

## **UCO DIVERSITY STATEMENT**

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The University of Central Oklahoma (UCO)'s explicit commitment to diversity is essential in fulfilling the university's mission to provide transformative educational experiences to students so that they may become productive, creative, ethical and engaged citizens and leaders serving the global community.

Diversity encompasses a range of values, personal experiences, and worldviews that arise from differences of culture and circumstance, including differences of actual or perceived race, creed, color, ethnicity, geography, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, alienage or national origin, genetic information, citizenship status, socioeconomic status, language, ability/disability, status as a veteran, marital status, learning style and immigration status, among other forms of diversity.

Diverse backgrounds broaden and deepen the educational experience and scholarly environment that are essential to achieving academic excellence. UCO promotes academic excellence and enhances the scholarly and creative environment by systematically pursuing the following goals:

- To promote diversity by encouraging students from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds to enroll at and to graduate from UCO.
- To recruit and retain faculty and staff from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds.
- To foster an institutional culture that values a diverse community and that invites authentic interaction among the members of that community.

UCO recognizes that enhancing diversity in service to the university's mission and goals requires leadership, commitment and consistency. Leaders at all levels have an obligation as they build upon this commitment to embrace and sustain diversity in every area of the university.

UCO vigorously fosters diversity on its campus and in the communities it serves. By valuing and promoting diversity, the university acknowledges uniqueness, similarities, and differences among its stakeholders while providing transformative learning experiences for its students.

UCO celebrates its tradition of inclusion and recognizes that strengthening and expanding diversity on its campus is essential to the university's continued success.

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