



We're Focused on Your Future!

Otero College
President's Report
April 2022
Timothy Alvarez, Ph.D.

Transform the Student Experience

Members of Otero College's Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) academic honorary chapter held an induction for their new members on Feb. 28, 2022, and April 24, 2022

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society was founded in 1918 to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and to provide opportunities for individual growth through honors, leadership, and service programs. PTK is the largest honor society in American higher education. It has inducted more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 50 United States, U.S. Territories, Canada, Germany, Peru, the British Virgin Islands, Palau, Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and the United Arab Emirates. PTK is the only honors society for students attending two-year colleges.

The Delta Rho chapter at Otero College extends membership invitations to students who are currently enrolled at Otero College and have a 3.25 GPA.

The 2021-2022 academic year chapter officers are Naomi Rubio, President, Lydia Burt, Vice President of Leadership, Callie Brinley, Vice President of Service, Kaysa Kurtz, Vice President of Fellowship, Heather Broussard, Recording Secretary and Idaly Lopez-Barraza, PR Position. Faculty advisors are Dr. Jeffrey Reed and Dr. James Lind.



Otero College's Student and Community Choir shared a concert entitled "Broadway Lights: Songs 2000-present." Their performance on April 25th had something for everyone. The music was lively and dramatic. It reflected a variety of musical styles and emotions. Broadway musicals continue an evolution towards more psychologically honest and perceptive themes and subject matter. Dean Rees, director of the choir, heartily encourages people of the Arkansas Valley community to try out some music that may not be as familiar as some but is well worth their attention. Different perspectives are experienced and explored.

The concert featured choral arrangements taken from the following Broadway shows (in order of performance): *Waitress* (2015), *Shrek the Musical* (2008), *Matilda the Musical* (2010), *Ghost* (2011), *Newsies* (2011), *Anastasia* (2016), *Kinky Boots* (2012), *Avenue Q* (2003), and *Next to Normal* (2009). Several soloists as well as a small group will sing selections from *Waitress* (2015), *The Light in the Piazza* (2005), *The Color Purple* (2005), *Six: The Musical* (2020), and *Next to Normal* (2009).



Otero College will graduate 322 students on April 30, 2022, at 10 a.m. in the McDivitt Center Gym on the Otero College campus. For those unable to attend in person, the event will be streamed live on the www.otero.edu website.

Giving the welcome for this event is Dr. Karen McNeil-Miller, member of the State Board of Community Colleges and Occupational Education. Karen is also the president and CEO of The Colorado Health Foundation. Otero President, Tim Alvarez will also speak and a member from the Otero College Advisory Council will lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special music during the ceremony will be provided by organist Mrs. Clara Stafford who has provided the music for our graduations for approximately 40 years. Leading graduates and guests in the national anthem on trumpet will be Dr. James Lind, Otero music faculty.

Our Law Enforcement Academy graduated 13 on Tuesday, April 26. The Nursing and Allied Health program will pin 76 students and hold two ceremonies on April 29. They are broken into a traditional class and non-traditional class which meets nights and weekends. The students will be graduating with their Associates of Applied Science Degree with an emphasis in nursing and be eligible to sit for the State Board of Nursing exam to become Registered Nurses.



Create Education without Barriers through Transformational Partnerships

On Tuesday, March 22, 2022, the Nation celebrated the agriculture industry with National Ag Day. The Otero Agriculture Department and Ag Club postponed the celebration due to the weather conditions. The celebration was rescheduled for Tuesday, March 29, 2022.

The day's events started with an all-day scavenger hunt for all things agriculture related on Otero campus. A free app, "GooseChase", was used to find the search labeled "Find the Needle in the Haystack"! The afternoon was filled with activities including ag themed minute-to-win-it games and petting zoo. These games included everything from dressing a goat, stacking hay, and making butter in a minute. There were chicks, goats, lambs, puppies, and a pony at the petting zoo.

These activities were held at the McDivitt Hall courtyard and the lawn west of the Kiva on the Otero campus from 3:30-4:30 p.m. At 5:30 p.m. in the Student Center cafeteria there was a huge game of trivia with questions all about agriculture.



Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

Otero College's Dr. Kimberly Munro was asked to speak at the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) Annual Meeting March 30 – April 3, 2022 in Chicago, Ill. Munro is the Faculty Professional Development and Student Research Coordinator under the AIM Grant. She also is a part-time faculty member and teaches Anthropology.

Munro presented two academic papers that she co-authored. The first, "Roads as Bridges: Assembling Communities and Borderlands over the Longue Duree in Western Ancash" by Kimberly Munro, David Chicoine, and George Lau, looks at the role prehistoric road networks played in connecting communities across space and time. The second paper, "Temples in Process Not Period: Reevaluating Narratives of Early Community Practice and Interaction across North-Central Peru" by Rebecca Bria, Kimberly Munro, and Matthew Piscitelli, discusses early religious architectural traditions in the Andes Mountains.

Dr. Munro also presented at the Formative Interactions in the Central Andes – Virtual Forum on Nov. 9, 2021, which was hosted by the Royal Ontario Museum, Vanderbilt University of Arts and Science and Anthropology. She is the founder and co-director of the District of Cáceres-Ancash Peru-Archaeological Project located in the upper Nepeña River Valley, Peru. She is also the Archaeologist of Record, working with Mark Korbitz, Otero Science Faculty member, at the Chacuaco Creek Field Project in southeast Colorado in Las Animas County.

