

Trinidad State College
Report of Activities
December 2023 / January 2024

Rhonda M. Epper, Ph.D., President



Transform the student experience.



Trinidad State Robotics Team members gave community presentations at a recent Community Opportunity Fair. Each student shared their expertise and explained the progression of robots built at Trinidad State and the challenges they encountered. To hear the presentations: [Trinidad State Robotics Video Vault](#).

This year's robotics team is building one small robot and one large robot (plus understudies). The team is building the small robot small enough to be below the 1.5 kg weight limit while still being able to run upside down. The first goal for each robot is to navigate the sand dunes.

The bigger robot will run in the upper weight category and will need to have the capability to communicate with the small robot. The team has decided to further the mapping work of the 2022 Team. That team succeeded in making a map of the course, but not in communicating the hazards to another robot. So, this year's team plans to have the small robot go through the course to determine the best course, then send that map back to the big robot. The big robot will follow that map, go through the course, stop, take a soil sample, and then bring that sample back to the start.

Two Balloon Sat teams are setting goals, deciding what they will fly inside their payload and will begin construction soon. We will update you on progress after the competitions in April.



Trinidad State College added **Women's Wrestling** to its list of offered NJCAA sports in 2023-24. In January, the Trojan women hosted Wayland Baptist University for the *first ever* home women's wrestling match in TSC history. The Trojans fell to the four-year school but put on a great showing picking up a few pinfall victories. TSC is ranked 10th in the NJCAA with wrestlers Nadiya Trujillo (4th) and Giana Roskam (7th) ranked individually. They will compete at the NJCAA National Tournament in early March.



2023 NJCAA Men's Cross Country National Champions!! Congratulations. Alamosa City Council celebrated TSC Men's Cross Country Team at a late November meeting. Cross Country Coaches Kyle and Lauren Masterson and TSC Vice President, Jim Kynor, enjoyed honoring the team as well. Trinidad State also hosted a congratulatory luncheon on the Valley Campus (Alamosa) with community members, staff, faculty, and athletes sharing the joy!

Transform our own workforce experience.

Trinidad State Humanities faculty members, Desi Maxwell and Tom Nordgren and tutor Elizabeth James had the wonderful opportunity to judge Trinidad High School's Poetry Out Loud competition. Over 30 high school students participated. From the Poetry Out Loud website: "Read, Recite, Share Your Voice -- Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering a dynamic recitation competition for high school students across the country. This program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history and contemporary life." Thank you Desi, Tom, and Elizabeth for sharing your time and building our collaborative relationship with THS, its faculty and students. First through third place winners' videos will be sent to the regional competition.

We are so pleased to **welcome new employees** to Trinidad State College.

- Victoria (Tori) Martinez has joined the Student Services team as the Title V Director and will be working with staff and students on each campus.
- Connie Rivale-Peraza is transitioning into her new role as TRIO/Student Support Services Director for Trinidad Campus. Connie previously worked on Trinidad Campus as the TRiO Advisor supporting career services and special populations.
- Alex Roybal - Emergency Management Coordinator. Alex will be working across all TSC Campus locations.
- Gaylene Abeyta - TRiO Advisor and Academic Coordinator for Trinidad Campus.
- Shelby Gonzales - Coordinator of Student Well-Being. Shelby will be collaborating with staff and students on each campus.
- Zachary Williamson - Coordinator of Fiscal Services. Zachary will be located on Trinidad Campus.



Team Building, Trust Building, Identifying Strengths – TSC Residence Advisors team building day was filled with different problem solving and trust building exercises. Our RA students discovered the

strengths and weaknesses of each other and of themselves which allowed them to get to know one another better and how they can be supportive. Team trainers noticed and discussed who has a big picture mentality and who focuses on the details in front of them, helping supervisors to become better at guiding students toward success.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.



Trinidad State faculty and staff performed essential duties for the National Shooting Sports Foundation's annual SHOT Show in Las Vegas. We are proud to be America's premier gunsmithing school! Pictured here is President Epper with students, faculty, and U.S. Army TACOM representatives.



Trinidad State had two tables at the **Community and Area Opportunity Fair** at Creative District / Space to Create, an event that was a part of the Smithsonian Rural America exhibit in our area. In addition to general recruiting information, the Continuing Education program provided information regarding Skill Advance, surveys for the new remote worker gatherings, upcoming classes, as well as running a 3D printer throughout the event. Attendees were also treated to a demonstration of current and past robotics by the award-winning Trinidad State Robotics team.

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

Trinidad State College was pleased to host the Colorado Department of Higher Education / Colorado Department of Education for a FAFSA (federal student aid) training for educators from across the state. Approximately ninety (90) individuals attended. It was a wonderful opportunity for those in our area to have this training locally. Thanks, CDHE.



Colorado Community College System Day at the Capital – January 24, 2024



Welcome back, Trojans! Nothing but smiles as we begin the spring semester!

