

## OJC Update: March 24, 2020

**LA JUNTA** — As information and updates are received about COVID-19 processes and procedures, Otero Junior College is making changes to reflect these mandates. Campus leadership has been in constant contact with students, faculty and staff members. At this time, OJC has no confirmed cases of COVID-19 on-campus for either students or staff.

OJC President, Tim Alvarez stated, “The impact of COVID-19 continues to be felt long and wide. It creates a challenge to provide a quality educational experience for our students. OJC’s faculty and staff are up to this challenge. We will spend the week training and formatting courses for remote learning and be ready to pick up where we left off at Spring Break.”

Monday, March 23 was the first day of enrollment for Summer and Fall Semesters. All current students received an email notifying them of the process of enrolling in an upcoming semester by utilizing the Navigate platform to connect with an advisor, thus not requiring them to come to campus. All new and prospective students can call the staff in the Learning Commons at 719-384-6946 for more information on how to register.

OJC has decided to release student financial holds temporarily to allow them to register for summer and fall terms. Students should work with OJC’s financial aid staff to develop a plan to satisfy their financial obligations. While the lifting of the financial holds will give students an extended grace period, all outstanding balances for Spring Semester must be paid by June 30, 2020.

Going forward, and based on the governor’s strong recommendation to practice social distancing and to reduce the in-person workforce by up to 50%, OJC will be initiating more remote work; possibly up to 25% of the workforce. This response is in effort to minimize community spread, and maximize the safety and health of its personnel.

For more information about OJC’s COVID-19 communications and emergency preparedness please refer to the OJC Alert website, <https://www.ojc.edu/about/policies/emergency/default.aspx>. For any additional questions, please call 719-384-6800.

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For More Information:  
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### **About Otero Junior College**

*Founded in 1941, Otero Junior College is located on an attractive 40-acre campus on the southern edge of La Junta, Colorado. The mission of Otero Junior College is to provide a quality higher education that is accessible, transforms lives, expands*

*employment opportunities, enriches communities, promotes individual and global cultural diversity, and fosters economic development.*

*Otero Junior College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is member of the Colorado Community College System. OJC offers Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees for students who plan to transfer on to four-year bachelor degree programs. The College also offers numerous workforce ready degrees and certificates that prepare students to enter the workforce within one or two years.*

*Otero is a full-service campus offering on-campus student housing and dining services. Students have the opportunity to receive both an outstanding academic education and experience the amenities of a large university with 12 intercollegiate athletic sports and numerous student-life clubs, organizations and events.*

Thanks,

**Sarah Petramala**

Executive Assistant to the President

**OTERO JUNIOR COLLEGE**

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