Governor’s Award Goes to Kimberly Powell

The Oklahoma Arts Council named KCSC 90.1 FM classical radio’s Kimberly Powell a recipient of the 2013 Governor’s Arts Awards in the “Media in the Arts” category for her contributions to the Oklahoma arts community. KCSC is located on Central’s campus and is Oklahoma’s only 24-hour classical music radio. Powell serves as KCSC’s mid-day host, director of production and syndication, and host and producer of KCSC’s “Performance Oklahoma.” “In the more than five years Kimberly has been with KCSC, she has forged a new standard of quality for local programming and established strong ties between the radio station and performing arts organizations statewide,” said KCSC General Manager Brad Ferguson. “We are proud of her work and excited that she is receiving this award from the state of Oklahoma, recognition she truly deserves.”

Chemistry Faculty Member Recognized

The American Chemical Society named UCO chemistry professor Cheryl Frech, Ph.D., to the 2013 class of ACS Fellows. She is Central’s first ACS Fellow and one of only seven in Oklahoma. Frech, who for eight years served as chair of UCO’s Department of Chemistry, has more than 20 years of experience teaching and mentoring chemistry students, developing student-centered classroom methods and supporting faculty development. The ACS Fellows Program recognizes members for leadership and excellence in science, the profession, education, management and volunteer service to the society’s community.

Civic Health Index Research Team Honored

UCO’s Oklahoma Civic Health Index research team received Oklahoma Campus Compact’s 2013 award for Excellence in Community-Based Teaching and Scholarship. The research team was led by Central’s Janelle Grellner, Ph.D., and Patti Loughlin, Ph.D., and partnered with the National Conference on Citizenship and Oklahoma Campus Compact to measure the civic habits of Oklahomans. The research focused on civic skills, voter education, politics and citizen engagement at the state level. The award reflects the tradition of transformative learning at Central: community-based, civic engagement research, with faculty, students and community partners working together to produce a report to share with the state and nation.
Student Programming Board Wins Big

The National Association for Campus Activities recognized Central’s Student Programming Board for five outstanding programs and initiatives at its 2013 Regional Conference. Central received the Dream Big Award, for on-campus hot air balloon rides and a carnival; the Giving Back Award, for “Maddy’s March;” the Best Sustainable Program, for the Earth Day Festival; the Best Community Program, for “WinterGlow;” and the Outstanding Social Media Campaign award, for #SPBeINVOLVED. “Being recognized was a tremendous honor for Central’s Student Programming Board. It allowed the university to showcase the great work that our students are doing at Central to schools throughout the region,” said Courtney James, assistant director of Campus Activities at Central and SPB adviser.

Forensic Science Institute Joins Consortium

Central’s W. Roger Webb Forensic Science Institute joined seven other nationally acclaimed forensic science institutions to charter the Forensic and Crime Scene Investigation Consortium. The organization will support a fully integrated national forensic and crime scene investigation system by developing and delivering new courses, enhancing current programs and expanding research projects in their core competencies. Consortium members were carefully selected for their broad array of competencies, extensive infrastructure and subject matter expertise. “There is a Japanese proverb that states ‘none of us is as smart as all of us.’ This consortium brings together some of the finest talent in forensic science in the nation,” said Dwight Adams, Ph.D., director of UCO’s Forensic Science Institute and former director of the FBI Laboratory in Quantico, Va.

Growth in Diversity, International Students

Central saw a 7.9 percent rise in Hispanic students, a 7.4 percent increase in Pacific Islanders, a 15 percent increase in students claiming two or more races and a 7.6 percent increase in international students in fall 2013. Students from 86 countries call Central home. “International students choose UCO because of school affordability, campus safety and the friendliness of our community here in the Edmond and Oklahoma City metro,” said Timothy Kok, director of international admissions and communications for the Office of Global Affairs. “Small classes, personalized education and the accessibility students have to professors and our student community in general all work to keep students at UCO.”

UCO Named Top Public Regional University

Central remains among the top colleges and universities in the nation, once again ranking as the top public regional university in Oklahoma according to the 2014 Best Colleges list from U.S. News and World Report. Central ranks as no. 29 in the list of Tier One institutions in the “Top Public Schools: Regional Universities - West” category. Central ranks no. 75 in the overall list of regional universities in the west. Factors for the ranking include retention of students, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving.