



# “AIM For Your Best Future”

January 2024 Newsletter



Welcome back!!!

This month’s edition will focus on the AIM Team and how they work hard to increase our student success rates.

**AIM TEAM**  
**Coordinator**



**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 am an Otero alumni 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, crafting and being a plant junkie.

# Meet the AIM Team



Laura Martinez

Meet your Case Manager: Hi, I work with students to offer them resources to be successful. These resources can be on campus or off campus, depending on what the student needs. I work closely with Molly to provide mental health wellness workshops. I also serve on the CARE team and a variety of other committees across campus.



Cedric Quintana

Meet your Success Coach: I'm Cedric and I work for the AIM grant as the Student Success Coach. I help with Resumes, interviewing for jobs, Career Assessments, Career searches with Handshake and hold events such as Meet Your Professor and Staff at Otero. I am a graduate of UCCS, and I am also an Otero Alumni. I'm here to help guide you on your journey and path to Success at Otero.



Macie Magallon

Meet your AIM Academic Advisor: I am the AIM Academic Advisor and I promote student success by assisting them with the development of an educational plan, including auditing, monitoring, and evaluating individual student academic progress. I advise students about postsecondary programs, help develop career goals, assist with the overall enrollment process, and provide information about financial aid, testing, and immunization requirements.



Lavona Tyscka

Meet your Mentorship Program Coordinator: I work with Peer Mentors and Faculty/Staff Mentors. Our goal is to mentor incoming freshman and help them get their needs and wants met. Unfortunately, the number one reason for the 1<sup>st</sup> year drop-out rates is students not feeling like they belong at their chosen college, so they drop out rather than pushing through and learning the ins and outs of college life. The mentors help alleviate this anxiety by working with the mentees and making sure they know Otero College not only welcomes them but wants them here and successful.

# More AIM Team Members



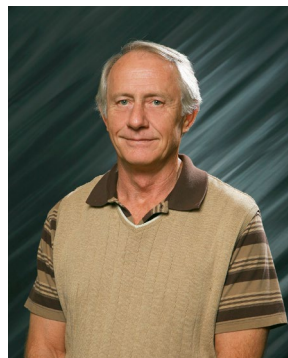
Brian Beyerl

I am the Faculty Mentor Coordinator. My position is to match new faculty with seasoned faculty, so that new employees have someone to turn to. New faculty now have someone to help them through the ups and downs with teaching as well as assists with all the other duties faculty have.



Maureen Rikoff

I joined the AIM team last fall and am excited to work in a hands on capacity to increase retention and graduation rates, especially for our Hispanic students and community members! For our faculty, I'll be focusing on facilitating professional development opportunities such as participating in Escala and bringing in trainers to improve our ability to teach all learners. For our students, I help facilitate service and experiential learning opportunities. In January, I helped organize a volunteer fair to connect organizations looking for volunteers with available opportunities in our SE Colorado communities. As a first-generation college attendee myself, I value the support that the AIM team provides and I'm pleased to be part of their success!



Joel Gray

Hi,

I have several tasks. One is promoting student experiential learning to both students and potential faculty who may want to mentor student project. Tracking progress with both students and project mentors. Acting as a project mentor (I have one project) Lastly updating the AIM team on the progress of students' activities.

# AIM February Events

# 2024

## Upcoming AIM Events

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 <b>Mental Health Monday</b>	13 <b>Substance Awareness Fair</b>	14 <b>Valentine's Day</b>	15	16	17	18
19	20 <b>Meet your Mental Health Counselor</b>	21	22 <b>Budgeting 101- Financial Literacy</b>	23	24	25
26 <b>Mental Health Monday</b>	27	28	29 <b>Student Financial Aid 101- Financial</b>	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

### Details:

February 12, 2024 Mental Health Monday- Affirmation Butterflies -Location TBA

February 13, 2024 Substance Awareness Fair from 10:00 a.m. to Noon in the Learning Commons

February 20, 2024 Meet Your Mental Health Counselor, Molly Borton from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Learning commons. Meet your Counselor and hear about her passions for helping others.

February 22, 2024 Financial Literacy from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Learning Commons. Otero College's AIM Department Director, Shawn Japhet will demonstrate how to make and maintain a monthly budget while in college.

February 26, 2024 Mental Health Monday -Journaling from 10:00 a.m. to Noon, Location TBA

February 29, 2024 Student Financial Aid 101, Financial Literacy from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Learning Commons. Otero College's Financial Aid Department Director, Andee Leininger with Financial Aid's Assistant Director, McKensie Avens will present on the new process for applying for FAFSA. They will explain the different types of financial aid, such as Pell Grants, Student Loans, Scholarships.



**AIM Sponsored Drawings - Did you know we have multiple drawings going on each semester? Every time you attend an AIM event and SIGN-IN, we will put your name in for our drawing. The more events you attend, the more your name will be entered. We 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 the AIM Logo on flyers/announcements throughout campus so you know when to attend an AIM Sponsored Event!!!**

The contents of this newsletter were developed under a grant (P031S200021) from the Department of Education. However, the content does not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.