UCO colleague,

**Experiential Learning** at UCO refers to those activities that transcend the traditional divide between classroom and out-of-class experiences. Experiential learning allows students to apply their classroom knowledge to practical situations through: volunteerism, internships, field studies, student teaching, study abroad, collaborative research and service learning. These opportunities provide artifacts throughout the student’s academic path to record on their Student Transformative Learning Record (STLR). The design and oversight of these transformative experiences occur across the campus and in close relationship with community partners like public school systems, non-profit organizations and corporations.

**The Office of Experiential Learning** oversees Career Services, the Volunteer and Service Learning Center, Off-Campus Life and the Office of Sustainability, which offer many experiential learning opportunities. In addition, the Office of Experiential Learning collaborates with the other units across campus who offer other forms of experiential learning. We invite you to partner with us to reach our shared goal of transforming Central students into active, engaged, educated and contributing citizens.

Dr. Sharra Hynes, Executive Director, Experiential Learning
Mark Walvoord, Director, Experiential Learning
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AT UCO

Experiential Learning

- Applies classroom knowledge to practical situations
- Provides avenues to transformative learning

Happens at UCO through...

Global Experiences
- Study abroad, study tours, intercultural programming on campus, may be internships, research, or service learning

In Class
- Faculty assigned projects, industry visitors to class

Internships
- Many available at HireBronchos on UConnect or through student teaching, often paid, may be for credit or not

Student Research
- Some with UCO faculty & some at external sites, field research, RCSA grants, STLR student projects

Volunteer and Service Learning
- Service learning integrated into class (e.g., Success Central), students can find opportunities through Volunteer and Service Learning Center’s OrgSync

Clinical Experiences
- Specialized intern-like experiences for teacher preparation and some science degrees, working in a hospital or school for credit
The Offices of Experiential Learning in the Nigh University Center offer several services to faculty and staff.

- We can guide your students through the process of finding a volunteer or service learning opportunity through UCO’s OrgSync®.
- We can talk with your classes about the process of applying for internships through HireBronchos, UCO’s employer database.
- We can help your students secure internships with mock interviews, tip sheets, resume assistance and one-to-one discussions with our counselors.
- We can give class presentations about the importance of experiential learning and how it fits in with transformative learning and their Student Transformative Learning Record.
- We can consult with faculty about the policies surrounding internships.
- We can help faculty manage their corporate or community contacts, or help them make even more.
- We can consult with faculty on integrating service learning into their course curriculum.
Internships are a form of experiential learning that integrate knowledge and theory learned in the classroom with practical application and skills development in a professional setting. Internships give students the opportunity to gain valuable applied experience, make connections in professional fields they are considering for career paths and give employers the opportunity to evaluate talent and participate in student development.

...APPLIED KNOWLEDGE TO FUTURE CAREERS

Service Learning is an experience that exposes students to the needs of the larger society by combining service with explicit learning objectives and deliberate reflection. It gives equal benefits to both the student and the host organization by ensuring equal focus on both the service being provided and the learning that is occurring.

...CIVIC DEVELOPMENT & ACADEMIC GROWTH

Volunteerism refers to shorter-term opportunities where students serve the needs of an organization or community. Although learning can occur, the main beneficiary is the agency or community hosting the student.

...COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIMARY INTENDED BENEFICIARY</th>
<th>INTERNSHIP</th>
<th>SERVICE LEARNING</th>
<th>VOLUNTEERISM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students</td>
<td>Agencies &amp; Students</td>
<td>Agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEFINITION</td>
<td>Application of learning</td>
<td>Providing meaningful service and growing academically</td>
<td>Providing meaningful service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATIONAL OUTCOME</td>
<td>Career preparation</td>
<td>Academic learning and civic engagement</td>
<td>Personal and social development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC LINK</td>
<td>Curricular or co-curricular</td>
<td>Curricular</td>
<td>Co-curricular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOPIC OF ACTIVITY</td>
<td>Based on industry or career choice</td>
<td>Based on course topic or discipline</td>
<td>Based on student interest or passion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STUDENT TIME COMMITMENT</td>
<td>10-30 hours per week</td>
<td>15-30 hours per semester</td>
<td>1 time, repeat possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT TYPE</td>
<td>Specialized short-term</td>
<td>Specialized long-term</td>
<td>Basic short-term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGENCY SUPERVISION</td>
<td>More</td>
<td>More</td>
<td>Less</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table adapted from Loyola University, New Orleans