



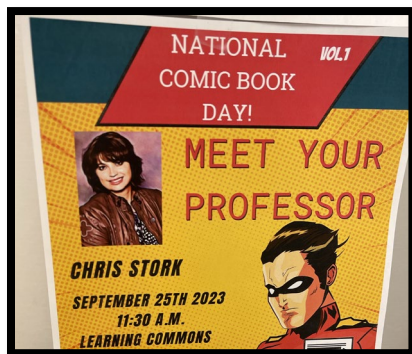
We're Focused on Your Future!

Otero College
President's Report
October 2023
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Transform the Student Experience

The Math and Science Department invited campus to the grand opening of Otero's Think Tank, a serene and conducive space for studying. This remarkable addition to our campus facilities will undoubtedly benefit our students. Otero's Think Tank is the result of the hard work and dedication of many people here on campus, and we believe it will become a hub of productivity and creativity.

Our AIM Grant has presented several "Meet Your Professor" events over the last couple of months. Featured were Chris Stork, Arts and Humanities Faculty member, Jeff Reed, History and Political Science Faculty member, and even included a special guest, Sammy Coleman, Head Men's Basketball Coach, in the limited "Meet Your Coach" series.



The International Relations Office hosted two Lunch and Learn presentations made by students who are part of the international program. Students Anna, Luis, Laura and Rafael presented on their home country of Spain and shared lots of great information

with students, staff and community members. Kristine, from Denmark shared more about her country in the other Lunch and Learn and did a fantastic job.



The Otero Athletic teams have been very active in our community so far this semester. The men's basketball team acted as judges for the local elementary school dance contest and the wrestling team assisted our partners at Child Development Services with their Socialization Day for the children who are typically remote.

Men's and Women's soccer teams have moved past their semi-final rounds and will compete this coming weekend (10/28/23).

The Otero Wrestling team is kicking off their season with an intersquad duel on October 26th and both basketball teams are preparing for their seasons as well.

The Otero Basketball teams hosted "Meet the Rattlers" on Sunday, Oct. 15 at 3:00 p.m. at the Otero College McDivitt Gym. This event was free and open to the public. It gave the community a chance to meet the Rattler basketball teams and test their skills against them. They had several events taking place throughout the night including a Men's and Women's Scrimmage, a Dunk Contest, a 3 Point Contest, and a Knockout Contest. The community and students showed up in full force.



Create Education without Barriers through Transformational Partnerships

Otero College's Student Life, and Men's and Women's Soccer teams hosted the inaugural Otero Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Fest on Sept. 15, 2023, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Tiger Stadium in La Junta. Otero College gained status as a HSI in 2009. This event immersed attendees in an evening of cultural richness as the community came together to celebrate Hispanic heritage.

Food truck vendors served Mexican delights, and a live mariachi band, performed from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., adding an authentic musical backdrop to the festivities. Attendees were able to have their faces painted with Otero logos. Additionally, they hosted a dedicated kid's craft station and a piñata.

The excitement continued with men's and women's soccer games, offering a chance to not only enjoy the matches, but also a unique opportunity to collect t-shirts and soccer balls autographed by Otero players. The kids also had the chance to participate in a special half-time 5v5 soccer game.

The event went amazingly well and brought in over 150 attendees.



The Otero College Welding cohort visited TRANE in Pueblo, CO, on Oct. 6 to observe the utilization of robots in industries. The purpose of the visit was to provide the students with insights into the role of robotics in manufacturing processes. Led by instructor Eric Larrew, the Welding Department eagerly explored Trane's innovative robotics applications onsite.

During the educational visit, the students had a unique opportunity to witness firsthand how robots are integrated into industrial operations. This experience allowed them to better comprehend the vast array of possibilities and efficiencies provided by robotics within the manufacturing sector.



Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

Otero has been fortunate to hire some great new staff members. Denise Mosher came back to Otero and started on October 9th as the part-time Course Scheduler with Academic Affairs. Amber Varela started on October 9th as the part-time Office Assistant for LEA.

On September 12 – 14th The Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) conference returned to the Southeast region. This unique conference provided a forum for quality professional development opportunities close to home as well as networking with other community leaders in the region and relationship building opportunities with statewide funders. RPD not only creates the space to educate each other on regional needs but also works towards collaboratively addressing community-wide issues in the region. This opportunity only occurs once every four years in the Southeast region which is composed of Baca, Bent, Crowley, Huerfano, Kiowa, Las Animas, Otero, and Prowers. 94 funders from 32 individual organizations came to campus including local and statewide private foundations and state and federal government foundations.

On September 13th, Otero Hosted Dr. Gina Garcia who virtually presented a keynote speech and workshop for Otero employees. She presented, “Defining Servingness in Practice at Hispanic Serving Institutions”. This keynote address she presented is

recommended for colleges and universities that have already achieved the HSI designation. Dr. Garcia discussed her book *Hispanic Serving Institutions in Practice: Defining "Servingness" at HSIs*, which is an edited volume offering 16 chapters written by Title III and Title V Directors at HSIs across the country. She laid out the Multidimensional Conceptual Framework for Understanding "Servingness," providing a definition of the concept of servingness. She talked about the "structures for serving" and gave examples of how HSIs are transforming their structures in practice. She also shared the "indicators of serving," providing examples of how HSIs can assess the extent to which they are serving Latinx students. Dr. Garcia challenged audience members to think about servingness as a multidimensional concept that can be addressed in unique ways by each college and university.

Workshop Summary: All campus constituents were invited to discuss and assess the institution's progress towards enacting servingness. This training was hands-on, with participants asked to assess both the "structures for serving" and the "indicators of serving," using the Multidimensional Conceptual Framework for Understanding "Servingness" as a guide.

We have recently begun working on our campus Master Plan. Under the guidance of Jenn Johnston, Vice President for Business and Administration, architects have been on campus, and we've held several focus group planning sessions to try to determine our campus needs for the future. We've had a great response from employees and students alike and are looking forward to continuing the process.