



36th Annual Multicultural Education Institute

Three individuals and one metro organization were honored for their contributions to diversity efforts in Oklahoma at the UCO Multicultural Education Institute (MEI) on Feb. 22, 2019.

Jahree Herzer, principal at Northwest Classen High School, was selected as the 2019 MEI Citizen of the Year. Herzer was nominated for her efforts in ensuring the needs of English Language Learners are held as a top priority and for encouraging students to actively participate in school cultural events.

"Mrs. Herzer has led Northwest Classen to be a flagship Newcomer Academy, both for instruction and in the school culture," said Jamie Lake Buckmaster, Title III ELL Instructional Facilitator for Oklahoma City Public Schools, "She is a trailblazer, and her students benefit every single day."

MariaAnna Mendoza, a paraprofessional for Edmond Public Schools, received the Multicultural Bilingual Paraprofessional of the Year award.

Possibilities, Inc. was named Multicultural Organization of the Year for its work to establish cross-cultural workshops to educate local volunteers on better community development processes.

Sam Wargin was awarded the Multicultural Teacher of the Year. He currently serves as an ESL teacher at U.S. Grant High School.

The UCO Multicultural Institute is held annually to unite educators across Oklahoma to share the latest strategies and practices to help educate increasingly diverse communities in the state.