

2014 OkCC State Awards

Two worthy individuals and one outstanding campus-community partnership were recognized at the 2014 Heartland Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska and honored at the December Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education meeting for their achievements in community engagements.

Community Engagement Professional of the Year Award



Dr. Aliya Chaudry with State Regents Chair Michael C. Turpin and Chancellor Glen D. Johnson.

Dr. Aliya Chaudry, Langston University

Dean, School of Physical Therapy, and Founder and Chair of the Oklahoma Service-Learning Conference

Dr. Chaudry is a state and regional leader in service-learning. Not only does she effectively employ service-learning in her physical therapy courses at Langston University, for the past eight years she has almost single-handedly planned, organized, implemented and hosted an annual Oklahoma Service-Learning Conference where faculty and students share their experiences. Dr. Chaudry was one of the first recipients of the Oklahoma Campus Compact Service-Learning Incentive Grants. She has presented and written extensively on service-learning and has inspired a whole generation of her students to be of service to their communities. Very few educators in higher education are more passionate about service-learning than Dr. Chaudry.

Outstanding Community & Campus Collaboration Award



Dr. Sharra Hynes of UCO and Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma representatives John Bobb-Semple, Cari Ogden, Ryan Abernathy and Rodney W. Bivens with State Regents Chair Michael C. Turpin, State Regent John Massey and Chancellor Glen D. Johnson.

The University of Central Oklahoma and the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma for Campus Food Pantries

Dr. Sharra Hynes, Director, Volunteer & Service-Learning Center, University of Central Oklahoma, and Mr. John Bobb-Semple, Project Manager, Community Initiatives, Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma

The University of Central Oklahoma worked with Mr. John Bobb-Semple of the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma to build the Central Food Pantry. Mr. Bobb-Semple is a former president of the Oklahoma Student Government Association and of the University of Central Oklahoma student government. In his capacity as Project Manager of Community Initiatives, Mr. Bobb-Semple has reached out to numerous colleges and universities, giving selflessly of his time and interest in assisting campuses to help fight hunger among students and community members. The Volunteer and Service-Learning Center at UCO partnership helps to ensure that the basic needs of students are met to enable them to perform to the best of their ability academically, and to enlighten and involve the entire campus in a critical community issue. The RFBO work with UCO, as well as its desire to expand to other college campuses, show that it is committed to

educating students who will be tomorrow's leaders about the issue of poverty and hunger in order to improve communities and lives.

Excellence in Community-Based Teaching & Scholarship Award



Dr. Michele Eodice with State Regents Chair Michael C. Turpin and Chancellor Glen D. Johnson.

Dr. Michele Eodice, University of Oklahoma

Associate Provost for Academic Engagement and Director of the Writing Center

In her capacity as Director of the University of Oklahoma Writing Center, and Associate Provost for Academic Engagement, Dr. Michele Eodice has fostered academic service-learning on campus and reached out to promote teaching, research, and professional development to the greater service-learning higher education community in the state. Last year Dr. Eodice volunteered her office's resources to successfully continue the annual Membership Survey for Oklahoma Campus Compact when the national Campus Compact survey was on hiatus for a year. She encouraged and supported faculty in participating in the Strategic Synergies Grant from the National Science Foundation through the University of Hawaii and Hawaii/Pacific Island Campus Compact in the STEM fields, and hosted a faculty workshop on campus. She has supported and hosted the annual Oklahoma Service-Learning Conference begun by Langston University. Dr. Eodice is an outstanding leader and supporter of academic service-learning.