



We're Focused on Your Future!

Otero Junior College
President's Report
July 2021
Timothy Alvarez, Ph.D.

Transform the Student Experience

Otero College named 340 students to the Spring 2021 Semester Honors List. That list is then broken down into the President's Honor List, the Vice President's Honor List, Institutional Recognition Honor List and Part-Time Honor List.

Otero College has named 99 students to the President's Honor List for Spring Semester 2021. To achieve distinction on the President's Honor List, students must (1) have completed a minimum of 12 hours of graded courses, (2) achieved a 4.0 grade point average, (3) passed all course work attempted, and (4) not receive a failing or incomplete grade or withdraw from any course attempted. There were 31 students named to the Vice President's Honor List, the above criteria were met with the GPA needed changing to 3.75 – 3.99. 75 students were added to the Institutional Recognition List. They needed to achieve a GPA of 3.5 – 3.74. Otero College also named 135 students to the Part-Time Student Honor List for Spring Semester 2021. They also had to meet the above criteria apart from needing only six to eleven hours of graded courses and all students who achieved a 3.5 – 4.0 grade point average were named to the list.



This year, Otero College had a total of 54 students qualify for 2020-21 All-Academic Teams. Student-athletes are eligible to earn academic honors by achieving an overall GPA of 3.60 or higher for the 2020-21 academic year.

A total of 13 students met the qualifications for First Team (GPA of 4.0), 16 were named to the Second Team (GPA of 3.80-3.99) and 25 student athletes earned Third Team Achievement honors (GPA of 3.6-3.79).

Otero College anticipates that all courses typically held on campus will be available in-person for the Fall 2021 Semester. Hybrid and online courses will still be offered as options for students. Registration is currently open for all fall courses and programs. Fall semester courses will begin on August 16.

Three types of courses will continue to be offered: hybrid, online and in-person. In-person may also have social distancing expectations based on public health guidance. Lastly, Otero is prepared to return to a remote format if the need arises but remain confident that face-to-face will be the main method of delivering instruction.

At this time, it is expected that classroom capacities will return to pre-COVID fire code requirements. Most Otero classrooms are capped at 25-35 seats, with few classrooms exceeding that capacity. Otero is closely monitoring all information coming from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Colorado Governor's Office and the Otero County Health Department for specific guidance. Residence Halls will be fully open with a few modifications to requirements for occupancy.

The COVID-19 vaccination will not be required as a condition of enrollment at the College; however, it will be required for students living in on-campus housing, participating on Otero College athletic teams, and/or enrolled in allied healthcare programs.

COVID testing will be available as needed on campus, and safety measures will remain in place such as social distancing and health screenings. Individuals who are not vaccinated must continue to wear face coverings inside the campus buildings. Students will be expected to utilize an app to complete symptom checking daily, prior to arriving on campus.

Athletic events are planned to take place as usual for the fall in accordance with CDC, CDPHE, OCHD, NJCAA and Region IX guidelines. Currently, Otero is expecting to allow spectator attendance. In addition, the College plans to continue to live stream events that do not overlap.

Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

Otero has been very fortunate to hire some great new additions to our campus over the summer.

Matt Vavro will be taking on the role of Head Women's Basketball Coach. He has eight years of experience coaching collegiately, five of which have been as a Head Coach. His teams have consistently been ranked top 20 nationally. He has had three 20+ win seasons in his last five years and set the single season win's record at both Danville Area Community College and Lincoln College in Illinois. During the 2020-2021 season, Vavro was the Assistant Women's Basketball Coach at Wabash Valley College which is nationally known for its women's basketball program as they have won five consecutive Great Rivers Athletic Conference (GRAC) and Region 24 tournament championships. He has coached several All-Conference and All-Region players. He was also awarded Coach of the Year in his 2017-2018 season with Lincoln College. He led his team to the first winning season in 15 years. Not only did he succeed on the court, but his team excelled off the court, they were recognized academically as one of the top teams nationally, earning a 3.0 team GPA for the year.

Gage Mayo, Residence Hall Manager, joins Otero College this July. He has previously worked four years at the La Junta water department as well as four years at the Gunnison water department. He was a resident assistant at Western Colorado University which gives him a working knowledge of his position at Otero. He obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees from Western Colorado University (WCU) in Gunnison, but is a native of La Junta.

Angela Moore has returned to Otero College as the associate vice president of enrollment management and marketing. Most recently, she was employed by CSU Pueblo as their financial aid director for two years. Prior to that she was Otero's financial aid director for nine years and worked as an advisor for the TRiO Program for one year. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Colorado State University - Ft. Collins and a Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration and Leadership from Adams State University. Some of her responsibilities on campus will include outreach events, marketing, and retention efforts.

Evelyn Koury, Coordinator of Academic Affairs, is originally from Gig Harbor, Wash. but has lived in Colorado since 1993. She said that she really enjoys working with the people at Otero and its positive atmosphere. Her goals are to continue to meet everyone as campus fills up again and get involved with all the activities available.

Tracina Price, Registrar, joined Otero in May of this year. She has worked in higher education for 13 years. She has previous experience as a registrar as well as working in financial aid and licensure. Her expertise is greatly valued in the Student Services office. Price and her family recently moved to La Junta from Las Vegas, Nev., however, she is originally from California.

Andee Leininger, Recruiter, joined Otero on July 1. She will be responsible for traveling to local high schools for recruitment, going to college fairs and organizing ones on campus and giving tours to prospective students. She is certified as a travel agent and has previously worked as a rangeland management specialist. She attended Casper College in Wyo. and got a Bachelor of Science in Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management from the University of Wyoming at Laramie. She is a native of La Junta, her mother retired from Otero having been a math faculty member for several years.

Pictured are in the top row (l-r): Matt Vavro, Gage Mayo, Angela Moore. On the bottom (l-r): Evelyn Koury, Tracina Price, and Andee Leininger.

