



UNIVERSITY OF

Central Oklahoma

University of Central Oklahoma

Edmond, Oklahoma

January 24, 2025

Board of Regents Regional University System of Oklahoma
305 NW 5th #407
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Dear Board Members:

The recommendations of the University of Central Oklahoma are as follows:

I. PERSONNEL

A. Administrative Appointments

Jackson College of Graduate Studies

Dr. Jerel Cowan has been appointed as **Associate Dean of the Jackson College of Graduate Studies**. His appointment, effective January 1, 2025, is at an annual salary of \$114,519.52.

Dr. Cowan's degrees are: Ph.D. (2009), Environmental Science, and M.S. (2004), Health, Physical Education, and Leisure, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK; and B.S. (2000), Recreation Management, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK.

His professional experiences include: Assistant Dean (1.5), Interim Assistant Dean (2), Professor (7.5), Associate Professor (4), Assistant Professor (4), Instructor (5), Adjunct (1), and Wellness Center Program Coordinator (0.5), University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK.

B. Temporary Faculty Appointments

1. Visiting Assistant Professor

College of Liberal Arts

Dr. Jacob Crystal

English

2. Artist-in-Residence

College of Liberal Arts

Mr. Alexander Mickelthwate

School of Music

C. Deaths

Mr. Earl Hefley, Lecturer in the **School of Music**, passed away on December 1, 2024. Mr. Hefley had served the University of Central Oklahoma in a full-time capacity since 2014.

D. Resignations

Dr. Hari Kotturi, Professor in the **Department of Biology**, has resigned his position, effective December 17, 2024. Dr. Kotturi has served the University of Central Oklahoma in a full-time capacity since 2009.

Ms. Brooke Montoya, Lecturer in the **Department of Sociology, Gerontology and Substance Abuse Studies**, has resigned her position, effective December 31, 2024. Ms. Montoya has served the University of Central Oklahoma in a full-time capacity since 2015.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF AWARDS

The following are the new contracts that have been awarded since the last Board Letter:

October 2024

TRIO Training Program - Absolute Priority 2, \$308,539
U.S. Department of Education
October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026
Victoria Arnold Harrell, Academic Advisement
CFDA#: 84.103A

The grant aims to train staff and leadership personnel involved in Federal TRIO Programs to enhance project operations. The University of Oklahoma plans to provide training for 300 TRIO professionals each year. This training will support those currently working in or preparing for positions with TRIO-funded projects.

TRIO Training Program – Absolute Priority 4, \$308,539
U.S. Department of Education
October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026
Victoria Arnold Harrell, Academic Advisement
CFDA#: 84.103A

This grant will provide training for 300 participants. The focus of the training will be on helping students access sufficient financial aid from Title IV programs of the Higher Education Act (HEA) and other sources. Additionally, the training will cover college and university admissions policies and procedures.

INBRE Program Coordinator – Vaughan, \$14,213
Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education
May 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025
Melville Vaughan, College of Math and Science
CFDA#: 93.859

This funding is in addition to the \$47,300 previously received and reported. This grant continues to provide funding for coordinating partner institution interaction and helping researchers and the Deans' Council develop initiatives like faculty career enhancement, student research involvement and outcomes, and researcher interaction and collaboration.

Goaltender: Cloud-Based Defense, \$70,000
Sandia National Laboratories
September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025
Junghwan Rhee, College of Math and Science

This project aims to create a defense-in-depth solution template for Distributed Energy Resource Management Systems (DERMS) using Next Generation Firewalls (NGFWs) and Security Orchestration, Automation, and Response (SOAR) solutions. By project completion, Palo Alto Networks will offer commercial firewall solutions on the AWS marketplace, and open-source SOAR playbooks will be developed for platforms like Palo Alto Cortex XSOAR. Successful demonstrations by organizations like SCE, PPL, DERSec, and ChargePoint are expected to drive wider adoption in the utility and energy sectors, with success stories shared through industry channels.

Project GRIT – Mental Health Service Professional Grant, \$1,059,107
U.S. Department of Education
January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025
Cheryl McGee, Donna Nigh Dept. of Advanced Professional & Special Services
CFDA#: 84.184X

The funding listed above only covers the first year of this five-year project. The proposed funding for the full five-year period is \$4,982,058. This project focuses on increasing the number of mental health providers by funding selected educators to pursue school counseling and mental health licensures. These educators will remain in their districts throughout the five-year project, with the goal of placing them in counseling and mental health roles. Ongoing training will be provided to educators, mental health professionals, and administrators to implement trauma-informed practices through a Multi-Tiered System of Support

(MTSS), aiming to improve student wellness, academic outcomes, and reduce teacher burnout.

2025 Move United UCO Endeavors Games, \$15,000
U.S. Veterans Affairs
October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025
Leigha Pemberton, Department of Wellness and Sport

This grant will fund the UCO Endeavor Games. These programs will facilitate the overall goal of aiding in developing ongoing rehabilitative, therapeutic, and whole-life health adaptive sports opportunities for disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

2025 UCO Archery & Air Rifle Program, \$7,000
U.S. Veterans Affairs
October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025
Leigha Pemberton, Department of Wellness and Sport

This grant will fund the Archery and Air Rifle programs for veterans and members of the Armed Services who have a permanent disability.

OK-INBRE Travel Grant – Goodchild, \$2,000
Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education
November 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025
Christopher Goodchild, College of Math and Science

The funding from this grant will be used to send Dr. Goodchild and three students to the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia to present their research.

November 2024

OK-INBRE Travel Grant – Randell, \$1,972
Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education
November 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025
Adam Randell, Psychology

This grant will fund travel expenses for Dr. Adam Randell to attend the Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual meeting in Denver, Colorado to present research.

Creating STEAM Career paths for Elementary Learners, \$80,000
Boeing Company
September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025
Sandra Kent, Oklahoma A+ Schools Institute

This grant is designed to increase exposure to, understanding of, and interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) for elementary school students.

INBRE Release Time Fall 2024 – Bingabr, \$14,940
Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education
January 1, 2025 – May 31, 2025
Mohamed Bingabr, College of Math and Science

Grant funding will provide Dr. Bingabr with release time to develop video lectures for digital signal processing and medical imaging courses, which are challenging for students due to their complex math and multi-dimensional signal applications. These video lectures, enhanced with animations and visual aids, will help improve student understanding and performance by allowing them to review material at their own pace.

INBRE Travel Grant FY25 – Vaughan, \$2,000
Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education
January 1, 2025 – May 31, 2025
Melville Vaughan, College of Math and Science

This grant will fund travel expenses for Dr. Melville Vaughan to attend the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) annual meeting in San Diego, California to present research.

FY25 Higher Education Prevention Services (HEPS), \$75,000
Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025
Cassie Murphy, Center for Counseling & Well-Being
CFDA#: 93.788

This project aims to expand campus outreach and prevention efforts around opioid and stimulant misuse at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) through the Higher Education Prevention Services (HEPS) program. The program, led by a part-time Outreach Prevention Specialist, will provide targeted education, ensure inclusivity, and establish a Healthy Campus subcommittee to support these initiatives. The project will also involve ongoing evaluation of programs and trainings to assess their effectiveness, with supervision provided by the Assistant Director of Health Promotion.

III. PURCHASES FOR APPROVAL

- A.** StarRez Inc., recurring annual university housing software maintenance and subscription renewal. Year 1 of 3-year agreement. \$74,044 per year.
Source: Auxiliary.....\$222,132

IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS FROM PURCHASING

- A.** Chickasaw Telcom Inc., Cisco Secure DDoS Radware. Provides advanced cybersecurity and application delivery solutions. Year 1 of 5-year agreement.
Source: Technology Fee.....\$113,611
- B.** Chickasaw Telcom Inc., Cisco Cohesity data management subscription.
Source: Technology Fee.....\$133,129
- C.** The Professional Basketball Club LLC., UCO 2024-2025 OKC Thunder advertising.
Source: Unrestricted Cash\$78,404
- D.** Overland Charters, sports team transportation.
Source: Athletics Fee.....\$100,000
- E.** The Lamar Companies, ACM advertising.
Source: E&G.....\$75,400
- F.** Macco Promotions, Inc., incoming freshmen welcome boxes.
Source: E&G.....\$66,812
- G.** Waters Corporation, Xevo TQ-S mass spectrometer system for chemistry research labs and classroom usage.
Source: Course Fees.....\$52,500
- H.** Hyland Software Inc., OnBase document management annual software maintenance renewal.
Source: E&G.....\$69,352
- I.** Northwest Lawn Maintenance Inc., snow and ice removal, as necessary.
Source: Auxiliary.....\$50,000
- J.** Regional Economic Advisers LLC., professional services to perform an economic impact study.
Source: E&G.....\$65,000
- K.** Northwest Lawn Maintenance Inc., lawn maintenance.
Source: E&G\$58,200
- L.** Furniture Marketing Group Inc., furniture for Howell Hall.
Source: E&G.....\$61,383
- M.** Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista, TRIO training conference.
Source: TRIO Grant.....\$70,000

V. RATIFICATION OF EMERGENCY APPROVAL

Request ratification of emergency approval granted by Regent and Board Chair McDermott on December 5, 2024 in consultation with Regent and Facilities Stewardship Committee Chair Ford to award contracts to multiple vendors for remediation and repairs related to a burst pipe in Thatcher Hall.

Project # 120-0027 Major Repairs and Deferred Maintenance

Project Description: Requested approval to award contracts to multiple vendors in a total amount not to exceed \$320,000 for the purpose of remediation and repairs related to a burst pipe that caused excessive water damage to the 1st-3rd floors of the west wing of Thatcher Hall. The affected spaces include approximately 11,000 SF of office spaces, one classroom, and ROTC multipurpose rooms. Repairs include immediate remediation, asbestos abatement, and replacement of carpet, light fixtures, and ceiling tiles. Lingo Construction has an on-call construction manager contract. (June 2024 RUSO). Certified Commercial Restoration (CCR), Patco Electrical, and Environmental Action are on UCO contract. Interface Americas is on E&I contract. Foundation Building Materials was selected through a competitive bid, beating Grainger who is on state contract.

Requested Funding Approval: \$320,000

Budget Breakdown: \$100,000 for initial response/CCR, \$100,000 for construction/Lingo, \$120,000 for materials.

Vendors: Lingo Construction, Certified Commercial Restoration (CCR), Environmental Action Inc., and Patco Electrical.

Congruent with Facility Master Plan or Strategic Plan: Yes

Fund Source(s): Section 13 Offset

Respectfully,

Todd G. Lamb
President