

Trinidad State College
Report of Activities
May 2024



Rhonda M. Epper, Ph.D., President





Celebrations all! Commencements on each campus, Nurse Pinnings on each campus, Adult Education graduations on each campus. Congratulations.

Transform the student experience.



The TSC Robotics team took home the Grand Prize at the Colorado Space Grant Consortium (COSGC) Research Symposium on April 28th for the second year in a row! Congratulations to all! Their presentation may be found at: [Trinidad State Colorado Space Grant Robotics Grand Prize Award Winning Research presentation.](#)

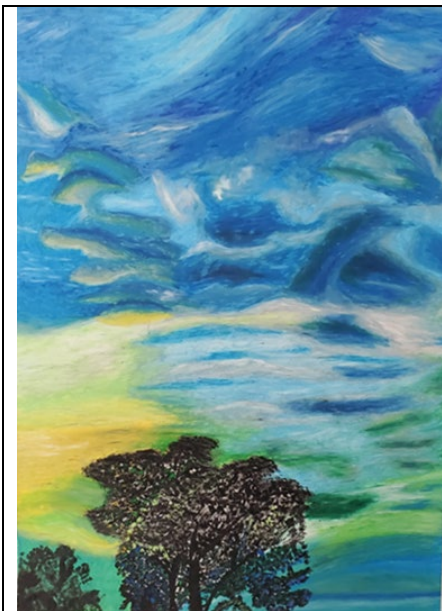
In early May the team shared their presentation with the college and the community at large. They showed everyone around the robotics lab and answered questions and demonstrated the robots. What a great, hard-working team.

Crime Scene Investigation class, taught by Trinidad PD Detective Sgt. Jen Lay shows students processing a mock crime scene. Required activities included photography, fingerprinting, a crime scene sketch, bagging/tagging evidence, blood spatter analysis and report writing. Crime Scene Investigation is one of the many electives available to our Criminal Justice students at TSC!



Congratulations to our **Trojan Outdoor Track All-Americans!** Alliyah Molina (5K and 10K), Megan Garrett (3k Steeplechase and 5K), Hanibal Haile (5k), Vincent Kipchirchir (3k Steeplechase) and the rest of their Trojan teammates who also had great showings this weekend - Carli Valdez, Kameron Eustace, Kyle Awelagte and Daniel Recio -- Amazing year Trojan runners and Coaches! [#TrojanProud](#)

The amazing run by the Trojan Softball team ended in the final eight of the NJCAA National Tournament. TSC fell 4-1 to Walters State. Congratulations to this great group of young student-athletes, we are so proud of you! The Trojans won 40 games this season, an all-time TSC record, winning three of those games at the National Tournament. Thank you to all of our Trojan fans, families and boosters for your support - We are [#TrojanProud](#)



Such beautiful, beautiful work. Art student, Evan Marquez, sold this painting (left), a depiction of the original photograph (right).

TSC Student Art Show: April 5 – 26 held at the A.R. Mitchell Museum and in collaboration with The Art Committee of Trinidad. We had over 300 people in attendance during this show. Students sold over \$1300 worth of their artwork, with no commission fees. All participating students were in attendance.



April was **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**. In Alamosa, we did the Clothespin Project in conjunction with Tu Casa (shelter and services center) where bandanas were decorated and hung to showcase support for survivors of sexual assault. Together, we also had Chalk the Walk where students, faculty, and staff could decorate the entryway with facts about sexual assault and domestic violence, as well as messages for survivors.



On the Trinidad Campus we had the March and Movie event where we met at our local Way Out West Coffee Shop and marched to the Massari Theatre on campus to watch a documentary about SA victims to be concluded with a Q&A. Additionally, we had the Speak Out where local, state, and college officials spoke about the fight to end SA. These events were hosted by the Office of Student Well-Being in conjunction with Student Life, Resident Life, SGA, Spark the Change Colorado, the Trinidad Police Department, and our local Grupo Azteca. All events were offered in Spanish and English.

A big shoutout to our **Robotics team at TSC** who stepped up and helped a failing hydraulic system on a trailer. A few members of the team, Cayden Newport, Cade Vigil, Micah Knight and Makai Chambers saved the day for our Nursing program delivery by finding the parts and fixing the issue!
🕶️ [#ExceedExpectations](#)



Student Achievement and Athletic Awards were held on each campus celebrating our students and our athletes. Student Achievement Awards included Emerging Scholar, Outstanding Leader Award, Student Employee of the Year, and Exemplary Service to the Community Award.



Bridging Generations had a third gathering right before spring semester finals with a pizza and game night that included laughter, conversation, and snacks for the students to take back to the dorms for finals week.



Transform our own workforce experience.



TSC's Wiley inducted into New Mexico Agriculture Teacher Hall of Fame

Trinidad State Dean of Instruction Jack Wiley was recently elected to the 2024 New Mexico Agriculture Teacher Hall of Fame. Jack taught agriculture and Future Farmers of America from 1972-1975 at Moriarty New Mexico and Logan, New Mexico from 1986-1989. Jack then accepted an administrative role in Clayton schools where he served for the next 25 years first as a principal and his last 15 years as Superintendent of Schools. Never one to “retire,” Jack soon accepted a position at Trinidad State College in Alamosa.

The Agriculture Teachers Association of New Mexico Hall of Fame exists to recognize and honor agricultural science teachers whose careers, achievements, and contributions stand exemplary. Inductees are known as well-rounded professionals that have proven their success with FFA activities, in the classroom, as well as community involvement. They have proven their desire to provide students with opportunities for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success over a significant period of time.

Jack is immensely proud of his profession as an agriculture educator and of the humble beginnings in a small rural town in northern New Mexico that made him the man he is today. Jack is an outstanding teacher, leader, advisor, husband, father, grandfather, and a committed member of New Mexico

agriculture. He is the role model for students and educators to emulate. Jack takes his responsibility to Agriculture seriously and with an attitude of sincere professionalism. He has been an active member of New Mexico agriculture helping guide young people through the challenges faced in an industry that is more important than ever. Congratulations, Jack.



Trinidad State Gunsmithing Professor, **Ryan Newport** welcomed visitors to the **2024 NRA Gunsmithing Schools booth** at the Convention answering questions and sharing our program.

Gordon Ambrosek wrote, “Was great seeing you guys today, hope you have an awesome show; can’t wait until I get to do some more classes at Trinidad.”



Appreciation receptions were held on each campus honoring our retirees and recognizing years of service in 5-year increments. Retirees are: Ruth Blasi, Cindy Clements, Santina Frank, Laura Gowen, Sue Nesbitt, and Roberta Taylor Hill. Years of Service (5) Dr. Dustin Hyman, Dr. Tom Nordgren, Logan Schmit, Calvin Smith, Kevin Walker, Nathan Haslett, Kyle Masterson; (10) Nick Galasso; (15) Donna Haddow, Angie Medina, Yvette O’Brien, LiAnn Richardson; (20) Desi Maxwell (35) Leslie Hollingsworth and (40) Loretta Martin. Dan Jolly, Classified Employee of the Year. Thank you all so very much!



Trinidad State Criminal Justice professor and Las Animas County Sheriff's Deputy **Sarah Sloane** participated in **Boston's annual Run To Remember** half marathon and 5 mile. Fallen Deputy Travis Russell and Sergeant Matthew Moreno were among those honored on the wall. Thank you Sarah for sending these pictures and congratulations on an amazing run!!!

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

The **Makerspace at Trinidad State** recently held an open house to showcase the new equipment added to the inventory available to students and the public. One of the goals of the makerspace is to serve as a business incubator, which will allow aspiring entrepreneurs to start their small manufacturing businesses with our equipment until they can afford to purchase their own. The open house attracted several locals with exactly that plan in mind. Another need that presented itself during the open house was training for those who have purchased equipment, but don't know how to use it. We will be scheduling workshops for those who need this assistance soon.

The cosmetology department on the Trinidad campus gave free manicures to all area teachers for Teacher Appreciation week 🍷. What a wonderful way to celebrate our community and say thank you.

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

Art Department Overview: The Art Department is proud to celebrate its first DWD graduates in spring of 2024. There will be four students graduating this year. Two of those students are transferring to BFA programs (accepted), one will be going into a graphic design/writing program, and the other will be working with local art non-profits for the next year.

The Art Department has recruited three new Studio DWDs for the upcoming year. Two of these students have accepted the 24/25 visual arts scholarship. This recruiting is ongoing.

The department will offer two new classes this year to support the DWD program and non-art major students. This comes in the form of a print-making class and a ceramics class. Students have included work from these classes in multiple shows and sales, including the 2023 Fall Print Sale and the TSC Student Art Show housed at the Mitchell Museum in Trinidad. The Art Department has also offered Art Appreciation courses through the Second Chance Pell Program the entirety of the school year.



The Aspen Institute Names Trinidad State as a Semifinalist for Prestigious 2025 Aspen Prize! TSC is one of 20 Community Colleges being considered for the national award that recognizes Excellence in Student Outcomes, both in college and after graduation.

TROJAN ATHLETICS
2023-2024

- 1** TEAM NATIONAL TITLE
- 5** REGIONAL TITLES
- 3** DISTRICT TITLES
- 1** TEAM 2ND@NATIONALS
- 1** TEAM 4TH@NATIONALS
- 2** TEAMS 8TH@NATIONALS
- 4** Individual National Titles
- 30** All Americans
- 1** National Coach of the Year
- 2** District Coaches of the Year
- 3** Regional Coaches of the Year