



## Trinidad State College

### Report of Activities

September 2024

Rhonda M. Epper, Ph.D., President

**Transform the student experience.**



## HSI CELEBRATION WEEK EVENTS!

Our rich cultural heritage and vibrant community create an educational experience like no other. As a proud Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), we are dedicated to celebrating and supporting all Hispanic students, ensuring academic success and personal growth. Our diverse programs, cultural initiatives, and tailored resources provide a nurturing environment where heritage is honored and futures are bright.

- Hispanic ancestry documentary movie night
  - Student & Alumni Panels – Lunch & Learn
  - Mariachi San Luis performances
  - Semillas de la Tierra Folklorico performances
  - Student transfer night with Adams State University
- Collective impact at all the events - 484 attendees!



**Alumni, staff, and faculty spotlights** may be found at [www.trinidadstatecollege.edu/hsi](http://www.trinidadstatecollege.edu/hsi) and include Gabrielle Vigil, Law Enforcement Academy alumnus, Felix Lopez, former President TSC, Evelyn Villagomez, Medical Assistant alumnus, Brayan Flores-Gomez, TSC student athlete and transfer student to Adams State University, Sherri Baca, Executive Director of the Pueblo City-County Library District, Micah Velasquez, TSC Business and CIS Faculty, Alfredo Burciaga, TSC VP Student Affairs, Tori Martinez, TSC Title V Director, Yvette Atencio, TSC Human Resources Director.

**BREAKING NEWS**

TRINIDAD STATE COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL      Date: Sept. 30th, 2024      #BeTheCulture

# TRINIDAD STATE RECEIVING VOTES

For the first time in program history, the Trinidad State College volleyball team is receiving votes in the NJCAA National Polls




**NJCAA DI NATIONAL POLLS**  
TRINIDAD STATE COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL



**Trinidad State’s Robotics Team** held their annual “Light Bulb Drop” challenge. Team members built Lego cages around their light bulbs to absorb the force of the fall. The cages then are dropped from the fire escape stairs on Scott Gym and while the Legos crashed and scattered, ALL of the light bulbs survived and lit up!



The Office of Student Well-Being, Student Life, and Resident Life collaborated with Trinidad Kayak Company for a **wellness day on the lake!** What a fun way to enhance student well-being with some fresh air, physical activity, nature, and community and over 50 students enjoyed the experience! It was a great opportunity for some R&R and self-care, as well as enjoying our beautiful Trinidad Lake State Park before winter makes its way on in!





**Getting a good job in your home community** is a strong priority for many students as they begin their working careers. Trinidad State's Rocky Mountain Line Technician program is a pathway to do this. Recent line tech graduate, Everette Velarde, is pleased and proud to begin his career with San Isabel Electric with his home base as Trinidad. #TrojanProud

### **Transform our own workforce experience.**

Each year, the Corazón de Trinidad Creative District brings a group of professional writers to lead writing workshops where they share their art, insight, and literary experience with creative writing. As in years past, **TSC English Faculty member, Tom Nordgren**, taught two different workshops at the **Get Lit! Festival**: A Seminar on Play and Scripting and Novel Writing. All students were welcome to attend the festival workshops for free.

**TSC Dean, Jack Wiley**, continues his community outreach work by interviewing finalists for Agriculture Proficiency awards for the National FFA contests. Says Jack, "I have helped with this for many years and it is a bright spot I look forward to each year!"

**Trinidad State College welcomes new team members** in August and September:

- Mary Ellen Armijo-Administrative Assistant to Academic Affairs
- Connie Brydges- Psychology and Sociology Faculty
- Tim Busen-Women's Soccer Coach
- Joshua Joseph-Assistant Cross Country/Track Coach
- Daniel Laubscher -Accounting Technician
- Jeff Layton- Pathways Coord Emergent Campus
- Joseph Vigil-Nursing Faculty
- Bobby Williams- Computer Information Systems/Cybersecurity Faculty

### **Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.**

In partnership with the A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art, monthly artist lectures are held on campus. The **September artist lecture** featured Arna Miller whose talk focused not just on her creative process, but also the business aspects of making a living as an artist. The lecture focused on strong strategies of running an art business, pricing your art, resources and tools, contact building, marketing, and team creation. The lecture was well attended by both students and community members.

Trinidad State supported and participated in the Trinidad Las Animas County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce **2nd Annual Chili Fest celebrating Diez y Seis Septiembre!** The cosmetology and gunsmithing programs each had a recruiting book and student affairs held a water drop fundraiser that was great fun for kids and adults alike on the hot September day.

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



Members of the community, students, and partners joined together to learn more about EMERGENT CAMPUS Trinidad.

**Emergent Campus Trinidad** offers a clear roadmap for replicating demonstrated impact on job placement, advancement, and broader economic development across Southern Colorado. We envision Trinidad as an innovation hub for businesses that can supercharge our regional economic story - through new employers drawn in by lower costs, who in turn provide tangible internship and job pathways for our students into high wage industries, all leading to the next generation of rural-connected startups and employers.

EC partners closely with K-12 and higher education to provide students and adults with authentic education and training experiences that help them pursue tech career trajectories.

