

Trinidad State College
Report of Activities
February 2024 / March 2024



Rhonda M. Epper, Ph.D., President

Transform the student experience.

On March 5th **Criminal Justice students** visited Trinidad Correctional Facility to take a tour and to learn about careers in Corrections from the officers there. They also participated in a meaningful round table discussion with Second Chance Pell students discussing a variety of topics including how education benefits both groups, the differences between taking classes while incarcerated vs. on campus, and future plans for putting their degrees to use upon graduation.



The Equity Committee, Title V, and Student Life have sponsored a number of events this spring including **Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** and a talk by Eric Carpio, Chief Community Museum Officer and Director of Fort Garland Museum & Cultural Center at History Colorado titled: **Buffalo Soldiers: African American Soldiers who Built The American West**. This talk was in person on the Valley campus and virtually available on the Trinidad Campus.

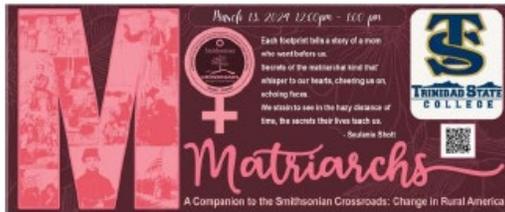
Trinidad State is pleased to announce our new podcast initiative "**TSC Trojan Talks**." The podcast is available on Apple Podcasts and Spotify! Follow us and don't miss any exciting news and athletic events happening throughout the semester!

Spotify - <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/tsc-trojan-talks>

Apple Music - <https://podcasts.apple.com/.../tsc-trojan-talks/id1732542736>



MARCH TSC LUNCH & LEARN PUBLIC TALK SERIES!



MATRIARCH PANEL: **MARILYN LEUSZLER & KITSY COMI** **& PAT VIGIL & MIMI ZAPPANTI**

In celebration of **Women's History Month**, and as a companion event to the Smithsonian Crossroads Change in Rural America exhibit, Trinidad State hosted a Matriarch Panel of prominent women from the Trinidad community.

A facilitated discussion with strong participation on each campus was meaningful for the college youth as well as the seasoned matriarchs who shared their lessons learned and their diverse life stories.

In athletic news

TSC Trojans -- Led by Sebastian Freeman and his second-place finish, four Trojans will be headed to the NJCAA Wrestling National Championships in early March. Freeman, Chanry Morm, Erik Mestas and LaDainian Gordon will represent TSC in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Great job Wrestling team!



TSC Trojans -- National Champion Alert!!!

Alliyah Molina runs away from the field to claim the title in the Women's 5000m with an outstanding time of 17:00.17!

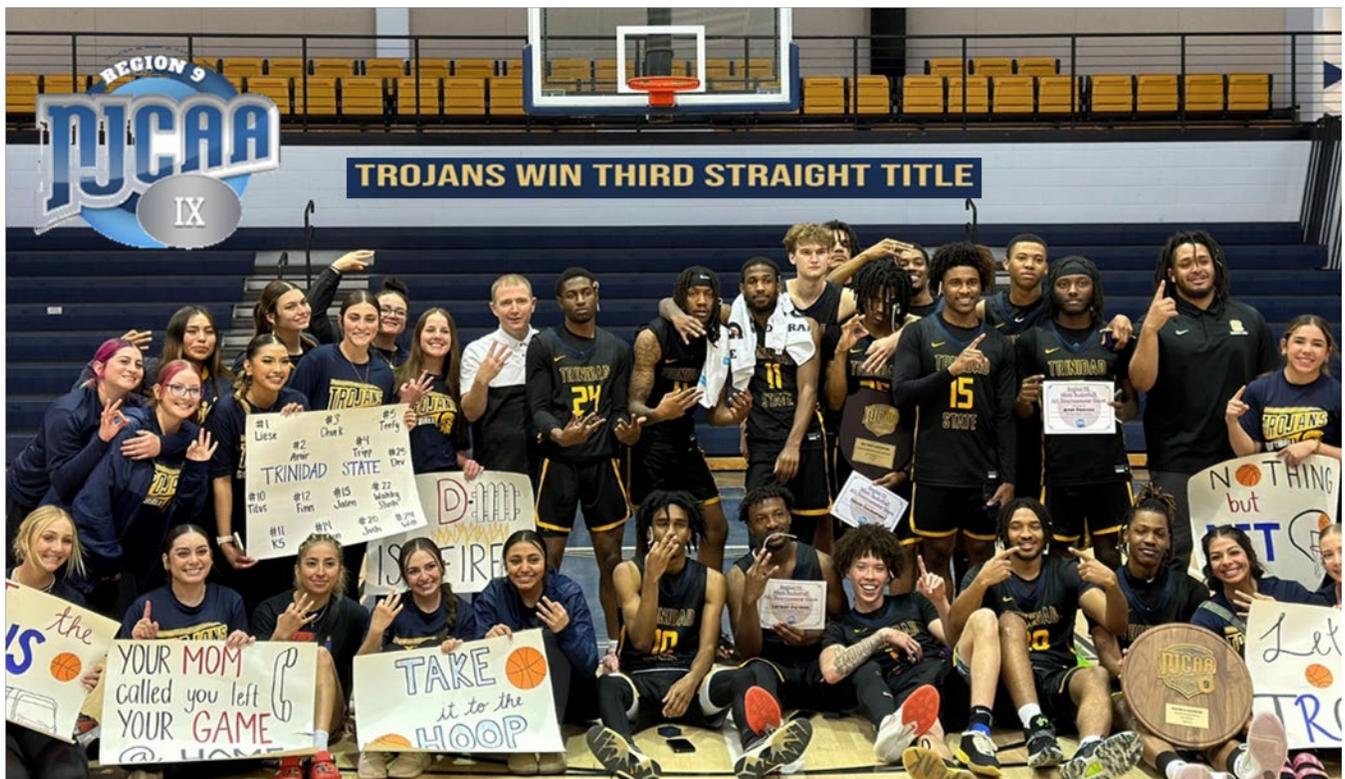
TSC Trojans -- National Champion Alert!!!

Hanibal Haile uses a huge kick on the last lap to win the Men's 5000m with a time of 14:02.78!

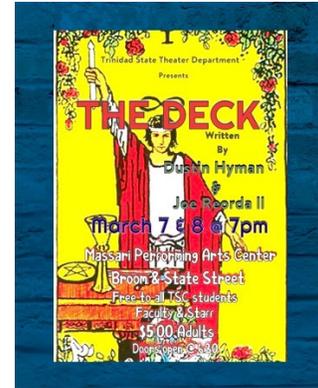
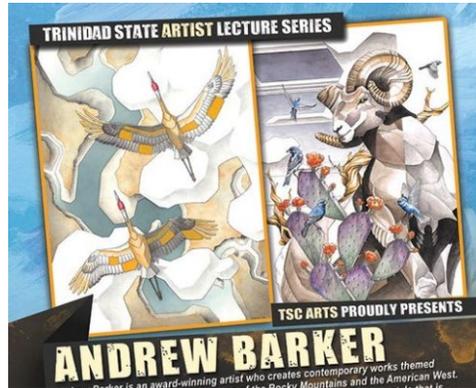
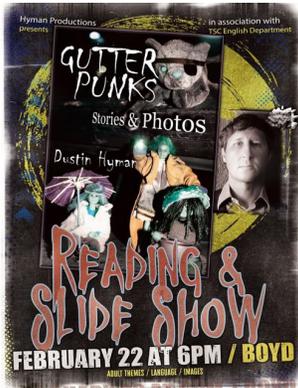


TSC Trojans -- Trojan Track had a great showing at the 2024 Indoor National Championships with the women placing 8th overall and the men 12th. Hanibal Haile, Alliyah Molina and Megan Garrett combined for eight All-American honors and a pair of National Championships. We are proud of these athletes and their coaches!

TSC Trojans – Men’s Basketball 3rd straight Region 9 Title!



Transform our own workforce experience.



Trinidad State Arts and Humanities hit spring semester with multiple programs including a reading and slide show by Dr. Dustin Hyman featuring his newly published book “Gutter Punks.” The Artist Lecture Series this month featured Andrew Parker and students performed a one-act play written and directed by TSC faculty members Joe Reorda II and Dustin Hyman.

A high school outreach program “Arts in the Schools” is ramping up this spring with English professor, Dr. Tom Nordgren working with Trinidad High School English department on student projects and guest lectures.

Fun times at Trinidad State!

- Thank you to all who participated and a special congratulations to the winners of the 1st annual **TSC Chili Cook Off!**
 - Kendall Velarde, 1st Place - Achieved Chili Greatness and Capturing the Crown as the Ultimate Chili Maestro!
 - Connie Rivale-Peraza 2nd Place - Achieved Spice Slinger Extraordinaire: A Fiery Runner Up
 - Dr. Rhonda Epper 3rd Place - The Spicy Trailblazer - You've Got That ZING!



President Epper and husband Myland Pride recently enjoyed an evening at a **community nonprofit fundraiser** with Student Affairs college leadership and student government leaders. A fun evening with good food, good laughs, and good music.

Seated: Shelby Gonzales, Alicia Massarotti, Freddy Burciaga, Cristina Luquin, Deniz Yileri, Jasmina Kujevic. Standing: Rhonda Epper and Myland Pride

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.



Outstanding welding student Tarzan Gomez, Recruiter, Vivian Lewis, VP Workforce Development Jim Kynor, and Dean of Instruction LoriRae Hamilton worked the tables at the recent **San Luis Valley Career Fair** held on the Adams State University campus in March.

The **Collaboratory makerspace** has been happy to host members of the local 4H youth quilting group while their usual space has been under renovation. One 4H member helped us assemble a sewing table while another worked on a sewing machine we had not been able to use and got it running. It's been a great partnership for both the college and the 4H kids.

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

Building teamwork and providing in-person training between campuses, Business Office (Purchasing, Payroll, Accounts Payable & Accounts Receivable) traveled to the Valley Campus to meet new staff, answer questions about purchasing, payroll, etc., and provide a short training regarding the PCard/ purchasing side of things.



In mid-February, Trinidad State President, Dr. Rhonda Epper, joined Colorado higher education leaders, legislators and **Governor Jared Polis at a press conference** where Gov. Polis announced a legislative funding plan to train more doctors, nurses, veterinarians and allied health professionals across our state. A \$20 million renovation of the Valley Campus will

enable program growth of TSC health care educational programs such as nursing and allied health as well as much needed space for student wrap-around services in all CTE and transfer programs.

In March, Adam Lock of **KSLV Radio** interviewed **Dr. Epper**, to record a Valley Views Radio program to discuss the Valley Campus and the pending improvements and remodeling legislature. The interview went very well and was heard on KSLV 96.5 FM, KYDN 95.3 FM, KBGV 1240 AM and KBGV 101.3 FM.



At CoorsTek in Golden, Trinidad State president Dr. Rhonda Epper joined Governor Polis and our partners from Emergent Campus to announce a \$3.5 million grant - bringing jobs, training, and innovation to Trinidad and the Southern Colorado region. Our project was selected out of 43 grant winners to be featured at the event. See our press release at the link below to learn more. <https://trinidadstate.edu/news/2024/0311.html>

Thank you to all our partners!

Trinidad School District #1 - <https://tsd1.org/>

Emergent Campus - <https://emergentcampus.com/>

Pueblo Community College - <https://pueblocc.edu/>

Colorado Education Initiative - <https://www.coloradoedinitiative.org/>

Opportunity Now Colorado - <https://opportunitynow.co/>

