



*We're Focused on Your Future!*

Otero College  
President's Report  
November 2024  
Kimberly Zant, Ed.D.

### **Transform the Student Experience**

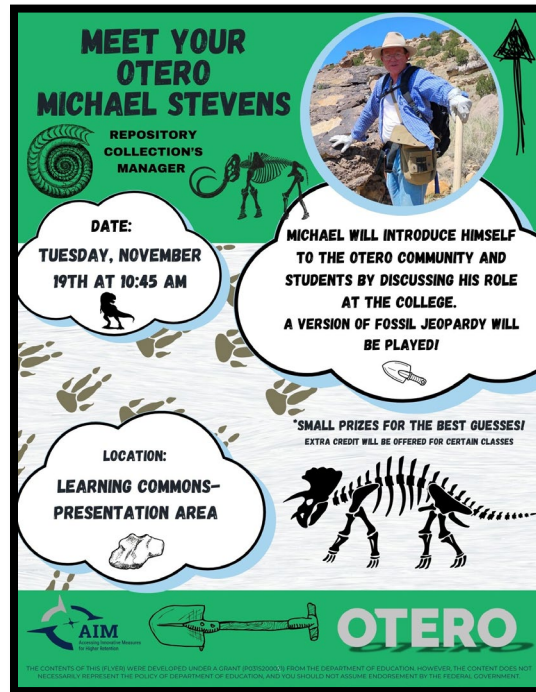
The Frost Fest is returning to Otero College this December, following its incredible success last year! The 2nd Annual Frost Fest will take place on December 4th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the McDivitt Gym and Macdonald Hall parking lots.

This festive community event invites everyone to join in a magical evening filled with activities, including a roller skating rink, a heartwarming tree lighting ceremony, and personalized crafting booths for holiday decorations. Attendees can enjoy winter treats, hot cocoa, and live music, creating meaningful memories alongside our Otero students and staff.

The event is open to all ages and promises to be a night of holiday cheer and togetherness for the entire community.



On Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, Michael Stevens introduced himself to the Otero Community as part of the Meet Your Otero Series. The event began at 10:45 am in the Learning Commons and featured a fun version of fossil Jeopardy, complete with prizes, as well as donuts and hot cocoa. It was a great opportunity for everyone to come together and learn more about Michael's role at the College.



Our community was delighted to once again host students from across the globe at Otero College. With over 65 international students enrolled, representing 25 countries and participating in a variety of programs, including nursing and sports teams like soccer, basketball, and golf. Their presence had a significant impact on campus life, as they lived and learned alongside the local community.

International Foods Night took place on November 14th. This 29th annual event invited everyone to celebrate the international students with a feast featuring dishes from various countries and a new multicultural dessert bar. Local donations of beer and wine supported scholarships for international programs. Students showcased their talents from their home countries, and the event included a performance by the mariachi band, Mariachi Lobos, with Jace Honey serving as the auctioneer to raise funds for scholarships. The planning committee expressed excitement about the festivities and the celebration of diversity within the community.

The Otero Players Student Showcase took place on November 16 at 7 p.m. and November 17 at 2 p.m. at the Picketwire Center for Performing and Visual Arts. It was a presentation of scenes, songs, and monologues performed by current and former Otero College students. The showcase featured performances from Carolina Estrada Cortez, Phoebe Frausto, Alyson Greenlund, Sophia Lague, Heather Pidcock-Reed, and Griffin Snyder. The event concluded with the debut performance of a student-written play: Abbie Hawkins' *Monopoly of Errors*, presented by Griffin Snyder. Admission to the event was free.

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The Medical Laboratory Technician Program competed in a Cell Bowl sponsored by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. This is a national tournament between 38 teams of both bachelor's degree (Medical Laboratory Scientist) and associate's degree (Medical Laboratory Technician) programs from across the US. The object of the competition is to achieve the highest cell quiz score by identifying hematological blood cells. The goal is to have fun while preparing for the ASCP Board exams and learning cell identification.

Otero's MLT Program once again made the playoffs as one of 12 teams. The contest consisted of 6 rounds and the Otero program made it to the 5th round. Unfortunately, they were eliminated during this round, but Otero made a strong showing and should be commended.



Otero students won FIRST PLACE in the annual UCCS Daniel's Initiative Ethics Case Competition!

Twenty-two teams from southern Colorado colleges and Universities competed. Otero submitted two teams consisting of Sophia Lague, Silkiana Baca, and Whitney Boone on one team and Jansen Ediger, Brittany Ferguson, and Priscilla Padilla on the 1st place winning team. Kynlee Phillip also assisted the teams but was not able to present. Both teams were advised by Otero's Daniel's Ethics Champions Joseph Eubank and Caitlyn Dieckmann.



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

Otero College is partnering with Hope & Home to host this year's Holiday Toy Drive. This initiative aims to collect unwrapped toys and gifts for children in foster care, ages newborn to 18.

Participants can grab a tag from the tree in the McDivitt Center Gym, indicating an age and gender, and return their unwrapped gift by December 12th. Additionally, gifts can be brought to our Hoops for Hope Night on December 6th at the home basketball game, where attendees will receive free admission for each gift donated.

The drive also welcomes donations of diapers, wipes, pajamas, gift bags, tissue paper, wrapping paper, and gift cards for teens.

We believe this effort will significantly impact the lives of local children in need, and we encourage your support and participation.



The Otero Non-Traditional Student Organization is hosting a Hygiene Drive from now until December 6th. They are looking for items such as shampoo and conditioner, toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, soap, and toiletries to hand out to students who may have a need for these items. This group is a big support to students, and they endeavor to make the campus a better place.

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Otero College has been awarded the 2024 First Generation Serving Campus Designation in recognition of our first-generation student enrollment. This designation is given annually based on enrollment and reflects CDHE's additional commitment to ensuring retention, success and career paths for these exceptional students. The First Generation Serving Campus Designation acknowledges the great work our institution has already accomplished in the area of access.

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### **Transform Our Own Workforce Experience**

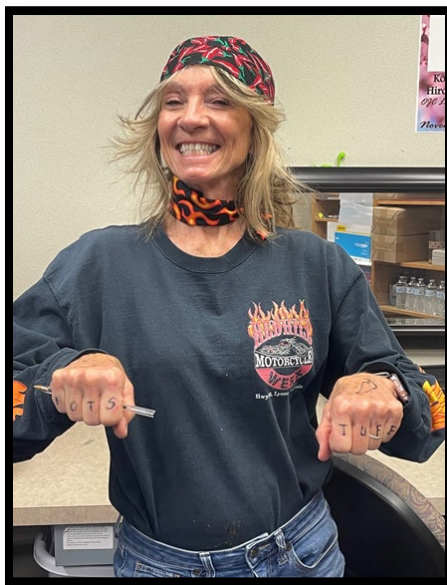
The Otero Faculty hosted a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for all of campus this week. The Thanksgiving Celebration took place on Thursday, November 21st, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM outside of McBride 137. Attendees enjoyed a festive meal with all the traditional fixings, including turkey, roasted chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, stuffing, rolls with butter, garden salad, and delicious desserts like apple and pumpkin pie. It was a great event and brought a lot of people together.

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Otero College recently hosted its First Annual Chili Cookoff from in the Learning Commons. Attendees enjoyed a lively competition featuring a variety of chili recipes. Among the entries were Sharkbait Chris Stork's surprise chili, known for its spicy kick; Jeff "Chili Vanilli" Reed's Red Chili, far from ordinary; Jaime's Best Delicias Green Chili, sure to impress; and Kimi "Cha Cha Chili" Kelley's Ark Valley Green and Colorado-style Red, both promising great flavors. Rumor had it that Hailey's "Spice It Like It's Hot" chili could be a contender for the title.

The community gathered to judge the chili and determine which one was Otero's best. For those who preferred a milder option, a pot of vegan vegetable soup was available. The event was open to everyone, including students, and there was still time for anyone interested to bring their own chili or condiments to contribute. The excitement was palpable, and the heat was definitely on!



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