



Trinidad State College Report of Activities August 2021

Rhonda M. Epper, Ph.D., President

Transform the student experience.



- Energy, excitement, and fun! Volleyball hosted the 8-team SOCO Classic last weekend – a great kickoff for the season.



- Students dissect cadavers to learn human anatomy at Trinidad State. Learning how all the systems work together is knowledge Kevin Walker, Ph.D. has taken into his cadaver labs. Walker's biology and anatomy/physiology students have dissected individual organs from pigs, such as a heart "but working with that particular organ doesn't do justice to what the heart does in relation to the vascular system," said Walker.

Reagen Rico (32), who was raised in Trinidad, started college at Trinidad State right out of high school. “My head wasn’t in the right place,” she said. “I wasn’t focused, and I didn’t do well. I dropped out of school and went to work fulltime.” She had taken a number of nursing prerequisites before she quit and had earned a Certified Nurse Assistant certificate, but she said, “If you don’t have a good degree, work can be very hard. I know from experience that CNAs work very hard. I have two young children (2 and 7) and I want a stable job that pays well to support myself and my children.” Rico plans to graduate and become a registered nurse in 2023. Although she’s not sure yet which area of interest she will pursue, she loves babies and kids and is leaning toward obstetrics.

“After dissecting cats in high school,” said 17-year-old Hoehne high school student, Mara Salbato, “it was really strange to move from animal to human.” She explained how the process is done very slowly, layer by layer and it’s more about scraping than cutting. Salbato, who recently completed A&P 201 said the class reinforced her interest in medical research and pathology. “The instructor was very helpful, was easily accessible and always willing to answer a question. My favorite parts of the class were the labs - using the microscopes and dissecting - and seeing real life application of the things we were reading about. I really liked it.” To read the full story: <https://trinidadstate.edu/news/2021/0810.html>



- The 2021-2022 RA Staff spent 6 days training, preparing for move in day and bonding as a team. We walked around campus to familiarize ourselves with offices and faces and decorated campus with chalk art to prepare for move in day. We had a great move in day!



- New Student Orientation Days on each campus included welcomes by leadership, great fun with Play Fair activities, family sessions, and student advising, financial aid information, log-in basics for the portal, and a session “All about TSC.” T-shirts were given highlighting the day “Elevating Education at Trinidad State.”



- The eSports Center project has been underway since January with the majority of the physical setup occurring over the summer. The center is about 95% complete with seven of the 13 brand new, state-of-the-art gaming computers having arrived last week. The eSports Center located on the Valley Campus has been drawing quite a bit of attention with new eSports athletes joining the team daily. We now have 15 collegiate players (those attending 12+ credits) who will be competing through the NJCAA and four competitive players (those attending 6-11 credit hours) who will compete in scrimmages against other colleges as well as compete in tournaments not affiliated with NJCAA.

The games we play: CoD Cold War (CoD = Call of Duty); FIFA; Rocket League; Madden; Rainbow 6; Super Smash Brothers Ultimate; Hearthstone; CoD Warzone; CoD Cold War Gunfight; Valorant; NBA2K21; and Overwatch.

Transform our own workforce experience.

Donna Haddow, Continuing Education Coordinator, had the pleasure of presenting a certificate to Jim Stevens when he taught a Scrimshaw class this summer. 2021 was Jim's 15th year teaching for Trinidad State making him currently the longest serving instructor in the Summer Gunsmithing and Heritage School programs. Thanks, Jim!



- Kelly Kissane, Ph.D., continues as an online courses reviewer to determine Quality Matters standards. She is also celebrating this week her 10th episode of her radio show "Science Views from the Valley."

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

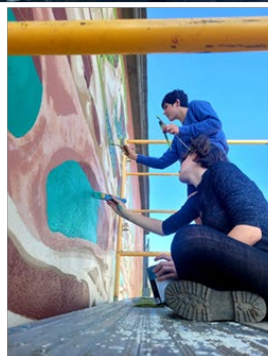


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Planetary Structural Geology and Tectonics Group

- Trinidad State's Visual Arts Department faculty member, Ily Reiling, worked with the Mississippi State University Geology Department as an instructor utilizing Trinidad Lake State Park as a field site. MSU Geology professor wrote, "Thank you again for sharing your expertise with our faculty and students. I am so thankful we had the opportunity to collaborate, and I could not be more appreciative of your patience and willingness to help us learn to sketch rock outcrops. The students learned so much from you, and it absolutely showed. We continued to watch them apply techniques you taught them and reference ways of sketching throughout the rest of the field course. "
- Early in August area middle and high school athletes had the opportunity to join TSC coaches, sports medicine staff and athletes for an Athletic Testing Combine to measure athletic improvement made throughout the year and compare how athletes measure up against other athletes in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico. Skills measured included vertical jump, broad jump, seated shot put, bench press, pro-agility and more.

- The Title V. Cumbre Program is off and running! Pam Espinoza, Director and Connie Rivale-Peraza, Success Coach have been meeting with students and informing them about what the Cumbre, (“Summit” in Spanish), Program and Innovative Learning Center can offer them. The Cumbre Program can provide success coaching, campus life assistance, academic advising, peer mentoring and leadership opportunities. The Cumbre Program also administers the Project Success program, which provides Trinidad State students with financial literacy training to help them achieve success in education and in life. The Cumbre Program participated in New Student Orientation, the Athletes Welcome Back meeting and the student Welcome BBQ on both the Trinidad and Valley campuses, as well as presenting information at Faculty Inservice. The Title V. Cumbre Program looks forward to assisting students, faculty and staff in the future!



- Trinidad Youth Mural Program’s goal is focused on creating a more beautiful and dynamic Trinidad. This group is founded, led, and initiated by local students. In summer 2021, the group consists of four local high school sophomores who are invested in making their hometown reflect their passion for art, public works, and collaborative spirit. This group is co-lead by a college student and Trinidad State’s visual arts professor. They came together to design and create a mural on a 600 sq. ft public wall in Downtown Trinidad; on the corner of Elm and Linden. Fundraising efforts have raised \$2300 in scholarships for these students to use at TSC in the next five years.

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

- Trinidad State Adult Education Services had 27 graduates in May. The State set the Measurable Skills Gain at 37%, and not only was this goal met, but exceeded, at 52%. The summer session wrapped up serving 52 learners; 18 of which are now in the testing pipeline, completing at least one of their 4 GED tests while one has recently graduated. Always moving forward.
- Trinidad State welcomed 95 students from 21 states and 20 different cities in Colorado to the summer Gunsmithing and Heritage School programs. A total of 19 different classes were held in subjects ranging from Introduction to Gunsmithing for Veterans and Machine Shop to Hat Making and Basic Bladesmithing. After several summers taking classes, three students completed the Gunsmithing Technician certificate this summer. The three students were from New Mexico, Utah, and Florida.
- When asked how the semester was starting, Auto Service Technology faculty member, Jim Brunelli, said, "I'm lovin' it, all the new students are "Great!" This first week of classes, I have walked the shop 56,524 steps, which equals per my stride = 26.76 miles." Thanks for going the extra mile for our students, Jim!

