



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

Center for Wildlife Forensics and Conservation Studies

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Dr. Victoria Jackson Awarded Wildlife Conservation and Education Grants

Dr. Vicki Jackson, Associate Professor of Biology, and C-FACS faculty member has recently been awarded two substantive grants in support of her wildlife conservation research and transformative learning efforts.

The first, a \$50,000 grant from DUE - IUSE- Exploration & Design: Engaged Student Learning, is entitled: **Conference: Identifying Challenges for Elementary Educators: Implementing the Oklahoma Academic Science Standards.**

The expected outcomes from this conference are to identify the critical issues facing teachers in the implementation of the OASS and identify the content knowledge and skills they need in their university science courses that will prepare them to be successful. Once these are identified, university faculty, with the collaboration of public school partners, can begin the development of university courses. The Conference should be held in late fall 2017.

The second grant is a \$143,000 grant from ODWC entitled: **Current distribution of Eastern (plains) spotted skunks (*Putorius interrupta*) in eastern Oklahoma.**

As part of this research, species occurrences will be collected and both probability of occupancy and detection will be estimated. These results will benefit state and federal agencies in understanding the extent of the geographic distribution of an elusive and presumably rare mesocarnivore, the eastern (plains) spotted skunk. Such information will assist both researchers and agencies in prioritizing conservation efforts and management decisions for this declining species. This project will pay for undergraduate and graduate researchers and will last 3 years. Laboratory and field work is slated to begin in January 2018.



For further information, project details, and collaborative opportunities contact Dr. Jackson at vjackson4@uco.edu

Congratulations Dr. Jackson!!!

