US Department of Education Awards $5 Million ‘Gear Up’ Grant

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded UCO a 7-year, $5 million grant under Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP). GEAR UP is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Federal funding for GEAR UP Central will be matched by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the Oklahoma Council on Economic Education, MidFirst Bank and UCO for a total budget of $11.4 million over seven years. The grant will serve 899 low-income students from high-poverty, low-performing urban middle and high schools in four school districts in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area.

ACM@UCO’s Ragland Achieves Prestigious Ableton Certification

ACM@UCO faculty member Dustin Ragland was recently certified as an official trainer of Ableton software and hardware specializing in music production and performance. Ragland is now one of only 200 certified Ableton trainers worldwide and is the only certified trainer in Oklahoma. Ableton, founded in 1999 in Berlin, Germany, is the developer of “Push” and “Live,” hardware and software for music production, creation and performance. Ragland, who teaches music production at the ACM@UCO, has taught Ableton Live in a classroom setting for six years.

UCO Recognized Nationally as ‘Best for Vets’ in Oklahoma

The Military Times ranked UCO among the “Best for Vets: Colleges 2015” on their annual list. Central ranks 40th among all surveyed four-year colleges and universities in the U.S., and is the highest ranked in Oklahoma. Central’s “Best for Vets” ranking is a result of evaluating many factors that make a university a good fit for service members, military veterans and their families. Factors include services, special rules, accommodations and financial incentives offered to military and veteran students, as well as veteran culture on campus.

UCO Wins Outstanding Collaboration Award

The Oklahoma Campus Compact (OkCC) recently recognized UCO with the 2014 Outstanding Community Campus Collaboration Award at the Heartland Regional Campus Compact Conference Awards Luncheon in Lincoln, Nebraska. The award recognizes a sustained campus-community partnership that demonstrates development of goals, impact on students, faculty and institution, as well as the lives of those served and commitment to student learning. Central was recognized for its partnership with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma (RFBO) for the Central Pantry program.

UCO Awarded National Grant for Adaptive Sports Programs

UCO recently received a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs for $134,494 under the Grants for Adaptive Sports Programs for Disabled Veterans and Disabled Members of the Armed Forces Program. The grant will help fund three vital programs on Central’s campus – the UCO Endeavor Games, Adventure Therapy and USA Para-Powerlifting. In addition to the funding of the three main programs, the UCO Wellness Center will also use a portion of the grant to fund half of the salary for a full-time staff member to oversee military sport programs and USA Para-Powerlifting. The UCO Wellness Center is the high-performance management organization for USA Para-Powerlifting.