

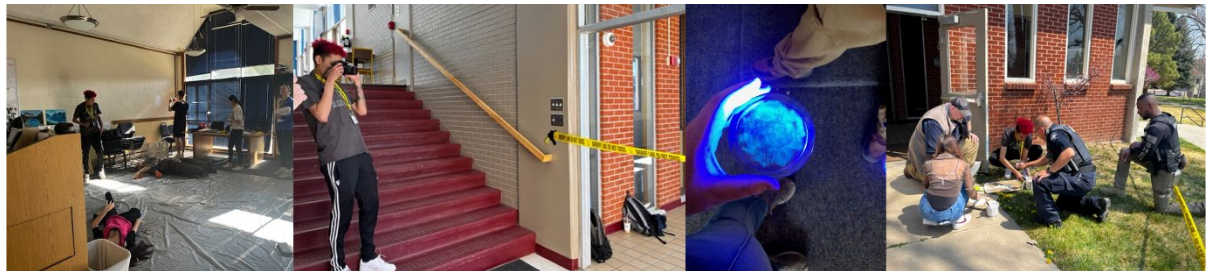


Trinidad State College Report of Activities April 2022

Rhonda M. Epper, Ph.D., President

Transform the student experience.

- The name for this section is *Transform the student experience*. For Trinidad State's Adult Education Services, we could easily name it *Transform Lives*. To date this semester there have been 10 graduates, 50+ students with at least one of the four GED tests passed, 11 former GED graduates enrolled Spring 2022 Trinidad State and 14 students have enrolled in Valley Campus Adult Ed as a result of the STEP Agreement with Alamosa High School (dropouts). Thank you, Director Tammie Mack. We are so proud of this program that changes lives.
- And here is another *transforming lives* story. Trinidad State had its first Second-Chance Pell graduate at Trinidad Correctional Facility this week. The student graduated Magna Cum Laude. GED graduates were celebrated in the ceremony as well. Colorado Department of Corrections' commitment to education is strong and Trinidad State Division Chair for Prison Education is honored to have been selected to participate in the Vera Institute of Justice Corrections Education Leadership Academy (CELA). Thank you LiAnn Richardson for your leadership and commitment to transforming lives through Second-Chance Pell.



- Instructor Arin Hart *transformed learning* holding a mock crime scene event for Criminal Justice students on the Trinidad Campus. The crime scene was part of Arin Hart's Crime Scene Investigation class and was open to all Criminal Justice students. Students learned how to process and document a crime scene including diagraming, rough scene sketches, and photography. Students also learned how to tape a scene off, bag and tag evidence, question witnesses, dust for fingerprints, cast footprints, and look for gun-shot residue. The event included a luminol demonstration, blood splatter

examples and students learned about bullet trajectory. Mr. Hart was assisted by members of the Las Animas County Sheriff's Office and Faculty member Sarah Sloane. Thank you, Criminal Justice program, for transforming the learning environment.



- Let's call this one *Transforming opportunity* – Robotics Team advisor and Math Faculty member, Cynthia Clements shared another round of achievements for the Robotics Team. The Balloon Satellite team launched their balloon from Deer Trail on April 2nd and had a successful landing about four hours later. They are currently analyzing their data preparing for an upcoming presentation. The Robotics Team competed at the Sand Dunes on April 16th and won Best Robot under 1.5 kg and best demonstration in advanced autonomy (mapping). On April 23rd both the Robotics Team and the Wearables Team presented their research to NASA at the Colorado Space Grant Consortium's Research Symposium in Boulder. Both teams took home a prize in their respective categories. The teams had an added benefit at the Symposium of getting to hear the keynote speaker, Camille Arnn, a TSC robotics team alumni who has worked as a specialist flight controller in Mission Control at NASA's Johnson Space Center for the past 5 years. She recently left NASA to become the manager of all the program managers at Astrobotics who are currently developing several lunar landers which will be landing on the moon at the end of this year. Thank you, Cindy Clements, for opening doors of opportunity for our students.



- Thank you, CCCS, for the fun event at the Stanley Marketplace celebrating CCCS students. Pictured above: Board member Dr. Landon Mascarenaz, Biology Faculty Cliff Wiening, and Trinidad State students clockwise: Tamera Flores Hernandez (and guest), Crystal Waldroupe, Jonnalea Tortorelli, Katrina McLaughlin, Cesar Saavegra, Sophia Sinda, and Chase Porter. Transforming the party – thank you, Stacie Amaya, for all of your work.

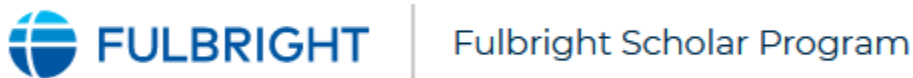


- Dr. Epper celebrated with the TSC Region IX Basketball Champs with a dinner celebration at the President's house. What a great season. Congratulations!



- Carlos Oquita was named Region 9 Player-of-the-Week following a great offensive performance last weekend. Over the three-game set with Luna, Oquita hit .833, going 10 for 12 with 2 doubles, 2 home runs, 13 RBIs, 7 runs and 1 walk.
- NJCAA Men – Ahmed Sado. It wasn't just three races in three days for Ahmed Sado – it was three national-leading marks in three days at the Bryan Clay Invitations. His odyssey started on Wednesday in the steeplechase as he finished second in his section in 8:53.48, the fastest NJCAA time since 2011 and good for No. 6 all-time. Thursday came the 5000 and Sado covered 12 ½ laps in 14:08.43 which rates No. 4 on the NJCAA all-time list. Friday, he clocked 3:49.18 to register the fastest raw time by an NJCAA runner this year. The only mark “faster” this year is Sado's own 3:51.24 which is converted to 3:46.38 as having been run at high altitude. Sado also rates No. 2 on this year's 10,000 list. Sado is the second athlete – male or female – from Trinidad State to earn National Athlete of the Week honors in outdoor track & field, the first since 2017.
- Softball swept Otero last week to move to 13-9 in region play. TSC won by the scores of 11-6 and 12-4
- Coach Justin Wichert picked up his 100th career win as the Trojans topped Lamar 11-9. Congratulations Coach

Transform our own workforce experience.



- Trinidad State instructor, Dr. Brooke Larson, has been selected as a **Fulbright U.S. Scholar for 2022-2023**. The award letter succinctly notes “Fulbright Scholar Awards are prestigious and competitive fellowships that provide unique opportunities for scholars to teach and conduct research abroad. Fulbright scholars also play a critical role in U.S. public diplomacy, establishing long-term relationships between people and nations. Alumni include 61 Nobel Laureates, 89 Pulitzer Prize winners, 76 MacArthur Fellows, and thousands of leaders and world-renowned experts in academia and many other fields across the private, public, and non-profit sectors.” Truly an opportunity for transformation. Congratulations Dr. Larson!

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.



- Keith Gipson, Special Projects Lead, and Donna Haddow, Continuing Education Coordinator, recently attended the Sustainable Trails Conference hosted by the Professional Trail Builders Association (PTBA) in Bentonville, AR. While one goal of the trip was to search for a full-time faculty member for the newly revised program, many great industry connections were made. Keith also served as a presenter during the education seminar, which was given to a packed room of attendees. There is a tremendous interest in trails of all kinds around the world, which has resulted in a strong demand for knowledgeable professionals in the trail building industry. The PTBA has been a supporter of the new program and several members contributed to the build out of the curriculum. Keith has been a positive transformative force at Trinidad State. We will miss him upon his full retirement later this year.

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



- The Arts & Humanities department regularly sponsors events for our campus community and the community at large. This month's Artist Speaker series featured sculptor Thom Laidig. Steeped in geology, history, and geography, he follows a whimsical and existential voyage into stone abstractions. The City of Trinidad recently commissioned a public art sculpture that graces the west end of Main Street.