



Trinidad State College Report of Activities September / October 2023

Rhonda M. Epper, Ph.D., President

Transform the student experience.



- 'Tis the political season. Trinidad State College hosted a **Meet the Candidates Forum** on October 16th in the newly renovated (grant funded sound and lights) Massari Performing Arts Center. Eight of ten city council candidates and three of four mayoral candidates participated. Faculty members Desi Maxwell, Paul Boone, and Dustin Hyman facilitated the organization of the event, curating questions that came in from the public as well as developing the format of the evening. Mike Salbato, Athletic Director, filmed and streamed the event on TrojanTV (<https://www.tstrojans.com/information/TrojanTV>), and Lynette Bates, VPAA, Nicia Crosson, Perkins and Scheduling Coordinator, and Erlene Hernandez, Innovative Learning Center Coordinator kept the time table. Facilities set the stage and tech the mics and lights. Outstanding Trinidad State PTK student, Marissa Valenzuela, was the forum moderator and Trinidad High School leadership class students posed the questions to the candidates. All of the students did a great job. Both campus and community members were in attendance. It was an outstanding event on the heels of the CCCS Civility Training and accomplished the goals of being informative, interesting, and civil.



- **Marketing is highlighting student profiles each week on facebook.** Shown above are Matt Cramsey, Nataly Leon, and Xavier Pierce each telling their story.

- Students in Micah Velasquez’s **Entrepreneurial Operations class** were treated to a presentation by Lauren Roberts, owner of Colorado Sun Tofu. Ms. Roberts was impressed by how much everybody participated and seemed invested in what they were learning. According to Professor Velasquez " We had a wonderful time last week with Lauren, she provided all sorts of detailed information about OEDIT and several other opportunities for startup businesses. She included grants and other valuable perspectives on saving, partnership, networking, and more. The students really enjoyed the opportunity to hear from Lauren's experience and they are encouraged and excited to continue exploring their business ideas, and they are especially excited to continue finding opportunities to establish manufacturing/export businesses that can further expand our local economy". Colorado Sun Tofu is the first business approved as a Rural Jump Start business in Trinidad/Las Animas County.



- The **Trinidad State College Scavenger Hunt** has been great fun. The Robotics Team took on the challenge with joy and enthusiasm. One scavenger find was Dr. Epper!

Innovative Learning Workshop – English Professor Dr. Dustin Hyman

Dr. Hyman presented a live workshop at the Massari Theatre late in October when many students are feeling the tug of homesickness set in. The presentation was geared towards both students and faculty, and discussed a range of topics related to students and how they can thrive at Trinidad State College. The topics included were:

- MLA/APA Formatting
- Creating a “Works Cited” page.
- Uploading Readable File to D2L
- Office 265
- Utilizing Brainfuse
- Utilizing the Tutor Center located in Berg 307 (TRIO)



With the assistance and support of the I.T. Department (Ira Williamson & Mike Alderette), Joe Reorda, Chris Smith and all of the Athletic Coaches, which include Jason Veyna(Baseball), John Lewis(Wrestling), Karli Bustos(Volleyball), Stephen Swazo(Softball), Danielle Caoili(Softball), Jennifer Hugins(Basketball), Peter Freeman, Bryce Seaman(Soccer), Mike Folda(Basketball), and Mike Salbato(Athletic Director) it was made a success and touched at least 100 students and faculty. The workshop was supported by Title V and organized by Erlene Hernandez.



- Informative art from our biology program – painted rock organs are all around campus.
- College Transfer Advisor, Kaddo Bates, sponsored multiple **College Transfer Workshops** in early October for both freshman and sophomores. They were a great opportunity to work on college applications as students look toward transfer. As we reach toward our centennial goals including increased transfers, these workshops help empower our students to be successful in their planning.

A quick run-down from athletics.

- **Volleyball** has a guaranteed spot in the upcoming playoffs. Home games this weekend are still very important.
- TSC Athletes volunteer for the **Healthy Kids Running Series** – Trinidad. Athletes support local youth for great fun and encouragement in this healthy activity and competition every fall Sunday for 5 weeks.
- Jasper Butero Jr. posted on NJCAA National Coaches Day “**As a Trojan alumnus**, I couldn’t be prouder of all the Trojan teams. We have athletes who are super people who represent the brand in the best of possible lights. This is only done because of the outstanding men and women I proudly call COACH. We are truly blessed with these professionals. NEVER BEEN MORE TROJAN PROUD!!!!”
- **TSC Cross-Country** was ranked #1 in the country during September – Congratulations! The team attends regionals this weekend.
- **Wrestling is BACK after 50 years** – first scrimmage at home October 26th.



Cosmetology faculty member, Ronda Samora arranged for Cost Cutters to share job placement information, advise and opportunities to students. It was a successful turn out.

Transform our own workforce experience.

- At the request of the American Alliance of Museums TSC Library Coordinator, **Calvin Smith**, recently completed a Museum Assessment for the Colorado Northwestern Field Museum in Craig, CO. This falls under the Museum Assessment Program provided by the National Institute of Museum and Library Services. In this particular instance, the assessment was focused on Collections Stewardship. Smith has extensive experience in Museum and Library Services and generously shares his expertise.



- **Faculty member, Jerry Begley, worked with Baseball Coach, Jason Venya** to add some muscle and service from the baseball team to the college construction program by helping clean up an upcoming construction project location. Both were appreciative of one another's help and the opportunity for team building.
- As an agriculturist and an agriculture teacher, it seems a natural fit to be involved in 4H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) activities. **Dean Jack Wiley** has judged state leadership and speech competitions as well as the Creed Speaking Events competition for the past six years for the Colorado State FFA Association. He has judged similar competitions in New Mexico for several years before moving to Colorado and has long been involved in a variety of 4H activities in several states.

Wiley will serve again this year for his third year as a judge for National FFA competitions. Judges are recruited from across the United States and are people who are actively involved in agriculture enterprises of various kinds. Congratulations, Jack.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.



- **TSC works with nonprofit AADA** (Advocates Against Domestic Assault) and is appreciative of the organization's support of our students. "Special thanks to all who wore purple and stand in awareness of domestic assault."
- A surge in the numbers of remote workers in our community during COVID and after has resulted in Trinidad State hosting its first-ever **meet and greet for remote workers**. Participants completed remote worker surveys to assist the college with determining the needs of remote workers and how TSC can help meet those needs. Plans are underway for the next remote worker meet and greet to be held in November.

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

- Communicating the **progress of the renovation of the Freudenthal Library** has become more active as inside demolition is nearing completion. Danny Rogers, Facilities Director, hosted several facebook videos showing the renovation progress and the features and exciting upgrades that are occurring. President Epper has led multiple tours of the library for interested parties such as the TSC Advisory Council, Foundation Board, Colorado Art in Public Places Program, Capital Development Committee, and interested donors. <https://www.facebook.com/TrinidadStateCollege>



A year ago, the September CCCS Presidents Council and CCCS Board Meetings were held at Trinidad State and we loved hosting. This September the meetings were held at Red Rocks Community College where our Chancellor and presidents welcomed Governor Polis.



TSC Trojans

2.7K likes • 3.1K followers

