RESOLUTION
SSR 2014/2015-001

I. Resolution Name:
Unqualified support for the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) in its bid to host the 2018 National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)

II. Stated Resolution:
The Staff Senate of the University of Central Oklahoma wishes all persons involved in planning for the 2018 National Conference on Undergraduate Research to know that we are enthusiastic supporters of our administration's efforts to host this conference. Hosting the conference fits with our university's long-standing commitment to undergraduate research and helping students learn. The Staff Senate will encourage and promote staff participation in the planning and implementation of the conference. We understand the privilege of hosting such a prestigious conference on our campus and will participate in making the conference a success.

III. Definition of Terms:
NCUR: National Conference on Undergraduate Research
RCSA: Research, Creative, and Scholarly Activities

IV. Justification:
UCO has been a leader in Oklahoma for over two decades for its support of undergraduate students and faculty collaborating in research, scholarly, and creative activities. The Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Dr. Glen D. Johnson, recognized UCO with the Outstanding Undergraduate Research Program Award in April 2011. UCO's Student Research, Creative, and Scholarly Activities (RCSA) Grant program for academic year 2014-2015 will provide over two hundred students from all academic disciplines with the opportunity to conduct research and creative activities in collaboration with faculty mentors. Because of its commitment to RCSA activities, UCO was instrumental in establishing Oklahoma Research Day, the state’s premier event celebrating the collaboration of students and their faculty mentors. Now in its 16th year, UCO has hosted Oklahoma Research Day every year with the exception of four. In 2014, UCO hosted 1,200 students, faculty, and staff from 17 institutions in Oklahoma; 468 presenters were from UCO. Since 1999, students from our university have also been invited to present their research at the annual Council on Undergraduate Research Posters on the Hill event in Washington, D.C. every year except three years. This is very impressive because there are only 60 participants selected each year from institutions of higher education throughout the country. Finally, 22 students from UCO were accepted and attended NCUR events to present their research over the past two years. Hosting this conference will elevate UCO to the national arena in undergraduate research and will provide an opportunity for our students to learn from the research that is occurring throughout the country across all disciplines.

V. Budget:
The resolution has no budgetary impact.

Passed by consent of the UCO Staff Senate on this 2nd day of September, 2014.

Dawna K. Terrell, Staff Senate President