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UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA RECEIVES APPA'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

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Baltimore, Maryland, July 16, 2007 – The University of Central Oklahoma's Facilities Management Division received the Award for Excellence in Facilities Management, the highest institutional honor bestowed by APPA, the association serving educational facilities professionals. The award was officially presented to UCO facilities officials at APPA's annual awards banquet July 16, 2007 in Baltimore, Maryland.

According to APPA President Chris Ahoy, associate vice president for facilities at Iowa State University, the University of Central Oklahoma's Facilities Management Division exemplifies excellence in all of the areas necessary to achieve the award: leadership; strategic and operational planning; customer focus; information and analysis; development and management of human resources; process management; and performance results.

"The University of Central Oklahoma has an exceptional campus, not only in terms of its buildings and grounds, but inclusive of the entire staff of the facilities management division." Ahoy said. "In 2004, the University of Central Oklahoma Facilities Management Division began completion of a self-evaluation in preparation for a visit from an APPA Facilities Management Evaluation Program team. The receipt of this award is the culmination of that effort."

UCO, the state's oldest higher education institution, was mandated by the Oklahoma Territorial Legislature on December 24, 1890, as the Territorial Normal School of Oklahoma. Today, more than 15,000 students attend the University, enrolled in five undergraduate colleges and one graduate college. The UCO campus consists of 47 buildings, with approximately 2.1M square feet of building space. The university sits on approximately 200 acres in Edmond, Oklahoma. The Facilities Management Division is responsible for all facilities-related activities, ranging from infrastructure to customer service. Approximately 65 university staff members and several major contractors provide the daily operations, supported by an annual operating budget of approximately \$6 million.

The APPA Award for Excellence is designed to recognize and advance excellence in the field of educational facilities. Originally established in 1988, the Award for Excellence is APPA's highest institutional honor and provides educational institutions the opportunity for national and international recognition for their outstanding achievements in facilities management. The award is designed to highlight the essential role of facilities operations in the overall institutional mission and vision.

APPA is the association of choice serving educational facilities professionals, representing more than 1,500 learning institutions encompassing over 4,700 individuals throughout the United States, Canada, and internationally.

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