Student Spotlight

Meet Ashley Yergert

Where are you from?
I graduated from Kim, Colorado.

Tell us about your family…i.e. are you the oldest/youngest?
I am the youngest sibling. I have a full older sister, a step sister, and a step brother.

The first to go to school?
Neither of my parents graduated from college but my sister did complete her degree.

What degree are you pursuing?
I am pursuing a degree in elementary education.

If you are transferring, where?
After this semester I am planning to transfer to Aims Community College in Greeley, Colorado, to finish my associates. After that I will transfer to University of Northern Colorado to earn my Bachelor’s and then a Master’s.

What do you hope to be doing in 5 years?
In five years I hope to be graduated from school and teaching and coaching basketball in a smaller neighborhood.

What do you like best about OJC?
The thing I like best about OJC is it is a small town feel and most of the professors are very flexible and personable.

What are you involved in at OJC?
At OJC I am involved in volleyball and TRiO.

How has TRiO helped?
In my transfers to different schools I had a lot of trouble finding the right classes I needed to be taking and figuring out how to transfer and getting all my information submitted to different colleges. The advisers in TRiO are very supportive and worked hard to help me as much as they could.

What advice do you have for new students?
My advice to new students is to join TRiO, get involved in a couple programs at OJC, and reach out to your professors—after all, they are there to serve you.
Student Spotlight
Meet Destinee (Alessa) Gomez

Where are you from?
I was born in Modesto, CA, but I have lived in Colorado for most of my life.

Tell us about your family…i.e. are you the oldest/youngest? The first to go to school?
I am the youngest of four and the only girl. Even now, I don’t know if that’s a blessing or a curse. I’m not the first in my family to go to college, but I will be the first to graduate.

What degree are you pursuing?
At the moment, I’m finishing up my Associates of Arts. After that, I hope to major in photography and minor in wildlife biology.

If you are transferring, where?
I’m still looking into universities because I’m not sure if I want to attend one in state or out of state. Right now, I’m considering Metro State – Denver, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and Savannah College of Art and Design.

What do you hope to be doing in 5 years?
I would like to be doing photography work that would allow me to travel and experience the world and other cultures.

What do you like best about OJC?
The community. I’ve met a lot of nice people among the students and staff who have changed my life and helped me grow. Personally, that’s something I really needed, and I appreciate those people who gave me that support.

What are you involved in at OJC?
TRiO, of course. I am also the editor for this year’s Chinook, a member of PTK, and the Art Club.

How has TRiO helped?
TRiO has given me much needed advice and information, whether academically, career-wise, or just about life in general. It has also allowed me to meet new people and the cultural events are really fun and a nice escape.

What advice do you have for new students?
As scary as it may be, work your way out of your comfort zone. You’ll come across more opportunities and people you can connect with who will help you grow. Having friends around definitely makes you appreciate your time here and it gets easier to be more involved on campus.
Guest Speaker Tre Giles

Tre, a TRiO alumni from Fort Hays Community College is now a inspirational speaker that can relate to anyone. Tre was a first generation college student with a rough upbringing. During his speech Tre provides details from his past along with the importance of a college education and how it molded him and his future.

Tre will be coming to OJC on March 13th Located in the Learning Commons at 12:30 PM. **ALL students and staff** on campus are welcome to join TRiO Tre on his Journey through life.

Transfer Tour to the University of Colorado and Colorado State University

During Spring Break James will be taking a group of students for an **overnight transfer tour** to the University of Colorado along with Colorado State University. The days this tour will take place are **March 20-21st**. Students will meet in TRiO and will be leaving La Junta at 6:30 AM, this opportunity is **limited to ten students**. If you are interested in this event contact James ASAP, this is a first come first serve basis, therefore the first ten people to sign up will be able to attend the transfer tour.

Wolf and Wildlife Center – Cultural Event

March 14th James and Alexa are taking a group of students up to the Wolf and Wildlife Center where students will get to see wolves, coyote, fox and learn about the history, biology, and current threats these animals face along with much more. The tour ends with a signature group howl with a wolf.

After the tour, students will be taken to an etiquette lunch where students will get to learn the proper etiquette of a business lunch or dinner.

A sign up sheet will be provided on Christina’s desk. When the sheet is available a remind message will be sent out to students. The **sign up sheet** will be available to students starting **February 28th** and is a first come first serve basis.

Students will meet in TRiO at 6:45 AM, the vans will leave at 7:00 AM and will not return to OJC until 5:00-5:30 PM that afternoon. For more questions please contact a TRiO advisor.
**Upcoming Transfer Tours**

Transferring to a University can be stressful, let TRiO help you transition to a new college.

TRiO offers transfer tours to 4 year universities in Colorado. James Lopez takes students up to these colleges so that they can set foot on campus and get a good impression of what the college has to offer. James can set up advising appointments, schedule tours, get students in touch with other TRiO programs, along with many other added benefits!

Already visited the school your planning on transferring to but haven't applied? TRiO can also help you fill out applications to colleges, complete scholarships, send transcripts, and so much more!

Stop in and talk to a TRiO advisor today to set up a transfer tour or to get help applying to colleges.

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**Withdraw Information/ Deadline**

**Deadline:** Friday, April 12th 2019 by 5:00 PM Student Services

The withdraw deadline is your last chance to leave a course before receiving your final grade. This is later in the semester, and *does* have consequences. When you withdraw you must:

- Pay for the class,
- A “W” will show on your transcript,
- It does NOT effect your GPA

Withdrawing will count as attempted but not earned credits which can effect your Financial Aid.
What happened in TRIO Last Month...
During the month of February in TRiO...

Alexa and James took students on a Cultural Event to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science where students were able to explore the museum, attend the IMAX, and had lunch at Famous Dave’s to wrap up the trip.

James took a group of students on a Transfer Tour to CSU Pueblo to experience what the University has to offer which included getting a tour of the campus, learning what degrees the school has to offer and students meet with Financial Aid.

Students attended Foodie Friday where individuals learned how to work together to organize a potluck with others while filling their bellies with a home cooked meal. This event happens every Friday in TRiO and is open to all TRiO participants.

OJC Scholarship Deadline

OJC has a new way to apply for scholarships. With this new application you are now linked to multiple scholarships that fit you directly. This not only more efficient, but it also gives you a wider range of scholarships in which you can apply for while saving time. Wondering how to apply for the OJC scholarships?

**Step 1:** Go to [www.ojc.edu](http://www.ojc.edu)

**Step 2:** Search “Scholarships” and click on the Link

**Step 3:** Click on the green “Online Scholarship Application” Link

**Step 4:** Create an account using your student email and begin the scholarship application

This application automatically saves, meaning you can start the application and finish it at different times without having to start over.

**IMPORTANT:** If it takes you one hour to apply for a scholarship and you receive $500.00, what job do you know of that pays $500.00 an hour?
Other Events on Campus

2/28 International Food Night

3/02 /3/07 / 3/08 Men's and Women's Region Basketball

3/09 Volleyball Open Tryouts

3/02 3/07 Softball Games (See OJC Website Schedule for more Information)

3/02 3/03 3/09 3/10 Baseball Games (See OJC Website Schedule for more Information)

Contact Information

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