$7.7 Million Grant Awarded to UCO

UCO has been awarded a 5-year, $7.7 million Strengthening Institutions Program Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant will support Central's Student Transformative Learning Record (STLR) initiative, a tool and process unique in higher education that tracks, assesses and provides information to help students learn and employ skills important for workplace, citizenship and personal success. “This grant is a strong indication that higher education experts in an extremely competitive national environment recognize UCO’s STLR as a viable innovation deserving support,” said Jeff King, Ed.D., principal investigator for the grant and director of Central's Center for Excellence in Transformative Teaching and Learning.

UCO a ‘Great College to Work For’

UCO was the only Oklahoma higher education institution to be named one of the “2014 Great Colleges to Work For” by The Chronicle of Higher Education, and one of only a handful of institutions in the nation given the “Honor Roll” distinction for being cited most often among recognition categories. Central joins Duke, Baylor and Notre Dame on the list of the ten universities named to the large institution honor roll. This is the sixth time in the past seven years the university has made the list, with past recognition in 2008 and 2010-13.

$304,745 Grant Funds UCO Supercomputer

The National Science Foundation has awarded a $304,745 research grant to UCO professor of engineering and physics Evan Lemley, Ph.D., and the university's Center for Research and Education in Interdisciplinary Computation. The award will fund a cluster supercomputer to be named “Buddy,” a nod to the university’s mascot, Buddy Broncho. A cluster supercomputer allows multiple users to work on problems much larger than any one computer or user could handle alone. “Buddy” will support research and education for students, faculty and staff at the university, as well as researchers across the state.
Students Snag National ADDYs

Department of Design students recently won three national Student ADDY Awards. The American Advertising Federation announced the winners at its annual national conference in Boca Raton, Florida. The national award-winning students — Kenna Baker, Riko Matsuoka and James Adams — were among the 31 Central graphic design students who brought home a total of 90 awards at the 2014 Oklahoma City ADDY Awards, including the coveted “Braggy” award, given to the university with the most student winners.

Sharp Named ‘Outstanding University Jazz Educator’

The Oklahoma Jazz Educators Association recently named UCO assistant professor of trumpet Ryan Sharp, D.M.A., “Outstanding University Jazz Educator.” A faculty member since 2012, Sharp teaches applied trumpet, chamber music, jazz ensemble II and summer jazz camps through UCO’s Oklahoma Center for Arts Education. “We have all known for quite some time that Dr. Sharp has a rare gift and unique abilities as a lead trumpet player and jazz performer. He also has an exceptional ability to relate to and communicate with students in a way that produces lasting results and musical improvement,” said Brian Lamb, D.M.A., chair of the UCO School of Music.

Mathematics and Science Programs Accredited

Central’s bachelor’s of science degree programs in electrical engineering and mechanical engineering were recently accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission for ABET, the recognized accreditor of college and university programs in applied science, computing, engineering and engineering technology. In addition to these new accreditations, the Computing Accreditation Commission for ABET awarded reaccreditation to the bachelor’s of science degree program in computer science, while the Engineering Accreditation Commission also reaccredited the university’s biomedical engineering and engineering physics programs.

Spanish-Language Campus Tours Now Offered

Spanish-language campus tours were introduced at UCO in fall 2014 in an effort to simplify the college selection process for bilingual prospective students. They are a response to requests from parents and students, as well as the rapid growth of the Hispanic population in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area. “On a campus tour it can be stressful for a bilingual student to have to translate information for their parents as well as soak in all the information for themselves. Our hope is that offering tours in Spanish will help both parties, as they'll be able to take in all of the information in Spanish,” said Allison Fannon, coordinator for the Office of Campus Tours and Events.