

THIS IS  
**UCF**





## A BIG UNIVERSITY

With more than 67,000 students, UCF is the biggest university in Florida, and one of the best in the nation. But being big goes beyond our size. Big is diverse and inclusive. Big is promising and powerful. Big attracts the brightest minds and boldest opportunities. And by being big, we make a greater impact on our students and the world.

### Big Impact: Our Students

- More than 16,000 graduates earn UCF degrees each year.
- 46 percent of UCF's students are minorities, and 25 percent are the first in their families to attend college.
- The average GPA of incoming freshmen is a school-record 4.06
- A team of UCF students won the computer programming national championship and finished 10th in the world at the 2018 International Collegiate Programming Contest.

### Big Value: An Affordable Investment

- UCF's tuition and fees rank among the lowest in the country.
- Nearly half of UCF's undergraduates have no educational debt when they graduate.
- Kiplinger consistently ranks a UCF education among the nation's best values.

### Big Plans: Enriching Communities

The UCF Downtown campus, slated to open in 2019, will give 7,700 UCF and Valencia College students unprecedented access to industry experts, internship and educational opportunities, cultural stimulation and the energy of a thriving urban environment.

The UCF Lake Nona Medical Center will be built adjacent to the UCF College of Medicine in partnership with Hospital Corporation of America. The hospital will focus on building a healthier community, training more physicians and powering economic growth through research.

BRIDG, a center for advanced manufacturing research developed in partnership with

Osceola County, aims to spark thousands of high-tech jobs in the years ahead.

### Big Recognition: Accolades

UCF's Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy is the No. 3-ranked graduate video game-design program in North America, according to The Princeton Review. UCF has been ranked in the top five every year since the rankings began.

CEOWORLD Magazine ranked the Rosen College of Hospitality Management among the top five hospitality schools in the world. UCF ranked 28th in the nation among public universities for the number of U.S. patents secured in 2017, according to the National Academy of Inventors.

In 2018, UCF was recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" colleges, a top 20 Best Online Program and had 25 graduate programs ranked in the top 100 in their field by U.S. News and World Report.





# DR. DALE WHITTAKER

university president

Dale Whittaker became the University of Central Florida's fifth president on July 1, 2018. He was unanimously confirmed by the Florida Board of Governors in March after the UCF Board of Trustees selected him

following a nationwide search.

Whittaker came to UCF in August 2014 to serve as its provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, providing leadership to UCF's 13 colleges, multiple campuses and research centers and institutes. He also oversaw academic support services and was responsible for curriculum, academic planning, faculty appointments, faculty development and promotion and tenure decisions. He was promoted to provost and executive vice president in 2015.

Since arriving at UCF, he has helped recruit and hire more than 200 new faculty members, launched an interdisciplinary teaching and research faculty cluster initiative, led the creation of a downtown campus, elevated UCF's digital learning efforts to improve student success and embarked on a 20-year strategic planning process.

Also under Whittaker's tenure, UCF began its path to preeminence, designated an "emerging preeminent" institution by the state in 2016. In addition to being the state's largest university, UCF also is one of its highest performing — landing in the top three in the state for the first four years that performance-based funding was awarded.



As president, Whittaker will focus on developing the best talent and creating deeper and wider partnerships across and beyond the university.

Whittaker also is committed to giving students equal opportunities through education; he and UCF President John C. Hitt previously worked together on the University Innovation Alliance, a coalition of 11 prestigious research universities seeking to expand students' access to higher education. Institutions joining UCF in the coalition include Purdue, Arizona State, Michigan State and Ohio State universities.

"I'm deeply committed to lifting lives and livelihoods through knowledge," Whittaker says. "Our core mission as a university is knowledge, and the impact is advancing people's lives economically and socially for generations."

Whittaker is a professor of agricultural and biological engineering, with an equal passion for the arts, and for providing students with authentic learning experiences that will lead to greater success in their lives while at UCF and after.

Whittaker holds a master's degree and Ph.D. in agricultural engineering from Purdue and a bachelor's degree in the same field from Texas A&M. Before his arrival at UCF, he served more than two decades in faculty and leadership positions at Purdue and Texas A&M universities.

He lives in Orlando with his wife, Mary, and he enjoys playing the harmonica, painting and rowing.





# DR. DANIEL J. WHITE

vice president & director of athletics

Danny White was named Vice President and Director of Athletics at UCF on Nov. 18, 2015. He began his tenure at UCF Dec. 14, 2015.

Under his leadership, the Knights have seen great success in competition, in the classroom and in the community.

UCF's football program went from winless in 2015 to six victories and a bowl game appearance in 2016. The Knights improved even more in 2017, finishing the season as the only undefeated team in the nation and claiming a national championship. The Knights finished 13-0 in the 2017 season, capping the incredible year with a 34-27 victory over Auburn in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl.

Both the UCF men's and women's basketball teams completed stunning turn-arounds under head coaches White hired shortly after his arrival at UCF. Johnny Dawkins and Katie Abrahamson-Henderson both led their teams to 20-win seasons and the best American Athletic Conference finish in both programs' history. Abrahamson-Henderson followed that with another improvement in conference finish and the first-ever back-to-back postseason berths in program history. The UCF Baseball program also turned in a stellar 2017 season, winning the American Athletic Conference regular season title and advancing to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2012 under another White hire – Greg Lovelady.

White was named one of Sports Business Journal's 40 Under 40 award winners in both 2017 and 2018. White was also recognized by the Orlando Business Journal on its 40 Under 40 list for the Central Florida area's top professionals under the age of 40 who have made significant achievements in their careers. He was also named to the 2017 50 Most Powerful People in Orlando by Orlando Magazine. In the Spring of 2018, White was named a finalist for the Sports Business Journal's Athletics Director of the Year honor.

White oversees an athletics department that has boasted a semester grade-point average of 3.0 or better since 2008. The Knights also boast the top NCAA Graduation Success Rate of any public university playing at the Football Bowl Subdivision.

In his first 15 months on the job, White saw numerous game-changing gift commitments made to UCF Athletics. In February of 2017, Ken Dixon committed more than \$5 million to UCF Athletics. It was the largest cash pledge ever to UCF by an alumnus. In recognition of his gift, UCF has named the 95-acre area that houses most of UCF's Athletics Facilities the Kenneth G. Dixon Athletics Village. White was also instrumental in a \$1.5 million gift commitment from John Euliano that will help fund a renovation of the UCF Baseball Complex, which will be known as John Euliano Park after its completion. Bob Garvy also committed \$1 million toward the development of the Garvy Center for Student-Athlete Nutrition. The Knights also recently broke ground of the Roth Athletics Center, which will house the UCF administration and will include an expansion for football operations.

In addition, White established the UCF Football Excellence Fund in 2017. That initiative has raised more than \$5 million in commitments pledged over five years in an effort to sustain and continue to improve upon the success of the Knights' program.

Other highlights in White's first year at UCF also include the athletic department bringing its multimedia rights and corporate partnerships in house and an extended and improved apparel and shoe agreement with Nike.

White was regarded as one of the nation's most talented young athletic directors when he came to UCF from the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he served as Director of Athletics from May 2012 through December 2015. He brought a strong record of success in competition and in the classroom to UCF.

White, a former college basketball player and New Orleans native, has quickly ascended in the ranks of college athletics leadership. Prior to his role as AD at Buffalo, White was senior associate athletics director at the University of Mississippi from 2009-12. He previously served as associate athletics director for devel-

opment at California State University – Fresno and assistant athletics director for development at Northern Illinois University from 2006-07.

He played college basketball at Towson University and the University of Notre Dame and was director of operations and assistant coach for one season each with Ohio University's men's basketball team.

During his tenure in Buffalo, White worked with athletics administrators, coaches, and staff to transform the Bulls' program and culture, shattering previous school records for student-athlete GPAs, NCAA tournament berths, fundraising, and football ticket sales.

During White's three years at Buffalo, he, his colleagues and the Bulls' student-athletes raised the program's profile in the community and nationally. Their achievements include:

Buffalo teams, including men's basketball, earned three NCAA tournament bids in 2014-15, compared with just one in the prior 15 years.

UB student-athletes have recorded an average GPA of at least 3.0 for seven consecutive semesters. Prior to White's arrival, the average GPA had never exceed 3.0 in any semester.

Financial support for UB athletics has reached an all-time high, with the number of donors increasing by 137 percent since the start of a membership campaign in 2013.

UB shattered its football attendance records in 2013 after adding interactive opportunities for fans, including a tailgate concert series with nationally known artists.

The state's largest public university and the flagship of the SUNY system, UB for the first time adopted a radio network that spanned the entire state.

White is a 2002 graduate of Notre Dame with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He earned master's degrees in both business administration and sports administration from Ohio University. He completed a doctorate degree in higher education from the University of Mississippi in 2016.

White comes from a family deeply involved in intercollegiate athletics. His father, Kevin, is director of athletics at Duke University. His brother, Michael, is the head men's basketball coach at the University of Florida. His brother, Brian, is the senior associate athletics director for development at the University of Missouri.

Danny and his wife, Shawn, have four children: Aidan, Molly, Caitlin and James.



## AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

The American Athletic Conference consists of 13 prestigious institutions: the University of Central Florida, the University of Cincinnati, East Carolina University, the University of Connecticut, the University of Houston, the University of Memphis, the U.S. Naval Academy (in football only), the University of South Florida Southern Methodist University, Temple University, Tulane University, the University of Tulsa, and Wichita State University (in basketball and Olympic sports).

Under the leadership of commissioner Mike Aresco, the American Athletic Conference has an impressive list of accomplishments, both in the competitive arena and the classroom. The American has taken its place at the forefront of intercollegiate athletics, with a collection of national team and individual championships and football and men's and women's basketball postseason victories that place The American among the elite Division I FBS conferences.

The league has produced four NCAA championship teams – UConn men's basketball in 2014 and UConn women's basketball in 2014, 2015 and 2016 – in addition to three New Year's Six bowl champions (UCF in 2013 and 2017; Houston in 2015), 11 NCAA individual championships, and a Rhodes Scholar. Additionally, American Athletic Conference teams have advanced to the College World Series, reached the semifinal and final rounds of the NIT, qualified for the match play round of the NCAA Men's Golf Championship and registered top-10 finishes at the NCAA Cross Country and Outdoor Track and Field championships.

The American Athletic Conference was one of six finalists for the 2016 Sports Business Journal Sports League of the Year award, along with Major League Baseball, Major League Soccer, NASCAR, the National Basketball Association and the PGA Tour.

The 2017 football season saw The American enjoy unprecedented success as UCF finished as the only undefeated team in the nation, and the first in the last four college football seasons, capping a 13-0 campaign with a win against Auburn in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl. UCF ended the year as the No. 1-ranked team in the Colley Matrix and was ranked No. 6 in the final Associated Press poll, marking the best final ranking for a team from The American in the league's brief history. UCF's finish in the AP poll gave teams from The American three top-10 finishes in the last five end-of-the-year polls.

Additionally, seven teams from The American played in bowl games last season as the league went 3-1 against other Power 6 conferences in the postseason. UCF and Memphis finished No. 12 and No. 20, respectively, in the final College Football Playoff rankings, giving The American three straight seasons with multiple teams in the final ranking. UCF, Memphis and USF were all ranked in the final AP top-25 poll of the season. The American is one of only three conferences (along with the Big Ten and the Big 12) that has had at least three 10-win teams in each of the last two seasons.

The American has had a combined 22 teams play in bowl games in the last three seasons, highlighted by UCF's win against Auburn last year and Houston's win against Florida State in the 2015 Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl. Additionally, Navy and Temple have both finished in the top 25 of either the CFP, Associated Press or USA Today polls as members of The American.

Individual teams in The American have enjoyed some of their best seasons in program history as members of the conference. UCF has finished in the national top 10 twice in



five seasons as a conference member – in 2013 and 2017. Houston went 13-1 in the 2015 football season, setting a school record for wins, while Navy won a program-record 11 games in its first season in the conference, also in 2015. Memphis, which had not won 10 games in a season since 1938, has registered two 10-win seasons in the last four years (2015, 2017), while Temple enjoyed its first 10-win season in school history in 2015. USF has gone 21-4 in the last two seasons and has finished the year in the top 25 for the first two times in program history.

Beyond the gridiron, The American has sent a combined seven teams to the last two NCAA Men's Basketball Championships. Since the conference's reconstitution in 2013-14, teams from The American have registered top-10 national rankings in football, men's basketball, women's basketball, baseball, men's soccer, men's golf, and men's track and field. Student-athletes from The American won five NCAA individual titles in track and field in 2017-18 as Houston's Elijah Hall won the indoor 60- and 200-meter races, while the Cougars' Cameron Burrell won the outdoor title in the 100-meter dash. Houston also repeated as the national champion in the 4x100-meter relay, while Memphis' Luke Vaughn won NCAA gold in the discus throw.

Under The American's banner, the UConn women's basketball team won its NCAA-record ninth, 10th and 11th national championships and broke its own NCAA record with a 111-game winning streak that spanned three seasons. The American sent four baseball teams to the NCAA Championship in 2018. Houston's men's track and field team took third place at the 2018 NCAA Outdoor Championships. Tulsa placed sixth at the 2016 NCAA Men's Cross Country Championship, while USF finished the 2014-15 season at No. 8 in the final men's golf national ranking.

American Athletic Conference student-athletes have distinguished themselves in all facets of intercollegiate athletics. Temple linebacker Tyler Matakevich won the Bednarik Award and the Nagurski Trophy as the nation's top defensive player in 2015, while Navy quarterback Keenan Reynolds finished fifth in the Heisman Trophy voting. More recently, Houston's Ed Oliver won the 2017 Outland Trophy as the nation's best interior lineman, while UCF quarterback McKenzie Milton was eighth in the 2017 Heisman balloting. UConn basketball standout Breanna Stewart finished her career in 2016 as the most decorated player in college basketball history as she was chosen as the consensus national player of the year for the third time and became the first player to be named four times as the Most Outstanding Player at the Final Four. Reynolds and Stewart were selected as the winners of the 2016 AAU James E. Sullivan Award as the nation's top amateur athletes, marking only the second time in the 86-year history of the award that multiple

winners were chosen.

Additionally, SMU's Avery Acker was chosen as the Division I women's volleyball Academic All-America of the Year in 2015, while Tulsa cross country standout Kirk Smith was chosen as a Rhodes Scholar in the fall of 2016. The conference has had a record 31 student-athletes earn Google Cloud CoSIDA Academic All-America accolades in the last two seasons.

American Athletic Conference alumni have made their mark in professional sports as well, beginning with the selection of UCF quarterback Blake Bortles by the Jacksonville Jaguars with the No. 3 pick in the 2014 NFL Draft. The American has produced six student-athletes who have won Super Bowl titles, including three members of the 2017 champion Philadelphia Eagles. A number of American Athletic Conference athletes have been selected in the first round of the professional entry drafts in football, basketball, baseball and soccer. The American had a record 18 total selections in the 2018 NFL Draft.

The American Athletic Conference holds media rights partnerships with ESPN and CBS Sports, which provide the conference with outstanding national exposure on the two industry leaders in sports television. The football portion of the contract calls for nearly 90 percent of conference-controlled games on national broadcast or national cable platforms. The first three American Athletic Conference Football Championships were televised by ABC as part of Championship Saturday. The American has had a combined 41 regular-season football games with more than one million viewers in the last three seasons. The 2017 game between UCF and USF, cited by numerous outlets as the best game of the regular season, attracted 4.7 million viewers – a record for a game between two American Athletic Conference teams.

In men's basketball, the television contract calls for all conference-controlled games to be televised, with more than 63 percent slotted for national broadcast or national cable – a minimum of 107 games. The entire postseason tournament is televised, including the championship game, which is on ABC or ESPN (except for the 2018 season, when the semifinals and final were on CBS). Sixty percent of the American's women's basketball games are carried on national cable, regional sports networks or ESPN3.

American Athletic Conference teams have access to the pinnacle of college football's postseason structure. An American representative would be chosen for the College Football Playoff semifinals if it is among the top four teams in the CFP selection committee's final ranking. Otherwise, the league would place its champion in a New Year's Bowl if it is ranked higher than the champions of Conference USA, the Mid-American Conference, the Mountain West Conference and the Sun Belt Conference.

Additionally, The American holds primary or secondary partnerships with 12 bowls for the current six-year cycle, ensuring multiple annual matchups against the nation's top conferences and providing desirable postseason destinations to member institutions.

The American Athletic Conference serves its membership from a state-of-the-art office located in Providence, Rhode Island. The location of the conference headquarters – just steps from the city's Amtrak station and 10 minutes from T.F. Green International Airport – gives the conference easy access to its member schools. The conference headquarters also serves as the home of the American Digital Network, which provides live coverage of all 21 conference championships.

**CFE ARENA**



In CFE Arena, the Knights play in one of the finest facilities in the nation. The 10,000-seat venue opened in the fall of 2007 and is located on the north side of campus. The facility has dozens of top amenities, including a state-of-the-art video board, luxury suites and wide concourses.

CFE Arena is the best of both worlds - a first-class facility which also highlights the essence of college basketball. The building is one of only a few in the nation that offers unparalleled luxury to student-athletes and fans, and also has a great gameday atmosphere. Similar to National Basketball Association venues, the arena features 16 spacious luxury suites and two party suites. The suites include kitchenettes and bar-style seating and can accommodate up to 20 guests. Additionally, the facility has two loges and the unique Black and Gold Club, which provides exclusive access to the club seating area. The arena helps provide UCF fans with a great entertainment experience during games.

Since the 2017-18 season CFE Arena has been home to a new look, as the court was redesigned to represent the Knights' strategic plan to be Orlando's Hometown Team. The east side of the court is donned with a design filled with palm trees, roller coasters, castles, ferris wheels and fountains, a microcosm of the many of the things that Orlando has to offer.

Capacity .....	10,000
Construction Began .....	November 2005
Construction Completed .....	August 2007
Design .....	HOK Sports
Construction .....	KUD International
Cost .....	\$80 million
Luxury Suites .....	16
Lower Level Seats .....	5,598
Upper Level Seats .....	3,365
Club Seats .....	502
Concession Stands .....	7
Points of Sale .....	28
Video Boards .....	4
First UCF Game .....	UCF 63, Nevada 60 (11/11/07)

