

“AIM For Your Best Future”



AIM September 2021 Newsletter:



The AIM Team, from left to right (top row): Cedric Quintana, Melanie Culver, Julie McClure, Kimberly Munro. Bottom row, AIM Project Director, Shawn Japhet.

Here at AIM our purpose is to serve Otero’s diverse student population by promoting educational opportunities through mentoring, advocacy, case management, experiential learning, undergraduate research and other professional development activities. We strive to reach students outside of the classroom environment and provide them with diverse and holistic approaches to learning, career development and an overall college experience that will better prepare them for when they graduate to four-year institutions, or the job market.



AIM stands for ***Accessing Innovative Measures*** (for higher retention in college). Some of the programming we can provide you through the AIM grant includes: to connect students with a mentor to guide and provide resources towards student success, offer opportunities for experiential /service learning and undergrad research, a plethora of resources and new methods of providing orientation to empower students in their first year at Otero, overall student wellness and professional development workshops (and more) are other perks of the AIM Grant! The AIM Grant focuses on student success including retention and completion.

AIM: Who we are and what we do



Shawn Japhet “I am the **AIM Grant Project Director**. As the director I serve as the institutional lead for the project, oversee the project budget and head the Title V Steering Committee. I came to Otero as a tutor in 2005. Over my 16 years at Otero, I have been a tutor, Director of Student Success Center and Disability Services and most recently the Educational Resource and Disabilities Services Specialist. I am an alumni of Otero and received my Bachelor of Science in Applied Management from National American University. I love spending time with my family, participating in outdoor activities, watching athletic events and crafting.”



Cedric Quintana “I am the **Student Success Coach** at Otero College. I am an Otero alumni and I am here to help with assisting students with Career Advisement and promoting Career Exploration if you are unsure of what you want to major in. I enjoy Snowboarding, traveling and attending concerts during my free time. “



Kimberly Munro “I am the **Faculty Professional Development Lead & Student Research Coordinator** with the AIM Grant. I’m here to connect you with research projects, volunteer work, and other service and experiential learning opportunities both on and off campus. I’m hoping to help pair any interested students with the right hands-on learning project that will help them to develop skills outside of the classroom, while compliment your classroom learning and respective degree program. I graduated from Louisiana State University in 2018 with my PhD in Archaeology, and have a long term research project still digging in Peru during the summer months. I enjoy hiking, paddle boarding, running, exploring archaeological sites, visiting National Parks, and watching College Football. Geaux Tigers !

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Melanie Culver “I am the **Mentoring Coordinator for the AIM Grant**. I am originally from England and moved to Baltimore, MD when I was eleven. I attended Dundalk Community College for three semesters and then transferred to The University of Maryland, College Park where I received my B.A. in Theatre; Design Emphasis. My role here is to match Otero College students with a faculty, staff, or peer mentor that can help them transition to college life and meet their educational goals. In my free time, I like to spend time with my family, hike, make costumes, and read.



Julie McClure “Hello! My name is Julie, and I am the **Case Manager** here at Otero College. As the Case Manager, I am here to help students thrive in their life while at the college. I am available as a resource to ALL students. I am also eager to consult with staff, faculty, friends and parents as well. I am able to support students who are dealing with challenges relating to academics, medical health, mental health, financial concerns, family challenges, or social/adjustment issues. I can also utilize my extensive knowledge of campus and community support systems to provide timely connections with resources that can help.



The AIM Sponsored Drawing

- Did you know we have a drawing going this semester? Every time you attend an AIM event and SIGN-IN, we'll put your name in for our drawing.
 - For example, attending 5 AIM sponsored events gets your name put in 5 times, meaning you have a higher chance of winning a prize.
- We'll draw a name at the end of each month, but the grand prize will be drawn at the end of the semester! Prizes include gift cards and AirPods!



- Look for our AIM logo  on flyers/announcements throughout campus so you know you're attending an AIM sponsored event!



Upcoming AIM Events for October



Club TED; Thursdays at 12:15p in the Learning Commons

October 7- **In recognition of World Blind Awareness Month:** *Design with the Blind in Mind* by Chris Downey. Frieda Beyerl will share information about disability services at Otero College and her experience having low vision.

October 14- CANCELLED, NO SCHOOL

October 21- **In Recognition of World Archaeology day;** *Aliens & archaeology: why do we get history wrong on purpose?* By Sarah Kurnick. Dr Kimberly Munro will lead the discussion to follow.

October 28- **In Recognition of Dia de los Muertes;** *The Celebration of Death a la Mexicana.* Martha Montero-Sieburth. Dr Kimberly Munro will lead the discussion to follow.

Wellness Wednesdays, Wednesdays at 12:15p, meet in the Learning Commons

October 6- Doodling

October 13- Strategies to help with ADD/ ADHD/ Focus

October 20- Let's try Tai Chi!

October 27- Let's try out VR! (Bring your smart phones!)

Other AIM Sponsored Events

October 12th - *Career Planning, Cosmetology Speaker*, 1pm in the Learning Commons.

October 18th - *International Archaeology Day*

November 1st - *Dia de los Muertos Altar*

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