



We're Focused on Your Future!

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

Transform the Student Experience

At the end of July, our Nursing Program awarded 30 Licensed Practical Certificates to nursing students. The Associate of Applied Science nursing degree program is designed with a Practical Nursing exit option. After successfully completing their first year of classes at Otero College, students are eligible to attend an extra semester during the summer to obtain their Practical Nursing Certificate. Graduates will be entitled to apply and take the state licensing exam to become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) after completing the course.



On August 19-21 Otero College hosted a Move-In Weekend for students staying in the residence halls. There was a resource fair for them to stop at booths and learn about all the services provided by Otero.

Courses began on August 22 and are in full swing. The first two days of the semester were orientation days. There were different programs held for both freshmen and sophomores to help maximize their time and get them the information they needed

individually. Preliminary feedback suggests that it went very well, and we'll look at pursuing this model again for next year.

Some of the Welcome Week events that took place were participation in the Arkansas Valley Fair Parade where students and staff handed out candy, wrist bands, stickers, and sports schedules to the community. A Welcome Back BBQ that was held the Sunday before classes for students, parents, and employees of Otero as a meet and greet, Flavored Lemonade Stands, Sno-Cone Shack, Wacky Waffles, and a Back to School Bash.



Create Education without Barriers through Transformational Partnerships

Lynn Riemer, President of ACT on Drugs, Inc., and former forensic chemist with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), presented to Otero students on Monday Aug. 29 and to local students, their families, and the community. She is a nationally recognized speaker, trainer, and advocate on the issues related to substance abuse. She addressed the health effects of drug use, bring awareness, recognition, and prevention surrounding the topic. In her role with the DEA, Riemer analyzed drugs and took down meth labs among other things. She is also an experienced chemist and worked with the North Metro Drug Task Force in Colorado.

In 2018, she was named a Denver 7 Everyday Hero for having shared her message nearly 800 times across the nation to over 225,000 people. She regularly speaks with students, community child advocacy groups, industrial and professional groups, and employees of local and State governmental agencies. Her presentations cover all abused substances, including legal and illegal drugs, plant material, and synthetic “designer drugs”. She has presented at over 70% of Colorado’s school districts.

Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

We have had several new hires begin on campus over the summer.

Tyrel Barry has been selected as the Otero College Head Women's Volleyball Coach. He is an alum of Otero College obtaining his Associate of Arts degree and then following up with his Bachelor of Arts in Human Performance and Language Development at Adams State University. Barry coached six years at Sand Dunes Volleyball Club, two years at Alamosa Gymnastics and six years at Hoehne Jr./Sr. High School as their volleyball coach. At the college level, he was the assistant volleyball coach at Adams State University.

Jamee Swan joined Otero as the Assistant Women's Basketball coach on August 1st. Jamee was a student athlete at the University of Colorado Boulder earning her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Communications in 2016. She has held many coaching positions including a Youth Coach at Vempili Veto, Volunteer Assistant Coach at Overland High School and at Denver Public Schools. She also spent time playing basketball overseas professionally in Greece, Finland, and Luxembourg.

Jessica Romero joined Otero as a Custodian I. She graduated from Otero earning her Associate of Arts degree in 2007. Jessica most recently worked as a Temporary Custodian I and was a work study for the Physical Plant with Otero.

Lamont Berzat joined Otero as the Assistant Men's Basketball coach on August 15th. He was a student athletic at University of New Orleans where he earned his Bachelor of Art Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and Public Health in 2021. Lamont is currently working towards earning his Master's Degree in Sports Management from Mississippi College. He most recently was the Assistant Coach at University of New Orleans.

Brian England was selected as Security I for the Physical Plant. Brian graduated from Las Animas High School and attended Lamar Community College and Otero College. He most recently worked at Las Animas School District as a Paraprofessional and a Bus Driver. He has ten years of security officer experience and six years of experience in correctional facilities. Brian holds many certifications including, pressure point control tactics, ground avoidance, and CPR and first aid.

Tiana Martinez was selected as Controller and she will begin her duties on May 2nd. Tiana earned her Associate of Arts degree from Otero College in 2016 and her Bachelor of Science in Business Management in 2018 and her Master of Business Administration in 2021, both from Western Governors University. Tiana began her employment with Otero in 2015 as a work-study and moved to Coordinator of Business Office and Bookstore Purchasing in 2016. She has held other positions on campus including Coordinator of Grants and Data, Learning Support and Library Specialist, and most recently Accounts Payable and Fiscal Coordinator.

Sean Thompson was selected as Assistant Men's Baseball Coach. Sean has five years of coaching experience and ten years of professional baseball experience playing with the San Diego Padres. Most recently, he worked at Rocky Ford School District as a Paraprofessional and Assistant Baseball Coach.

Alexander Delgado was selected as the Assistant Men's Soccer Coach. He graduated from Louisiana State University earning a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management in 2010. Alex has many years of coaching experience and most recently he was the Assistant Boy's Varsity Soccer Coach and the head Junior Varsity Boys' Soccer Coach at Dutchtown High School. He was also an Athletic Resident Assistant at Lincoln Trail College.

Nicole Haberman, Assistant Financial Aid Director, worked as a Secondary English Teacher for seven years before coming to Otero. She taught freshman English and Stagecraft courses. She attended Otero College from 2012-13 earning her Associate of Arts degree before moving on to the University of Northern Colorado and completing a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Skye Koehl, Assistant Softball Coach, is from Columbus, Texas. She will work with the student-athletes on strength and conditioning, outfield, hitting, and leadership and development. She will also be helping with recruiting athletes for the program and updating the team's social media accounts. Some of her goals are to develop athletes both on and off the softball field, in leadership, responsibility, as well as with their quickness and strength. She sets high expectations and would like to win the conference and a national title. Koehl also wants to help athletes transfer to 4-year schools upon graduation.