



UNIVERSITY OF
**Central
Oklahoma**

*Report
to the
Community
2018*

COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION &
PROFESSIONAL
STUDIES





UCO President Don Betz received the 2018 Oklahoma Creativity Ambassador award, one of only a handful given each year to those who enhance the state's creativity.

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 128 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 know exactly why we are here. 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 Oklahoma City metro and the state of Oklahoma as we actively partner with education, industry, government and nonprofit organizations. We understand the power of connection — connection to purpose, confidence and opportunity. We embrace the collaborative innovation to fuel the future of OKC and its residents.

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

HELPING STUDENTS

What if UCO could find a way to improve retention, grades, graduation rates and student engagement?

Meet Jeff King, Ed.D., chief architect of a UCO program that is proving successful in doing all of that and more.

Called STLR — pronounced like “stellar” — the acronym stands for Student Transformative Learning Record. Entering its fourth year, the program has received international attention while also receiving a \$7.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

“We’re finding retention for students with STLR is roughly 15-19 percent higher than for other students,” King, UCO’s executive director of its Transformative Learning at Central, said.

Similar success is being found in other measurements.

“The STLR lift applies almost equally to students who are first-generation college attendees, low-income students and underrepresented students when compared to students not in those categories,” King said.

Maybe more telling is the growing number of students participating — 60 percent of the student body as of spring 2018. These students participated in outside-the-classroom research and activities, as well as class assignments, to demonstrate proficiency in skills such as critical thinking, teamwork, communication skills and an appreciation for diversity.

UCO had 290 students graduate with transformative-level STLR credits in spring 2018. Those graduating in spring 2019 will be the first group to be offered STLR for all four years of their college experience.

“UCO works hard to help all students succeed,” King said. “We think STLR is proving a compelling process in that quest.”

UCO’s Jeff King now finds himself meeting with educators worldwide who are looking to create their own version of STLR.



STLR, Beyond UCO

More than a dozen other institutions have asked UCO to help them launch some version of STLR, including Western Carolina University, which made its version a key focus of its successful institutional reaccreditation.

STLR has attracted additional grant funding — beyond the \$7.8 million U.S. Department of Education grant — with a couple of grants from the Gates Foundation, as well as two from the Lumina Foundation.

STLR funds support UCO’s Black Male, Hispanic Success and Native American Success initiatives. The campuswide program also has trained about 550 faculty and staff in how to implement STLR classes, student groups, out-of-class projects and campus events for students to receive STLR credit.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Almost half of UCO's incoming students qualify as low-income, and 41.2 percent are classified as "first-generation" — meaning neither of their parents completed college. However, Kalen Russell was none of these.

Yet, she will be the first to say how grateful she is for the scholarships she received. "I excelled more academically. I joined student organizations, accepted leadership roles and began molding myself into the person I wanted to be."

A high achiever in high school, she qualified for a President's Leadership Council scholarship at UCO. That covered half her housing fees and 12 hours of tuition each semester. Plus, she worked 15-20 hours a week on campus, an easier gig because the job hours always were built around class schedules.

She became a research and assessment intern in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, leading her to present research at the 2016 Oklahoma College Student Personnel Association Conference. As a co-researcher on another project, "Black Students' Lived Experiences with Campus Law Enforcement," she presented at the 2015 National Conference on Undergraduate Research and at the 2018 Big XII Conference on Black Student Government. The Newman Civic Fellow was also one of the few spring graduates to earn transformation credit in all five tenets of UCO's Student Transformative Learning Record (STLR).

"I saw other students struggle financially," she said. "I often consider, 'What if everyone was given the same opportunities as me?'"

UCO graduate Kalen Russell found a new career direction thanks to scholarships, research, internships and national conferences.



Status

In spring 2018, Kalen Russell graduated magna cum laude with a UCO bachelor's degree in Strategic Communications and a minor in Spanish. This fall, she'll begin classes at Vanderbilt University for a master's that will allow her to work in public policy and outreach.

STLR Experience

"I was transformed, knowing I could impact community," Russell said of the research she did.

A Favorite Quote

"An investment in knowledge pays the best return," said Benjamin Franklin.

Who are our students?

TOP 5

Undergraduate Majors

- Nursing • Forensic Science • Psychology
- Biology • Accounting

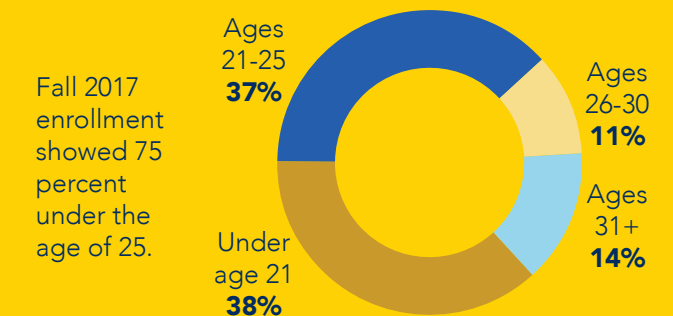
Graduate Majors

- Educational Leadership • Business Administration
- Special Education-Mild/Moderate Disabilities
- Bilingual Education/TESL • School Counseling

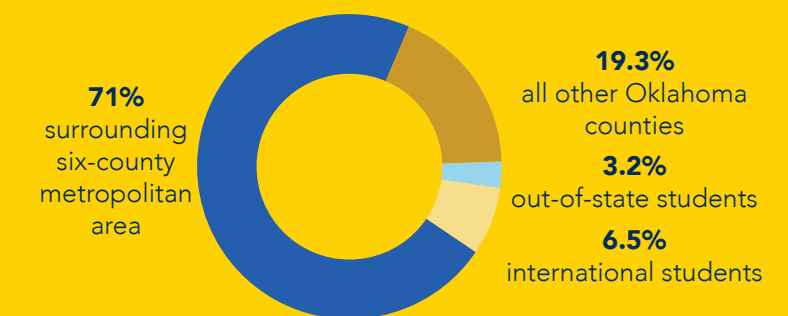
More than half of UCO undergraduates (51.7 percent) will graduate with an average of **\$26,784** in debt.

The Volunteer Service and Learning Center reports that UCO students and faculty donated about **127,600** hours to community causes in 2017-18.

How old are they?



Where are they from?





EMBRACING COMMUNITY

As Oklahoma's only Metropolitan University, UCO is dedicated not only to its campus community, but also its surrounding 10-county area of 1.5 million residents.

How?

First, by creating a campus where students are provided transformative education experiences that help them become productive, creative, ethical and engaged citizens and leaders. Last academic year, more than 3,100 UCO students earned diplomas, most of them adding their talents and knowledge to the metropolitan area and the state.

Together, we are working to meet the area's job force needs. By 2025, 25 percent of all new jobs in the metro will require a bachelor's degree. Currently, only 18 percent meet that need. Of the area's top 50 critical, high-paying occupations, 40 of them require at least a bachelor's degree.

Beyond that, however, UCO seeks ways that our resources and talents can help the area grow. We develop external relationships with area leaders in government, business

and education to find ways we can help meet the needs of education, economic development, sociological issues and quality of life. Just one example is our work with Central Oklahoma STEM Alliance, where UCO brought 16 school districts and higher education partners together to help prepare 110,000 kindergarten through 12th grade students for careers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and health (STEM-H).

We are empowering our programs to be more relevant than ever to captivate future students, to be sure they graduate and to ensure their talents serve area needs, lifting all of our citizens to a better quality of life.

Recognitions

"Military Times" named UCO one of the Top 10 Military Friendly Schools.

"University Business Magazine" named UCO a Model of Excellence.

MORE FUNDING NEEDED

As state funding decreases and tuition and fees rise to fill the gap, the tragic story is that potential students are being priced out of higher education.

But there's more to the story than that.

Stagnant wages that are below market are affecting the university's ability to attract new talent to fill the chairs of retirees, as well as those who leave for better pay elsewhere.

Perhaps, more telling, the university cannot expand programs with high demand and need.

Currently at capacity are seats in criminal justice, nursing, graphic design, business information systems and speech/language pathology programs.

With adequate funding, UCO could expand programs to meet the needs of nursing, public community health care, software engineering, technical writing, public administration and health care services in sociology, gerontology and substance abuse.

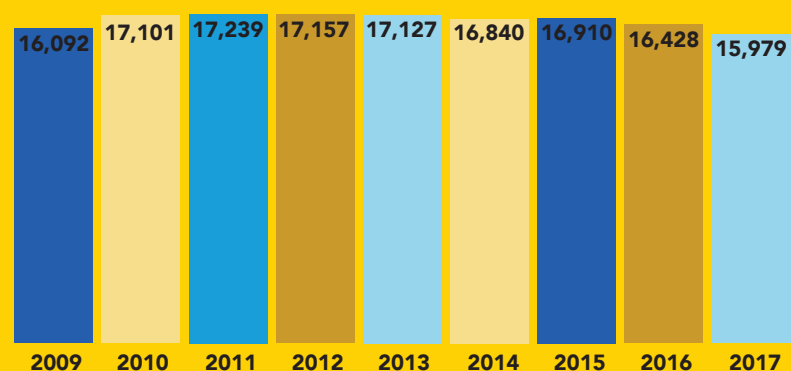
The university has been unable to respond to requests for arts outreach and after-school programs.

In addition, there are a number of new majors that have been put on hold, including a bachelor's in computer engineering and physics; a master's in digital forensics, with a certificate in corporate information security; and a master's in computer science, with a certificate in secure software engineering.

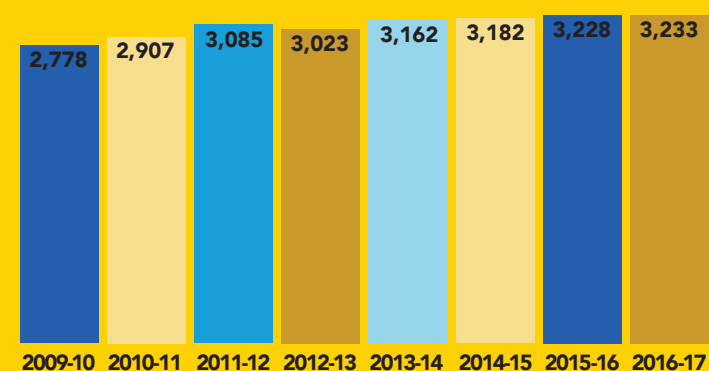
The needs are great, but it's the state's future — and the future of its citizens — at stake.



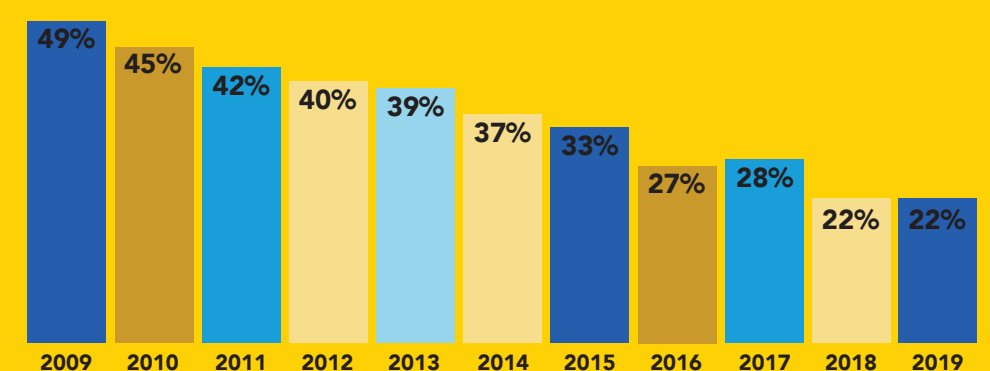
FALL ENROLLMENTS



DEGREES GRANTED



STATE FUNDING AS PERCENT OF EXPENSE BUDGET





Sports Performance Center



STEM Teaching and Research Center



Liberal Arts Renovation and Addition



North Hamilton Annex



New Dining Center

CHANGING CAMPUS

The list of renovated campus buildings and new construction expanded over the last year, as UCO endeavors to meet the needs of our students, programs, faculty and staff.

The new STEM Teaching and Research Center, along with the Sports Performance Center, will both be dedicated this fall.

Completions for 2019 include the South Wing of the Liberal Arts complex and the North Hamilton Annex. Construction started in July on a new student dining facility, also opening in 2019.

Over the last two academic years, the university has completed a number of major projects. Premier of these was the reopening in spring 2017 of Old North, the first building on campus and the oldest structure in the state built for public higher education. Other projects have included the Mitchell Education Center with its addition of studio, office and performance space, long-needed by the College of Fine Arts and Design. The renovation of Murdaugh Hall was long overdue, the 1937 building now offering students with quality housing and state-of-the-art technology. The Softball Complex now features quality space for athletic competitions. And the new South Central Plant provides the campus with more reliable heating and cooling, while also allowing for future construction needs.

The work is not done. Many of the completed and proposed projects relate to buildings that are more than 50 years old.

UCO will continue to look to fundraising, generous donors and bond financing to be sure our campus meets today's needs.

Projects shown here are currently under construction with completions of the Sports Performance Center and the STEM building expected in time for fall dedications.

KUDOS UCO!

Every week at UCO, a department, college, program or individual celebrates an award or special recognition. Below, however, are some national recognitions given to UCO in the 2017-18 academic year for collaborative work that stretches across large swaths, if not the entire university.

- "U.S. News & World Report" once again ranked UCO as Oklahoma's top public regional university on its 2018 Best Colleges list. UCO ranked No. 25 on the list of Tier One institutions in the "Top Public Schools: Regional Universities - West" category and No. 76 on the overall list of regional universities in the West.
- "The Chronicle of Higher Education" in 2018 again deemed UCO "A Great College to Work For" — an honor UCO has received 10 times in the last 11 years in the Chronicle's Top 10 large school category. In addition, Central was one of only a handful of institutions in the nation named to the "Honor Roll" for being cited most often among all the recognition categories.
- The U.S. Department of Education last year awarded Central several major grants including a five-year, \$1.32 million grant for UCO's Upward Bound Math and Science program. Additionally, Central's McNair Scholars Program received a five-year, \$1.16 million grant to serve 25 low-income, first-generation participants, as well as groups underrepresented in graduate education. UCO is one of only 19 new college and university programs to receive the funding. Another five-year, \$1.3 million grant went to the UCO Veterans Upward Bound Program.
- The Western Interstate Commission for Educational Technology awarded its Outstanding Work Award to Central for providing online courses to thousands of students through UCO's Center for eLearning and Connected Environments.



Beside student presentations, NCUR participants heard from state and national leaders, including NBA Hall-of-Famer Kareem Abdul Jabar and United Nations official Ramu Damodaran.



NCUR 2018 — MAJOR SUCCESS

Two years out, the challenge was to get people to know that NCUR stood for National Council on Undergraduate Research — and that UCO was greatly honored to be named host of the 32nd annual event, April 4-7, 2018.

By the time the event convened, more than a thousand UCO students, faculty and staff had volunteered to organize and host almost 4,200 students and faculty from every state and 19 nations.

“What stood out to me was how at home all the students felt here,” UCO graduate student Alyssa Compton, an early organizer and participant at previous NCUR events, said. “There was a sense of community with participants intermingling with other groups. I think a lot of it had to do with how friendly our volunteers were.”

Deemed the second largest gathering in NCUR history, Oklahoma student participation had a record number of 830 entries, with more than 485 of those presented by UCO students. Students produced 1,639 oral and 1,995 poster presentations, in addition to 36 performing arts and 33 visual arts exhibits.

When not presenting or attending presentations, attendees went on excursions throughout the metropolitan area, including the Metro Music Fest — sponsored by the ACM@UCO — and area attractions such as the Oklahoma History Museum, the Oklahoma City National Memorial and the zoo.

Estimated area economic impact was \$2.5 million, as noted in a citation presented to UCO by the Oklahoma state legislature.

Because of the event’s huge success, NCUR officials are now seeking UCO guidance for their next event, April 11-13, at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia.

Some NCUR Highlights

Involving students in undergraduate research — the major goal of any NCUR event — is a proven way to engage them academically and improve their graduation success rates.

By hosting NCUR, the university more than tripled its student participation from the previous year’s event. Other Oklahoma colleges and universities also participated and saw increased participation rates.

A citation from the Oklahoma legislature credited NCUR 2018 as being a “venue to the world to celebrate the intellectual enterprise of America’s best and brightest students, while showcasing all that Oklahoma has to offer.”

HELPING OTHERS

Don Fleming made teaching his career and his life.

"I have no children. ... I considered my students my reward," he said recently.

So, in 1998, when he was looking at retiring, he knew he wanted to keep helping students. He established the Donald E. Fleming Scholarship Fund to help two junior finance majors — one male and one female — complete their senior year.

In 2003, the male recipient was Carlos Evans, today chief commercial officer and founding partner of Tall Oak Midstream.

"I was the first in my family to go directly from high school to college," Evans recently said. "I had to pay for school myself, so I was often working 45 hours a week — the typical student struggling to make ends meet." He was a waiter at Olive Garden, did lawn care, worked for an Edmond hotel and was a campus student worker.

Thanks to scholarships, he was able to reduce his work load and become more active in campus activities, including becoming a founding member of UCO's Pi Kappa Alpha chapter. "I was attracted to starting something new, having a hand in creating a culture," he said. He believes that experience gave him leadership skills and confidence that contributed to him co-founding a successful oil and gas midstream company in 2014.

Evans is grateful for the help he received from people like Don Fleming. So, two years ago, he and his wife, Kristi (Taylor), began funding a scholarship for UCO finance majors.

"I think that's ultimately the goal of life — as you received benefits, appreciate them and pass them on to someone else," Evans said.

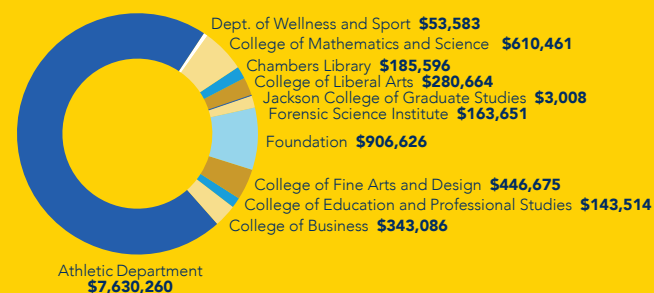
Left, retired UCO professor Don Fleming, D.B.A., and Carlos Evans, 2003 recipient of the Fleming scholarship. Both now offer a scholarship to finance majors.



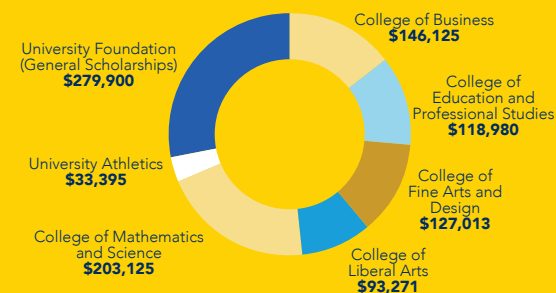
UCO Foundation, Supporting Students

Total Dollars Raised	Number of Scholarships Awarded	Scholarship Dollars Awarded
\$10,767,124	1,002	\$1,001,810

DONATIONS BY AREA IN FY '18



SCHOLARSHIP DOLLARS AWARDED IN FY '18



To see a video of UCO students hearing the news of receiving a scholarship, visit youtu.be/nR0ciA5g1PE.

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP



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

Patti Neuhold,
Vice President
for Finance

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

Kevin Freeman,
Vice President
for Operations

Sonya Watkins,
Chief Information
Officer

Charlie Johnson,
Vice President
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Myron Pope, Ed.D.
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for Student Affairs

Anne Holzberlein,
Vice President
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President



Wei R. Chen, Ph.D.
Dean, College
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and Science



Steven Hansen, MFA
Dean, College
of Fine Arts
and Design



Monica Lam, Ph.D.
Dean, College
of Business



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



Jeanetta D. Sims, Ph.D.
Interim Dean,
Jackson College
of Graduate
Studies



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

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.

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.

In compliance with Title VI and Title VII of The Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, Title IX of The Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, The Civil Rights Act of 1991, and other Federal Laws and Regulations, the University of Central Oklahoma does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, handicap, disability, status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices or procedures; this includes but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services. Students with disabilities who wish special accommodations should make their requests to the Coordinator of Disability Support Services at 974-2549.
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We talk about looking to the future and wondering who is going to design that future, who is going to create the future — I'm looking at you.

**—President Betz
to UCO Graduates**



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