



*We're Focused on Your Future!*

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

## **Transform the Student Experience**

**Otero hosted** a Student Art Show in the Humanities Building. Students were able to display their pieces for a week at the end of the semester. Art instructor, Anna Matejcek hosted this display and had great pieces of work submitted. All students were able to submit pieces regardless of if they were in art courses this semester.

**Otero Volleyball** is hosting several volleyball camps from May through June. Coach Morgan Wilkening is hosting Little Rattlers which is K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade, a Middle School Summer League, a Middle School All Skills Camps, High School All Skills Camps, and a High School Camps for individual functions.

## **Create Education without Barriers through Transformational Partnerships**

**Otero College today announced a new strategic partnership with ed2go**, a leading provider of adult online education and part of Cengage Group, to expand online training opportunities across in-demand industries. Otero College will offer a number of affordable online courses through the agreement. ed2go partners with several academic institutions to provide innovative, relevant courses that align with job market demand and cover a variety of industries such as IT and Computer Science, Languages, Business, and Health and Fitness Programs ranging from career and certification training to personal and professional development courses focusing on teaching transferable and in-demand skills. The fully online model allows students to learn anytime, anywhere. Students have the option for self-paced and instructor-led courses and have opportunities for collaboration with instructors and other learners.

With the help of ed2go, students can advance their career prospects with a certification from Otero College. Students will not have to apply for admission at Otero but will go directly through ed2go. Once they have finished their online education, they will receive a certificate from Otero College acknowledging that they have completed their program of choice. These courses provided by ed2go are considered non-credit and are not a part of Otero's academic program curriculum. Payment is due at the time of registration. These courses are not eligible for financial aid. A list of courses offered can be found at <https://www.otero.edu/academics/community-workforce-ed/default.aspx>.

**Otero College is now the host of two, dual-port Electric Vehicle charging stations.** Anyone that owns a vehicle that can be plugged in, Battery Electric or Plug-In Hybrid, can utilize them. These charging stations are open to all faculty, staff, students, and the public. The cost is \$0.25/kWh.

On Aug. 4, 2021, Otero College was awarded the Charge Ahead Colorado grant to help fund the installation of two dual-port, Level 2 ChargePoint charging stations (CT-4000) on campus. The site selected for these charging stations is the parking lot directly attached to the rear of the McDivitt Center gym – 55 Piñon St. in La Junta.



**The Colorado Science and Engineering Fair (CSEF)** was held at Colorado State University, Fort Collins at the Lory Student Center April 7-8. There were 215 projects displayed from students in grades 6-12 from across Colorado. Otero College is the host of the Arkansas Valley Regional Science Fair (AVRSF) where the eight students qualified to take their projects to CSEF. They were Makai Chambers, Hoehne; Pace Wallace, Las Animas; Terra McClure, Rocky Ford; Tanner Baker and Jacob Vasquez, Rocky Ford; Drake Coffield-Bamber and Adam Ouattara, La Junta; and Fernanda Pastor-Sepulveda of Rocky Ford, however, she was unable to attend. Several of these students received awards and placed at CSEF. Makai Chambers won the Little Shop of Physics Award as well as the Pioneers of Science Award. He received a certificate, a backpack and \$50. Terra McClure received an Honorable Mention in Math and Computer Sciences. Pace Wallace received the following awards: Colorado Foundation for Ag. Award; the American Meteorological Society - Outstanding Achievement in

Atmospheric Sciences Award; the AIPG Certificate of Excellence in the Geosciences, which came with a \$75 prize; the Colorado Mineral Society Award; the NASA Earth System Science Award; and the Soil and Water Conservation Society Natural Resource Conservation Award which included \$100.



## **Transform Our Own Workforce Experience**

**The Classified Staff** at Otero hosted their annual plant sale fundraiser on May 4<sup>th</sup> to raise money for student scholarships. They were able to raise \$916.75. Each semester a student receives \$500 toward their tuition from this fund. Pat Reed, Otero's wonderful grounds keeper has been preparing for Spring since last Fall. She began planning and propagating plants at the Otero Greenhouse to make sure that when spring arrives our campus will look it's best. Behind the scenes Pat puts in so much time and effort to make sure that campus is looking perfect for events such as graduation.

**There are several new employees** at Otero as well as transitions over the last couple of months.

Kassie James has been selected as head coach of the Otero College Softball team and will begin in her role on May 25. Coach James has four years of experience coaching at the collegiate level. Most recently she was the pitching coach at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. At the University of Dallas, Coach James held a graduate assistant position as the assistant softball pitching coach and received her Master of Leadership Degree. As a player, James was a highly decorated third baseman at Angelina College where she and her team won a National Championship in 2014. She was a two-time All-American and broke six offensive school records her first year. She proceeded to break her own record again the following year. She then transferred to Houston Baptist University and was a two-time All-SLC player while earning her Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, Math & Science.

Christina Mackey was selected for the Administrative Assistant for TRiO Student Support Services, a role she was in previously from 2018 to 2019. She is an Otero graduate earning her Associate of Science degree in 2017. Christina earned a Bachelor

of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies from Adams State University in 2021. Her most recent role was as Paraprofessional at East Otero School District. She will begin her role on March 14th.

Kim Juul was selected for the Registrar position. She has earned college credit at AIMS Community College and the University of Northern Colorado. Kim has 15 years of experience in higher education serving as the Testing Coordinator for Otero. She has experience as the Law Academy Compliance Officer from 2019 to 2020. She was also a teacher at Otero College Child Development Services for 9 years. Her role will begin immediately.

Ty O'Connor was selected as the Head Men's Soccer Coach. He has earned his Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies in 2019 and his Master of Arts in Coaching and Athletic Administration in 2022 from Concordia University Irvine. Ty most recently was the Head Assistant Coach at Salt Lake City Community College where the program won the NJCAA D1 National Championship in 20-21. He has been a part of several other championships as a coach and player. Ty also was an Adjunct Professor in 19-20 for Salt Lake Community College.

Suseth Zamora- Gonzalez was selected as the Assistant Women's Soccer Coach. She earned her Associate of Arts degree in 2021 at Otero College while being a student-athlete for the women's soccer program for two years. Suseth has experience as a Mentor for YESS Institute and a Feeder/Folder at AlSCO. She is bilingual and has coached various recreational and competitive soccer leagues.

Joyce Beal was selected as the Administrative Assistant II for the Physical Plant. Joyce graduated from La Junta High School and has 14 years of experience in correctional facilities. She worked at Bent County Correctional Facility and Crowley County Correctional Facility as Commissary and Warehouse Clerk. She also has experience as a Customer Service Representative for seven years.

Justin Miell was selected as Structural Trades II for the Physical Plant. Justin graduated from Rocky Ford High School. He was worked at Otero College as Structural Trades I since 2018. He previously worked at FLBC/Bent County in Electrical Maintenance for four years. He has numerous skills and experience in electrical, plumbing, HVAC, Carpentry, and Auto Mechanics.

Teyah Schiffer was selected as the Full-Time Tutor. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Chemistry from Colorado State University-Pueblo (CSU-P) in 2021. Teyah previously started at Otero in August 2021 as the Financial Aid Support Staff. She previously worked as a Research Fellow, Science Learning Center Tutor, and a Research Intern at CSU-P.