



Trinidad State College Report of Activities Fall 2021

Rhonda M. Epper, Ph.D., President

Transform the student experience.



- Open Houses were held on each campus in early November. Faculty, staff and current students turned out to welcome our communities and high school students. It was a wonderful opportunity to share our programs, give demonstrations, and converse. State House Representative Don Valdez, SBDC Director and TSC Advisory Council member Jason Medina, President Epper, Vice President Kynor, and Tom Monaco from the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, Rural Opportunity Rep. paused their Valley Campus touring long enough for a photo with Titus, TSC's Trojan mascot.

Valley Campus demonstrations included the Drone Program, Biology Lab, Archaeology Presentation, Cosmetology, among others. Trinidad Campus demonstrations included Automotive, Nursing, Collaboratory Makerspace, Robotics Team and Gunsmithing. Theatre Tech, Psychology, English and Communications were on hand as were Physics and Life Sciences. Adult Education programs and TPrep hosted information and program possibilities. Both campuses opened their student services to answer questions from admissions to advising to financial aid and offered the opportunity to register for spring semester classes to be included in a scholarship drawing.

At both events a teamwork-energy was felt and appreciated. It was a great event to be repeated. President Epper thanked all who participated, helped, shared their expertise, and provided outreach to our communities and prospective students.



- The RA team has been working hard this fall, and have created quite a bond. They participated in the hugely successful TSC Trunk or Treat! We spent an evening bowling together to let loose and have some fun!



- The first season of eSports at TSC is well underway! Faculty and staff are supporting the team by purchasing swag, following matches on Twitch or stopping by the eSports arena on the Valley Campus. Coach Sully is recruiting now for the Spring season.
- TSC Cross Country Team brought home the Region IX championship for both men and women during Regional finals in Wyoming. It was the second straight title for the women and fourth straight title for the men. Also, Sharon Jesang claimed the women's singles title. Way to go Trojans!
- Valley Campus cosmetology is celebrating our ability to adjust to change, our ability to be flexible about it and primarily celebrating our students. As this semester's nail tech teacher said, "I am so impressed by the amount of dedication and the progress that I have seen in my students." Students that are beginners are just so talented and I can't express how proud we are of each and every one of them.

- All campus stress reducer Student Government invited all to stop by for a cup of Hot Chocolate last week.



- The Trinidad State team of Rylee Baca, Faith Morefield, and Megan Pierce took 2nd place in the recent *Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative* Ethics Case Competition. Picture are Megan Pierce, Faith Morefield, Rhonda Epper, Ph.D., and Paul Boone, Ph.D., UCCS TSC Ethics Champion.

- The Women's Half Marathon team raced to the NJCAA National Runner-up spot, coming in just behind El Paso CC in the final scoring. Ashley Lagat (5th), Sharon Jesang (6th) and Holly Tsosie (9th) were the top three Trojan finishers. Congratulations to the Trojan Runners and Coaches!





The TSC Men's Half Marathon team placed 3rd at Nationals.

After finishing 4th at the NJCAA Cross Country Championships the TSC Trojan men had a tall order improving upon the week's accolades. However, as has become a regular occurrence in recent years, the Trojans outdid themselves. The field slated to compete was touted as the strongest to ever take the starting line at an NJCAA Championship. It would live up to predictions, with three individuals going under the previous championship record time.

Brian Rotich's time of 1 hour 4 minutes and 49 seconds was ten seconds under the previous National Record. A few minutes later Emmanuel Biwott flashed across the finish line in 11th place individually, taking his second All-American honor of the weekend. Right behind was Regan Longei who out raced another athlete to the line to also take his second All-American Honor of the weekend. The Trojans would finish in 3rd place as a team.


Transform our own workforce experience.

- Jack Wiley, Dean of Instruction, was chosen again this year as a National FFA (Future Farmers of America) Judge. Said Jack, "I recently judged the National FFA Proficiency awards. What an opportunity to interview four very talented young people from across the nation. Earlier in the year I judged a preliminary round from which the finalists were chosen. I have judged the state contests in New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, and Oklahoma. Several years ago, I had the opportunity to judge the national public speaking contest. I am very proud to be a part of the FFA's national contests."
- Criminal justice students on the Trinidad campus appreciated a presentation by Detective Sgt. Jen Lay from the Trinidad Police Dept on a homicide case that she was the lead detective on. This was an excellent opportunity for students to engage with Detective Lay and understand the complex process and intricates of working this type of case.
- Faculty members frequently share their expertise with our communities through our local newspapers and radio stations. Bob Philbin, physics and astronomy faculty member, shared information about the Milky Way Zodiacal light in an October article in The Chronicle-News; Dr. Sue Nesbitt's (psychology faculty) most recent "Thriving" column in the paper talked about how we can learn about ourselves by examining our assumptions. Dr. Kelly Kissane, biology faculty, shares monthly "Science Views from the Valley" on a KRZA radio program. TSC students, sponsored by geology and anthropology faculty member, Bill Hatcher, have a monthly information and interviews program on KRZA about important



topics of the day. Athletic Director, Mike Salbato, is a frequent guest of KCRT in Trinidad sharing news of our athletes and sports programs.

- First Fridays continues in Trinidad with an Art Walk in the Corazon de Trinidad. TSC Arts Committee sponsor an open mic during First Fridays and feature a poet or author. Students, community, and fellow faculty and staff attend, participate and enjoy. In November, featured poet was Hailey Bearden.

RICHARD ALFORD



Lora Nava



ARTIST LECTURE

DEPARTMENT OF
VISUAL ART
AND
ART HISTORY

TRINIDAD STATE COLLEGE
Masks and Social Distancing Required
For questions Contact Ily S. Reiling
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- Ily Reiling, Visual Arts Faculty Member, launched an artist lecture series featuring local area artists. The fall semester featured Rich Alford, photographer and painter and Lara Nava, fine art ceramicist.
- The art department has completed this semester's student art workshops. One in October and one in November. The painting workshop was taught by TA and Painting II student Rylee Baca. Art Club is up and running.



Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

- Action 22, a non-partisan membership organization serving to shape the future of our Colorado communities, held their annual meeting on the Trinidad State Campus in mid-October. Friday afternoon of the meeting was set up *Ted-talk style* and Dr. Epper was one of a dozen speakers that included Governor Jared Polis, Attorney General Phil Weiser, former Denver Bronco Randy Gradishar, James Eklund, CEO Eklund Hanlon, LLC., and Kevin O'Neil of The O'Neil Group. The speakers addressed issues facing Colorado's southern 22 counties. During the meeting, TSC President Epper, Lamar Community College President, Linda Lujan, Otero College President, Tim Alvarez, and CCCS Board Member, Landon Mascarenaz honored Colorado Senator Cleave Simpson with the CCCS Legislator of the Year

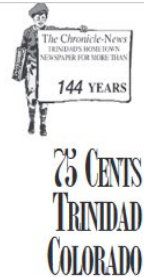
award for his leadership moving forward the bill which passed dropping the word “junior” from both Trinidad State’s and Otero College’s names.



- The Santa Fe Trail celebrated its 200th Anniversary this year and Trinidad State was part of the community celebration weekend. Calvin Smith shared relevant books of history with festival-goers at the celebration.

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(L-R) Marnix Hoogwater, Construction Class Instructor Jerry Begley, TSC President Dr. Rhonda Epper, Attorney General Phil Weiser, Las Animas County District No. 1 Commissioner Felix M. Lopez, Jeff Layton and Taylor Littrell are seen here Friday, Oct. 15 in front of 926 Stonewall Avenue in Trinidad, one of two homes acquired by Trinidad State College to help train students and address the local housing crisis.

Colorado AG calls TSC’s blighted housing project ‘success’

Other southeastern Colorado community colleges now looking to offer similar programs

- Check out this adventure! Theatre Program faculty members Joe Reorda Jr. and Christopher Smith discussed theatre through the ages, Trinidad's historic Fox West Theatre, and theatre productions at Trinidad State in an Art Adventures art/paranormal video podcast. You can find the episode at <https://newlegends.co/fox-theater-investigation/>.



Fishers Peak Sunrise November 2021

