



Trinidad State College Report of Activities June, July, August 2022

Rhonda M. Epper, Ph.D., President

Transform the student experience.



September 2022 Country Life cover story: *THE LITTLE COLLEGE THAT COULD* “This is a story about an academic underdog, a heartwarming account of a two-year community college, Trinidad State College, that is home to a robotics team that competes against bigger, mostly four-year colleges and not only holds its own but consistently defies expectations. It’s the story of the little college that could and the mathematics professor, Cindy Clements, who started it all.”

Link to the full story:

<https://trinidadstate.edu/news/2022/pdf/ccl0922.pdf>



The Boys & Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley and Trinidad State College presented Drones & Cones in late August. This collaborative educational opportunity gave teens an introduction to drone use and demonstrated the technology and how it has advanced the broad impact on a wide variety of industries. Valley youth learned about drones, drone licensing, and career paths. Drones were flown at the Alamosa North River Road Pavilion.



- Healthy Kids Running Series -Trinidad’s mission is to engage children by providing an inclusive youth running experience, inspiring kids to believe in themselves and lead an active healthy lifestyle. Their vision is to offer a community program where all kids celebrate their success and develop an active healthy lifestyle. Says TSC Athletic Director, Mike Salbato, “It is a good series of events that get a large group of young families involved in the Trinidad Area. Last year was its first year and it doubled in size from fall to spring. Trinidad State sends 10-20 athletes every week to act as instructors and motivators. Good public service for us.”



- Ashlyn Rockey, Trinidad State College and Sargent High School concurrent enrollment student in the San Luis Valley, is developing her leadership skills and has been elected State Future Farmers of America (FFA) secretary for the Colorado FFA association. Congratulations Ashlyn!
- The Collaboratory (makerspace) at Trinidad State hosted 60 middle school students in June. Students learned about 3D printing by creating keychains, used the Glowforge laser engraver to make wooden puzzles, and crafted handmade greeting cards for family members using paint and markers.

Transform our own workforce experience.

- Dean of Instruction and Agriculture Program Instructor, Jack Wiley, has long been a supporter of local 4H and FFA (Future Farmers of America) contests. He has worked with agents, teachers, parents, students, and sponsors on a variety of projects over the span of his career. This year Wiley judged the State Leadership competition for the Colorado FFA for the 5th consecutive year. Last year Jack was recruited to be a judge for the National FFA proficiency awards program ranking applications from state winners from 42 states. Says Wiley, “What an opportunity to be able to work with and be around some of the state’s and nation’s most talented, best and brightest future agriculture leaders. It is also an excellent opportunity to “fly the flag” for the college!”
- First Friday’s at The Mutiny Café sponsored by Trinidad State College English faculty begins again for the academic year. The event is in conjunction with First Friday’s

Art Walk in Trinidad. Events include featured readers followed by an open mic. Thanks faculty members, Tom Nordgren and Dustin Hyman, for organizing this event and for finding talented authors to share their work with the community.



- Tammie Mack, TSC Adult Education Services Director, serves our communities in a variety of ways. This summer she judged Public Speaking at the Colorado State Future Farmers of America convention in Pueblo. And in a continuing commitment to Huerfano County, she was recently appointed the Vice Chair of the Huerfano Coalition Committee.
- **BOOTS ON THE GROUND AWARD** – The San Luis Valley Joint Interagency Oversight Group (SLV Joint IOG) honors partner agency staff members with the “Boots on the Ground” award in recognition of employees who exemplify the spirit of cross-systems collaboration. One award recipient for August was Tanner Kingery of Trinidad State College. “For several years now, we have reached out and collaborated with Tanner to help us with vehicle repairs for families that we are working with,” said Teri Sisneros of SLV Joint IOG. “He has always worked well with us and has done all he can to fit our families’ vehicles into his process of teaching students. Our families’ situations can be difficult sometimes and Tanner has always tried his best to accommodate and work around barriers. “He has been a part of this team and may not know what a blessing he has been to both the ISST team and the families who might not otherwise have been able to get their only means of transportation fixed. He has always been upfront and honest if the repair work was unable to be done in the class and not to give any false hope to the families. He has even let us know if the cost to repair would end up costing the family more than investing in a used running vehicle. “We are grateful to have people like Tanner who are willing to team up with us to help families in our community. Thank you, Tanner. Your thoughtfulness and willingness are greatly appreciated,” Sisneros concluded.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.



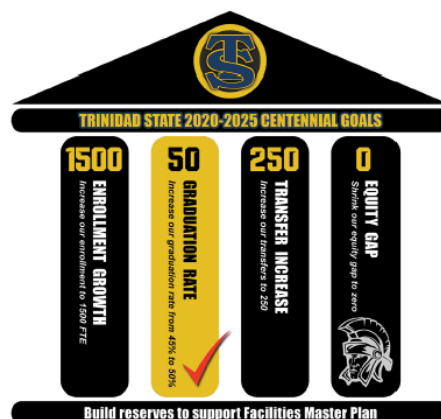
Trinidad State College’s Workforce Solutions Program connects the college with the Southern Colorado business community in an innovative way that benefits businesses and their employees. This approach is designed to help the business community aggressively “grow your own” in a new and creative way. *How it works:* TSC will work with individual businesses to develop and tailor training based on each company’s employee upskilling needs. Employers typically choose two to five classes from the list. The certificate is designed and granted by the employer. Classes are taught by TSC faculty and employees will receive college credit on a TSC transcript that may be applied to future degrees or transfer.

- 2022-2023 UCCS Ethics Champion, Dr. Paul Boone, attended the welcome reception and dinner and orientation for the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative Collegiate Program at UCCS College of Business. Ethics champions develop innovative ethics education projects for and with students, receive professional development opportunities and benefit from collegial networking through the Southern Colorado Ethics Consortium.

Redefine our value proposition through accessibility, affordability, quality, accountability, resource development, and operational excellence.

- President Rhonda Epper and Vice Presidents Lynette Bates, Jim Kynor, Shannon Shiveley, and Athletic Director Mike Salbato shared college goals and news with all faculty and staff at Convocation this fall. Information included new and expanding programs including T-Prep, Nursing/BSN, Construction, Art/Technical Theatre, CIS/eSports, Workforce Solutions, and Concurrent Enrollment. Dr. Epper noted TSC’s progress toward reaching our Centennial Goals, discussed enrollment trends, and updated progress on capital projects. We are Trinidad State College: Onward and Upward.

Centennial Goals:



STUDENT FIRST



www.tsc.edu

Vice President Lynette Bates shared information and research from her Doctoral Research Project Defense: First Generation College Student Belongingness. Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), Leadership for Educational Equity, School of Education and Human Development, University of Colorado, Denver. VP Bates defended her dissertation late spring. Included in her presentation were an overview of the study, research questions, methodology, findings, discussion and conclusions. Of powerful interest were student stories shared. *“For all students, self-efficacy was the most frequently mentioned theme that arose throughout the interviews. Regardless of age, they expressed and understood the importance of “leading the way” for their families and demonstrated considerable “grit” in completing their pathway of study. Each demonstrated a sense of accomplishment and pride for completing their first year of study and getting near their goal of graduation.”* Thank you, Dr. Bates and Congratulations.

- Over 40 people attended the Trinidad State Archaeology Museum Open House on June 24th. The museum is a regular daytime stop for the City of Trinidad Trolley as tours are given in our beautiful Trinidad community. The museum is open for K-12 tours throughout the academic year. This open house extended the museum regular hours and locals enjoyed stopping by after work and lingering over the exhibits. Of note -- Museum Director, Loretta Martin, is our longest serving staff member at TSC – 38 years. Congratulations, Loretta.



- This summer, Gunsmithing celebrated its 75th program year and Summer Gunsmithing celebrated its 45th year of summer short-term classes. Students from 18 states and 18 different locations in Colorado attended. Two students took their final courses needed to earn the Gunsmithing Technician certificate. One of the students, Larry Malin, completed his certificate after 31 years of taking courses off and on to complete the requirements. Congratulations TSC Gunsmithing.



- Pillar & Post – Trinidad State Looks to the Future, a message from TSC President, Dr. Rhonda Epper was shared with the extended community and alumni through the Trinidad State College Foundation quarterly newsletter. Full text available here: [Trinidad State Looks to the Future](#). The newsletter message shared many of the themes that were also shared at Convocation: program news, capital upgrades progress, workforce solutions, and future plans.
- In the story above, President Epper looks to the future – below we look to the past. A.R. Mitchell (in cowboy hat left of center) was Trinidad State's Art Faculty for approximately 15 years. Here in a terrific 1950's photo, we see Mitch's class in plein air against the backdrop of Scott Gym. The photo finds its date not from the classic building (construction fall 1940 to ready-for-use fall 1942), but from the cool cats student dress.



- Trinidad State College is looking forward to hosting the CCCS Presidents Council and the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education on the Trinidad campus for September 2022 meetings. See you soon!

