UCO Repeats as ‘Great College to Work For’

The Chronicle of Higher Education named UCO as one of the “2016 Great Colleges to Work For.” Central is the only public higher education institution in the state recognized on the list, and one of only a handful of institutions in the nation given the distinction of being named to the “Honor Roll” for being cited most often among the recognition categories. This is the eighth time in the past nine years the university has made the list, with previous recognition in 2008 and 2010-15.

English Professor Becomes First Swansea@UCO Graduate

UCO adjunct professor of English Rose Neal, Ph.D., is the first student to earn a doctorate through the Swansea@UCO program, a partnership between Central and Swansea in Wales that offers doctoral studies in arts, humanities and social services. Neal successfully defended her doctoral thesis in fall 2015 and donned her academic regalia for Swansea’s commencement ceremony on July 18, 2016.

Mobile App Focuses on Safety

As part of Central’s ongoing commitment to the safety of its community, UCO Office of Safety and Transportation Services launched a smartphone app designed to enhance the personal safety of UCO students, faculty and staff both on and off campus. The UCO Rave Guardian app is a free tool that allows users to create a profile, invite family and friends to join their safety network as “guardians,” call UCO Police Services and 911 and use other safety features – all within the app.

Student Rides Now ‘Uber’ Safe

The University of Central Oklahoma Student Association (UCOSA) and Uber, the popular ridesharing service, partnered to offer free rides for UCO students every Thursday-Saturday night. The program covers the cost of an Uber ride up to $20 from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. within the designated safe ride zone. UCOSA voted to designate funding for the program last spring. It will run through the fall semester as a pilot and be evaluated for program adjustments for the spring 2017 semester. This is the first university partnership of its kind in Oklahoma.
UCO Dean Selected for National Educator Network

James Machell, Ph.D., dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies at UCO, has been appointed to the Network for Transforming Educator Preparation (NTEP), a multistate network that will examine policy and practices related to teacher licensure, educator program approval, and data collection, analysis and reporting. The Council of Chief State School Officers, a national organization of public officials who head state departments of elementary and secondary education, is sponsoring the initiative.

Central Awarded US Department of Education Grant

UCO received a 5-year, $1.2 million Federal TriO Program Talent Search grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant is designed to increase the number of Oklahoma City metro students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are prepared to enter – and succeed – in postsecondary education. The grant will fund the Talent Search Central Connect Program, providing 500 middle and high school students in Putnam City Schools and Oklahoma City Public Schools with a variety of academic, career and financial counseling services, including course selection, tutoring services, career exploration, and financial and economic literacy.

National Parking Association Honors UCO Staffer

The National Parking Association (NPA) named Josh Stone, director of Transportation and Parking Services for UCO, as a member of its 2016 “40 Under 40” class, which recognizes young professionals who have made a difference in the parking and transportation industry. Stone began his career at UCO in August 2011. He has worked in the parking industry for five years and is a certified parking professional through the NPA.

UCO Student Transformative Learning Record Awarded

UCO recently received the 2016 Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education Cooperative for Educational Technology (WCET) Outstanding Work (WOW) Award for its Student Transformative Learning Record. The university is one of five in the nation receiving the award this year. The initiative began Spring 2012 and is still proving successful as a way to design activities, assignments and learning environments that promote Transformative Learning.

Central Named to ‘Best Colleges’ List

UCO remains among the top colleges and universities in the nation, once again ranking as the top public regional university in the state on the 2017 Best Colleges list from U.S. News & World Report. Central ranked No. 32 in the list of Tier One institutions in the “Top Public Schools: Regional Universities - West” category and No. 88 in the overall list of regional universities in the west.

President Betz Honored with Global Citizen Award

UCO President Don Betz will receive the World Experiences Foundation’s Lifetime Achievement Award in Global Citizenship for his inclusive leadership at UCO. The mission of the World Experiences Foundation is to eliminate racism and bigotry with anti-bias multicultural and multilingual education. Betz also will be inducted in the 2016 Class of Oklahoma Global Citizens, alongside 11 outstanding community leaders, including UCO’s Jarrett Jobe, Ph.D. All inductees will be honored at the World Experiences Foundation’s Global Citizen Awards Dinner on Oct. 1 at the Oklahoma State Capitol.