



We're Focused on Your Future!

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

Transform the Student Experience

The Otero Basketball teams hosted "Meet the Rattlers" on Sunday, Oct. 9 at 5:30 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 winner of each contest received an Otero branded Nike backpack. The community and student turnout was huge. It was a bigger hit than they planned for.



Otero College is set to graduate its 8th class of Medical Laboratory Technicians on December 12, 2022, at 5:00 PM in the Rizzuto Banquet Room. The MLT program is designed for students to graduate with an Associate of Applied Science degree in five semesters. Three semesters are spent at the Otero campus and two semesters are partially spent in clinical rotations at an affiliated clinical facility. Otero's MLT program began in 2013 and has graduated 27 Medical Laboratory Technicians.

This fall semester alone, there are over 60 students representing 28 different countries who are calling the Arkansas Valley home and moving forward on their

educational journey. On November 10, the International Students hosted International Foods Night on campus. Event goers enjoyed nine separate courses from a menu carefully chosen to celebrate the traditions and flavors that are brought to campus through the international program. Appetizers included options from Italy and Greece, main entrees highlighted China, Nicaragua and Jamaica and dessert did not disappoint with Baklava and Melktert from South Africa. The on-campus team at Sodexo pulls out all the stops to make this a delicious and beautiful meal. This year was no exception. Entertainment was performed by students from Colombia and Brazil.



The Otero College Lady Rattlers Women's Basketball Team opened their 2022-23 season Nov. 1 on the road, taking on the Pratt Community College Lady Beavers. The Lady Rattlers are looking to improve upon their 10-win season from a year ago. First year head coach, Kyle Herring, has the Lady Rattlers poised to jump into the top half of Region IX play. He thinks the roster is a very deep, talented roster. The Lady Rattlers played their first home game on Fri. Nov. 4.

This year, for the second time in school history, the Otero Men's Soccer team brought home the Northwest Plains District title and earned a spot to compete in the DI Men's NJCAA Soccer Championship in Melbourne, Fla. The Rattlers wrapped up their conference tournament in the district final against Laramie County Community College Sunday, Nov. 6 at the Art and Lorraine Stadium on the Colorado State University – Pueblo campus. The DI Men's NJCAA Soccer Championship was held in Melbourne, Fla. Nov. 13 through 19. The Rattlers were seeded 11th and competed in pool play on the 13, 14 and 15. They lost their two matches at the tournament but played well.



Create Education without Barriers through Transformational Partnerships

Anna Matejcek, Otero Visual Art Faculty, and members of her Painting I class joined forces to create a 6x8 community mural of a tarantula as part of the inaugural Tarantula Fest in La Junta in October. The class voted on the pose of the tarantula as well as the background details and the color ranges to use. They decided that they wanted the colors to reflect reality, but not be strictly naturalistic. They also decided that they wanted there to be variation within the pieces of the mural so that everyone could contribute to the mural in a way that reflected their personality and style.

The class used a variety of painting materials and a few drawing materials to create this masterpiece. The background is watercolor paper, and they painted with watercolor and acrylic paints, and in some cases drew in details with colored pencils and paint markers. Christina Oakley also created the tarantula sculpture that is displayed on the other side of the storefront. She used paper mache, crocheted fibers, latex, and acrylic paint to create the larger-than-life arachnid.

Their efforts did not go unnoticed by the judges. They earned a 2nd place award for their piece.



The Otero Dance Studio is excited to announce that they will be presenting “A Taste of the Nutcracker,” excerpts from the holiday classic. Rather than produce the entire production, they have chosen their very favorite pieces of the story and music from the ballet and created their own little “taste” of the Nutcracker.

Heather Pidcock-Reed, known for her work with the Picketwire Theatre, will be joining them to narrate the story from the heroine’s point of view! Heather will play ‘grown-up’ Clara. Retelling the story of that magical night following her parents Christmas Eve party when she received the Nutcracker from her Godfather Drosselmyer. This year, they’ll perform Friday, Dec. 2 at 6 p.m., with doors opening at 5:30 and Saturday, Dec. 3 at 3 p.m. with doors opening at 2:30.