



Trinidad State College Report of Activities May 2022

Rhonda M. Epper, Ph.D., President

Transform the student experience.

- A gallery of memorable moments has been captured during this spring's celebratory events. Achievement Awards, Nurse Pinnings, and Commencement Ceremonies matched our core value: Students First. The rights of passage exemplified by the myriad of smiles can't be beat! <https://trinidadstate.edu/gallery/2022/>



- Creativity, passion and performance art were literally center stage for Spring Fest 2022 at Trinidad State. Arts & Humanities faculty members and the Equity and Inclusion Committee planned the event. Activities over the weekend included a student Art Show, 3-D Design Performance, Theatre Performance, Visual Art Artist Lectures, Educational Film Festival, Zine Workshop, Open Mic, and The Flaming Lips' Zaireeka Production. Students showcased their work. A "best of" video of the event was produced by local professional videographer Elizabeth Holloway. (<https://www.trinidadstate.edu/springfest/>)



- Sharon Jesang finished her TSC career with 12 All-American performances, finishing 5th in the 5K and 8th in the 1500m at the 2022 NJCAA National Track Meet in Kansas May 21st.
- Ahmed Sado placed second in the nation in the 3000m Steeplechase May 20th. Sado ran 9:09.72 to earn his second All-American honor of the meet
- At the 2022 NJCAA National Track Meet in Kansas, the Trojan 4x800m relay team made up of Adrian Villarreal, Ahmed Sado, Ethan Coyhis and Conner Dosmann got TSC off to a great start with a 3rd place finish, only .01 seconds behind 2nd place.



- Rocky Mountain Line Tech graduation includes a luncheon celebration with families, a line-tech "rodeo" showcasing student skills followed by a graduation ceremony.



Transform our own workforce experience.

- Student Achievement and Athletic Awards were held on each campus this spring. The awards included those received by students in the categories of Outstanding Leader Award, Student Employee of the Year Award, Emerging Scholar Award and Exemplary Service to the Community Award. Student-voted Faculty of the Year, Adjunct Instructor of the Year Award and Staff Employee of the Year Award were also given. This year faculty members Jodi Garcia and Kevin Walker received awards; instructors Evert Brown and Sharonae Ortiz; and staff employees of the year Roberta Taylor-Hill and Peter Freeman. On the Trinidad Campus, Chase Porter was student-voted Residence Hall Advisor of the Year.
- Housing wrapped up the year with a fun night out at Trinidad Smokehouse! This was a great team of Resident Assistants and we were very proud of all they accomplished this year.



Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

- The Collaboratory (makerspace) at Trinidad State was recently awarded two grants, which will provide membership scholarships to the Collaboratory. A \$500 award from Las Animas County will assist middle school students and adults while a \$3,000 grant from the Bar NI Community Service Fund will allow the Collaboratory to provide memberships to at least 50 secondary and home-school students for up to a year. Students will benefit from cross-discipline learning and exposure to new technologies as well as career exploration. In addition to learning how to use a variety of equipment, students in makerspaces learn teamwork, flexibility, problem solving, and a variety of hands-on skills teaching them to think outside the box, and that it is okay to fail and try again. Access to membership scholarships will remove financial barriers that might have prevented students from taking advantage of this opportunity. The Collaboratory is offered to Trinidad State's students at no charge.



- We love our TSC athletic teams, and the baseball team sure turned out to support The Trinidad Healthy Kids Running Series inspiring local youth!
- The Robotics Department held their spring Open House explaining and demonstrating all of the exciting projects they worked on this semester.



- On Wednesday May 18, 2022 Trinidad State College was the host location for the annual "**Agua es Vida**" **Trinidad Water Festival**. Over 900 local K-12 students visited educational interactive presentations across campus focused on the importance of clean water and how it impacts nearly every area of our lives. Students interacted with over three dozen different water focused presentations throughout the campus. A number of the presentations were given by Trinidad State faculty members.

A very broad collaboration of the community comes together to make this event happen; the education community, city and county government, business and civic sponsoring organizations, nonprofits support, many presenters from various water aspects, and volunteers from many areas of the community. The festival is planned after TSC graduation and before area K-12 schools let out for the summer.



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

- Faculty member, LiAnn Richardson, works with multiple correctional facilities serving Second Chance Pell (SCP) students. She has visited all facilities in person this semester and is attending graduations across the state. Three SCP students attended the Trinidad Campus graduation in celebration not only in their degree attainment, but also in their moving beyond the correctional facilities.

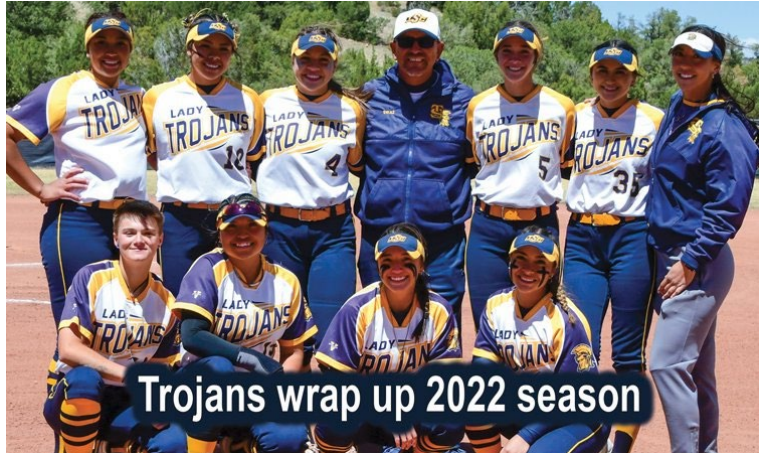
- The federal Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) statistics for first, second, and third quarter confirm again Trinidad State's Adult Education at the top of the list with measurable skills attainment of 49% compared to a statewide average of 39.9%. The federal sanctions level is at 34.2%. This program is strong. General Education Degrees (GED) or rather HSE, High School Equivalency credential via GED celebrated this spring representing our Trinidad, Walsenburg, and Alamosa sites totaled 24.
- Trinidad State's Dental Assisting Program on the Valley Campus was highlighted in the Alamosa Valley Courier in early May. In addition to classroom study, fifty hours of internship is required for the program and students are smoothly finding employment after graduation. Molly Cavett, one of the students now working in a dental office, said "When I saw that ad for the program, I decided I'm going to try it. The program's great."

Deedra Gray, an ambitious student who likes variety in her life is a three-time Trinidad State graduate holding an Accounting Clerk certificate, and both Associate of Science and Associate of Arts degrees. "I had always been interested in the dental field and I wasn't sure it was something I wanted to take on," she said. "I love it. This is one of my favorite things I'm doing." Gray now works full-time in a dental office and part-time in the radiology department at the hospital.

Dentists in the San Luis Valley partner with the program with donations of needed items as well as welcoming students for learning experiences in the dental offices and hiring students upon graduation.



- The end result was not what the Trojan Softball team wanted but then again, winning back-to-back championships isn't easy. One thing for sure, this team played with a lot of heart and passion each game and fought to the very end. Trinidad State ended the 2022 season with a 27-27 record and 18-12 in Region 9 play.



- The Trojan Baseball season came to an end in the championship game of the 2022 Region 9 tournament in Colorado Springs. TSC finished the year with a 44-17 record and a second-place finish in the conference. Isaac Gallegos was one of the leaders for the Trojans all year. The sophomore right-hander from Grants, New Mexico was selected as the Pitcher-of-the-Year for the region. He also shattered a few long-established Trinidad State Baseball records. Gallegos wrapped up the season with 138 strikeouts, topping the record of 117 set by Nate Cabrera in 2003. Gallegos also broke Cabrera's Career Strikeouts record of 199, setting a new mark with 218 strikeouts over his two years. His 12 wins on the season tied the all-time single season wins record. This record is now held by Gallegos, Paul Imig (1981), Mark Lee (1984), Pete Hartman (1991) and Ryan Mueller (1993).



- “Students, today, and from this point forward, you are a college graduate. You’ve completed your goal under some difficult and extraordinary circumstances, during yet another year that was at least partially restricted due to the global pandemic. You have learned to cope with uncertainty, to adapt, and you’ve learned how to keep moving forward. This will serve you well in the future.... always remember that you persevered.” ~ 2022 Graduation Speech excerpt, Dr. Rhonda Epper

- “In a world beset by lines and divisions, I see Trinidad as a community that embraces the larger borderlands region it serves. This area, from indigenous land, to Mexico, to New Mexico, to Colorado, this community has served as a hub of people seeking to build a better life for centuries.

“The journey you’ve been on has not just been a journey for your own education - it’s been a journey for your family and your ancestors who have worked to get you here today. So today as you begin a new journey, let us also honor your families, your communities, your ancestors. Congratulations!”
~ 2022 Graduation message excerpt, Dr. Landon Mascareñas

