



We're Focused on Your Future!

Otero College
President's Report
August 2024
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Transform the Student Experience

This week, Otero College kicked off the Fall 2024 semester with lots of events and fun. Several of the College Athletic Teams were back on campus the first week of August and participated in the Arkansas Valley Fair Parade. August 16th was move in day for the residence halls, in addition to move in, there was a resource fair, opportunities to talk with advisors, financial aid, and learn about all the support services campus offers. On Monday the 19th, students started off with orientation and a campus wide picture. Welcome Week was once again held and hosted by the Student Life committee. Some of the events they held were succulent plant potting, stuffed animal building, and the Back to School Bash, pictured below.



The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) honors both athletic and academic achievement in student athletes at the junior college level. Otero College proudly recognizes 43 students who were individually honored for their academic achievements. To make it onto the First Team, students must have a GPA of 4.0, Second Team must have between a 3.8 and a 3.99, and to be added to the Third Team, they must have a GPA between 3.6 and 3.79.

The All-Academic First Team includes: Vanessa Ayala – Women’s Soccer, Logan Conlin – Volleyball, Skyler Denny – Men’s Soccer, Brooke Harris – Volleyball, Sidney Larrew – Softball, Ana Medeiros - Softball, Kristine Meier – Women’s Soccer, Elijah Montalvan – Men’s Wrestling, Marcela Nalin – Volleyball, Justin Paolucci – Men’s Golf, Alexa Peraza Talamantes – Women’s Basketball, and Guadalupe Ramirez-Palacio – Women’s Soccer. Student Athlete’s named to the Second Team include: Jace Barger – Baseball, Quincy Basler – Volleyball, Celia Catalan Keck – Women’s Soccer, Anna Cera Curiel – Women’s Basketball, Alessandro Collela – Men’s Soccer, Troy King – Men’s Golf, Hedda Kohne – Women’s Basketball, Yuto Komine – Men’s Soccer, Jay Montoya – Softball, Katia Nekic – Women’s Basketball, Giovanni Poliero – Men’s Soccer, and Baylee Stowers – Volleyball. Students named to the All-Academic Third team are: Elyssa Adams – Softball, Irmak Bezek – Volleyball, Maria Brandao-Santos – Women’s Soccer, Kendra Byrd – Women’s Basketball, Sheranda Charles – Women’s Soccer, Whitney Denehy – Volleyball, Quinton Ejechi – Men’s Soccer, Jayda Estrada – Women’s Soccer, Kamryn Foster – Softball, Nicole Gardener – Volleyball, Jennifer Jaramillo – Women’s Basketball, Keylane Lasisi – Men’s Basketball, Maxime Legai – Men’s Soccer, Agustin Pizzorno – Men’s Golf, Isaiah Poindexter – Men’s Basketball, Klara Sharp – Volleyball, Drew Woyteck – Baseball, and Colin Zancanella – Baseball.

Gary Addington, interim athletic director and dean of students, credits the strong work ethic of the students and the collaboration between coaching staff and faculty.

On July 25th, Otero College held a pinning ceremony for four new phlebotomy technicians in the Life Sciences building on the Otero Campus.

Otero College’s Phlebotomy certificate program prepares qualified phlebotomists for entry level employment. Students may take the phlebotomy certificate classes over one or two semesters for a total of five credits. Phlebotomy Technicians serve a vital role in the field of medicine. Phlebotomists are skilled in the techniques of properly drawing and processing blood and body fluids. They are proficient in the safety and accuracy of specimen collection to provide doctors with the necessary laboratory results for diagnosis and treatment.

In the state of Colorado, Otero College is the sole institution with a National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) accredited phlebotomy program.

After obtaining this certificate, students commonly pursue a Medical Laboratory Technician Degree.



Create Education without Barriers through Transformational Partnerships

Otero College is proud to announce a brand-new partnership with The CE Shop - the leader in Real Estate Education. They have state approved courses and curriculum and technical support. We are continuing our partnerships with Parker Dewey for Micro-Internships for our students. Students can explore different career paths and work on interesting projects all while building their resume and earning a paycheck all on their own time and at their own pace.

As previously mentioned, we had a great turn out for the Arkansas Valley Parade where we had students walk the mile down main street in Rocky Ford and hand out candy, game schedules and wooden rattle snake mascots. This is just one example of many that our students partner with our community on. We will be attending the Early Settlers Day Parade on Sept. 7 and many of our teams volunteer to set up tables, chairs, and events for the community. Additionally, we will be hosting a "Family Fun Zone" complete

with lawn games at the park after the parade. We will also have an Otero table near our Family Fun Zone so we can talk to community members about what we have to offer.



Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

Otero is pleased to welcome a few new faces to campus for the 2024-2025 school year.

Rick Brown - Head Women's Volleyball Coach started on March 4, 2024

Anna Morrow – Nursing Faculty started on April 1, 2024

Juan Ramirez Jr. - Security I started on May 13, 2024

Ashley Johnson - Assistant softball coach started on July 1, 2024

Alex Zemach - Assistant Men's Soccer Coach started on July 8, 2024

Jeremy Zepeda - Assistant Men's Basketball Coach started on July 16, 2024

Danya Herrell - Mental Health Counselor started on August 1, 2024

Jhay Fletcher - Assistant Women's Basketball Coach started on August 12, 2024

Kari White – Agriculture Science Faculty started on August 13, 2024

Brandon Lease – Welding Faculty started on August 13, 2024

Payton Feyder - Assistant Rodeo Coach started on August 15, 2024