Transform the Student Experience:

During the course of the summer months we have upgraded equipment that will provide the student with a more interactive experience in the classroom. Additional investments have been made in 3D printers, 3D Televisions and Telepresence units. We hope to have at least half of our classes equipped or have access to this equipment so as to aid instructors in ensuring a more interactive experience in the classroom. Also, we are upgrading the equipment at the Fort Lyon Homeless Coalition site to provide more programs and in turn ensure an interactive experience. Telepresence units will be installed at the Fort Lyon facility so as to accomplish this goal over the course of the next two weeks.

Otero Junior College is continually updating our student assessment process so as to ensure that our students are developing critical thinking skills as well as learning course content in all subject areas. We invested in the Task Stream Assessment tool and will be fully implementing it during the course of the fall semester. This tool has been used over the course of the past academic year but we feel with the upgrades in it that we will continue to see positive results in student assessment. All instructors as well as staff will be engaged in the use of Task Stream during the course of this academic year.

STEM camps have just been completed on campus and all work sessions were full. Students were engaged in real hands on experiences with STEM programs and in turn could see the outcomes of their involvement in the program(s).

Facility upgrades have been completed during the course of the summer months. Due to the lack of social entertainment in the community the college has engaged in upgrading facilities so that students can have a comfortable setting to engage with other students. The patio addition
was completed on time and on budget as well as upgrades to the Rattlers’ Den and Student Center.

This semester we are offering students more choices in terms of class schedule so as to meet the student’s needs. More evening classes are anticipated especially to meet the needs of the non-traditional students.

We will be implementing the new Colorado Department of Public Health grant that will expand opportunities for students who are interested in a career field in Health Care Navigation. This is a three year grant and will provide for another instructor and upgrades in technology to meet requirements set out in the Affordable Care Act.

Also, the Biotechnology program will be expanded to include Crime Scene investigation. We are working with Colorado State University (Fort Collins) to establish internships for students with companies that are involved in Biotechnology research.

Otero Junior College was notified that its grant request to continue its TRIO program was successful. This grant will enable Otero Junior College to continue its student support programs for not only students who are TRIO eligible, but also all students on campus.

We are waiting for a final determination from the United States Department of Agriculture on our grant request to offer programs in the study of more efficient water use and the reduction of alkaline in water. We will hear results of this grant request in September.

**Transform our own workforce experience:**

During the course of the summer we have reviewed programs that have been funded with grants (Title V, TRIO, STEM) and taken action to integrate these programs into the total campus experience. This was accomplished by the college’s general fund picking up a portion of the costs so that all students could be served by these grants rather than only those that qualify under the grant guidelines.

All staff received contracts in a timely manner so that the college as well as individual faculty and staff could plan for the upcoming academic year. All contracts were sent out by the end of May or first part of June. This allowed the college to determine who would be returning by the end of June and make adjustments if necessary.

Otero Junior College will be implementing cross-training across the campus during the course of this academic year. This will allow for as many individuals as possible to learn different aspects of others jobs.

All staff on campus will be asked to take part in reviewing our Strategic Plan and determining if we are meeting the goals set out in the plan. We plan to do this both in the fall and spring semesters.
We will also be establishing recognition of departments and individuals on a monthly basis to show appreciation for their efforts in moving the college forward.

Other News:

We have filled all vacant positions and feel that we have brought some highly qualified individuals into faculty and staff positions. Kim Grimsley is our new Vice President for Instruction and Ryan Trosper is our new Associate Vice President for Instruction. Both have a great deal of experience in Instruction both at the K-12 and college level. Also, joining the Instruction team as the Instructional Initiatives Coordinator which is responsible for coordinating efforts with K-12 is Carol Noll. Carol is the former superintendent of the La Junta Schools and has a wealth of knowledge in concurrent education and assessment.

Also, it is always good to have a former student return as an employee. Aubrey Boheme former Otero Junior College student/athlete will return as the women’s basketball coach. Aubrey was a standout student/athlete having been named to the first team All-American Academic/Athlete Honor Roll.

Orientation of students is taking place both on campus and online. Classes begin August 17 although some of our student/athletes have already arrived on campus.