interim dean of the College of Fine Arts and Design and Gloria Caddell, Ph.D., associate dean and professor of biology, as the College of Mathematics and Science's interim dean. Weidell, a nationally renowned jewelry artist and metalsmith, brings 13 consecutive years of administrative service to the interim position, including chairperson, assistant dean and associate dean. Caddell's distinguished 30-year career at UCO has included nine consecutive years of administrative service, including both as a chairperson and as an associate dean.