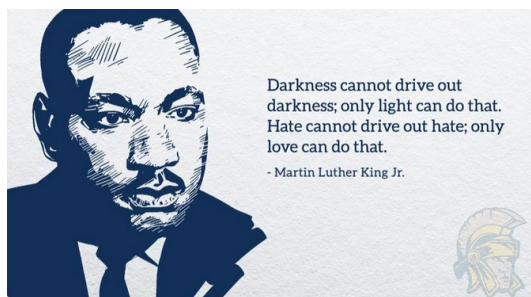




Trinidad State College Report of Activities December 2022 & January 2023

Rhonda M. Epper, Ph.D., President

Transform the student experience.



January 16, 2023 – Trinidad State remembered and celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s enduring legacy on MLK Day. Over the lunch hour, students, faculty and staff joined together to commemorate Dr. King's legacy through a history presentation by Dr. Paul Boone, History Professor and a student reading of Dr. King's famous and powerful "I HAVE A DREAM" speech.



- Did your lightbulb break? A recent Trinidad State Robotics team-building exercise had students building Lego apparatuses to hold and cushion a light bulb to absorb the shock when dropped from three stories. Did any, some, or all of the light bulbs break when they hit? After the drop, the surviving light bulbs were plugged in to see if they worked. Two lightbulbs survived the splat, one turned on, the other did not. One lightbulb did not survive BUT it actually turned on.

In further robotics news, the team is hard at work on this year's two robot project. One big robot (4 kg) and one little (less than 1.5 kg). This year's goal is for the little robot to send out a distress call after falling into a pit and the big one must save it...all autonomously. This year the Engineering Projects course has two balloon satellite payloads and two wearable projects.

- The Collaboratory makerspace hosted a table during December with the supplies needed for students, faculty, and staff to make decorations for the Holiday tree. The main theme was ugly sweaters, but we ended up with quite a variety. Student activities also provided spiced cider and a variety of goodies to snack on.



- Amy Diaz, Student Government Association (SGA) Treasurer, and Student Life Coordinator, Alicia Massarotti, offered the following SGA report of activities at Trinidad State.

Student Government Association (SGA) began Fall semester meetings in September. It consists of seven executive board members and student representatives. SGA is important for TSC for many reasons. SGA members are always willing to help find solutions and make our campus a better place for learning, interactions, hosting and planning events, promoting TSC to future students. We as SGA members are able to advocate for students and be a liaison between students and administration. Beyond building leadership skills, SGA members want all of our peer students to feel they are able to come to us with their concerns and when unsure where or who they should talk to. As an SGA member I enjoy getting to know all of our students. I also really enjoy getting to participate in all of our events on our campus and in our community.

This Fall semester several events were sponsored by the office of Student Life. Hosted events included ice cream socials and pizza lunches with Dr. Epper on both campuses. This allowed students to visit with, discuss, and ask Dr. Epper questions or concerns. One of our events that was very well attended at both campuses was the community Trunk or Treat event. Welcome meals were had at both campuses. Other activities included TSC promotion at the TSC High School Basketball tournament, sponsoring a hot beverage corner at the Valley campus and collaborating with marketing for a TSC social media scavenger hunt, with the Collaboratory for offering cookies, hot chocolate and painting ornaments before winter break.

Transform our own workforce experience.



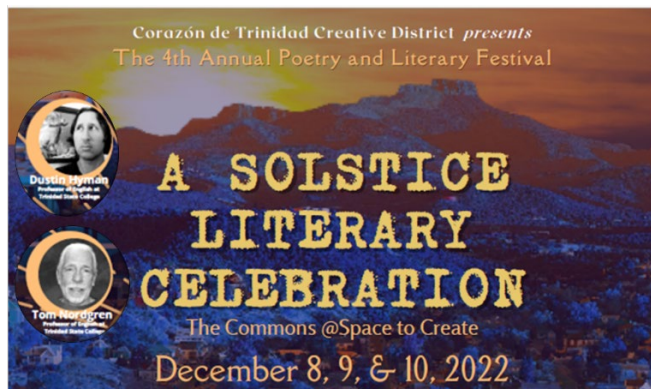
Welcome to John Lewis, Wrestling Coach at Trinidad State. Trinidad State College recently announced that in the coming 2023-24 academic year, the department will be bringing back the men's wrestling program and adding women's wrestling for the first time in school history. The men's program, which was extremely successful in the 1960's, was ended in the early 1970's the same year as football program came to an end. Now wrestling is set to return, and John Lewis has signed up to lead the program.

"It's a tremendous blessing to bring another college program back to Southern Colorado and the Trinidad community" Lewis commented. "It creates an amazing opportunity to both build and grow men's and women's wrestling for the state of Colorado. I'm truly excited to add to the culture and deeply rooted traditions of Trinidad with the rebirth of the wrestling programs."

- Shannon Shiveley, Vice President of Administrative Services, has been appointed as a member of the Third Judicial District Nominating Commission. Quoting from the appointment letter, "Colorado's judiciary is based on a merit selection system, the heart of which is the nominating commission process." Congratulations, Shannon.

- Calvin Smith, TSC Library Coordinator, will have two new books in publication this year. His first book of fiction “The Mammoth Quest: An Epic Expedition into the Past” is listed on Amazon.com “After a 45-year career as a museologist, archaeologist, paleontologist and historian, Calvin B. Smith retired the first time after a 20-year tenure at Baylor University as founder and Chair of the Department of Museum Studies, Director of the Strecker Museum Complex and the Waco Mammoth Site that has recently been designated as a National Monument. Although he has written dozens of articles, monographs and chapters in texts, this is his first novel, an action adventure narrative about the first person to be transported back in time to 13,000 years ago in an attempt to discern the origin, culture and livelihood of the Clovis people who are known to have hunted and killed mammoths with stone tipped darts cast with an atlatl.” The second book is planned for publication in March, and is titled "A History of the Waco Mammoth Site: In Pursuit of a National Monument," published by Baylor University Press.

- Trinidad State College’s Dean of Instruction and Nursing Director is dedicated to health care in southern Colorado. Though humble in spirit, few put in the miles between campuses, nor to meetings than this colleague. LoriRae, MSN, RN, is co-President for OADN **Alpha Delta Nu** Nursing Honor Society and sponsor for Colorado Student Nurses Association (CSNA). Additionally, Mrs. Hamilton serves on the State Board of Nursing as a Panel Chair and has been instrumental in curriculum development and revision within the Nursing discipline. As a simulation expert, she utilizes these resources for numerous types of scenarios to insure students have the competencies for both rural and metro health care. Please help us to give her a hand (pun intended) for support health care in our region.



Trinidad State College was well represented at the recent 4th Annual Poetry and Literary Festival in Trinidad in December. Dr. Dustin Hyman and Dr. Tom Nordgren, TSC English Professors, were both presenters as well as workshop instructors at the Corazon de Trinidad Creative District Solstice Literary Celebration event.

- Valley Campus staff and faculty enjoyed a holiday luncheon before break.



Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

- There are often barriers to student successful completion of a High School Equivalency. These may include working to support the family, taking care of younger siblings, and not being able to afford the testing fee. With appreciation for the “Students First” work that Trinidad State Adult Education Services does for our community, Trinidad PEO Chapter J recently gave a donation to help students with testing expenses.



- The community enjoyed an OPEN HOUSE to check out the Trinidad State Construction Technology program's first completed project. Since March last year, students have been working on the project and were pleased to show it off! Thank you to the Colorado Attorney General's office for generous support. The house was open to the public on Friday, December 9th at 926 Stonewall Avenue. The program is expanding to the Valley Campus in Spring 2023. *Photo: Jerry Begley, LiAnn Richardson, Keith Gipson, Lynette Bates, Rhonda Epper, Vanessa Devereaux, Anna Feyerherm*



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

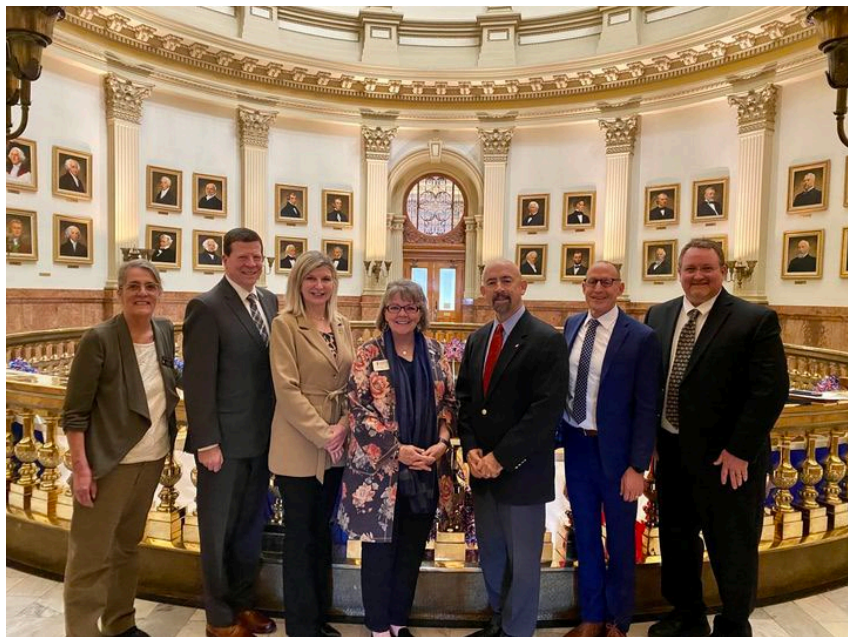


That first-day-back vibe 🤔🤔🤔

- Thank you to our community college presidents and leadership for coming to Denver to testify before the Capital Development Committee. Our collective advocacy efforts are critical for funding needs to support our campus buildings.

[Northeastern Junior College](#)
[Pikes Peak State College](#)
[Trinidad State College](#)
[Lamar Community College](#)
[Morgan Community College](#)

Photo: Lisa LeFevre, Mike White, Rhonda Epper, Linda Lujan, Joe Garcia, Lance Bolton, Curt Freed



- *Typical Trojan Moments* – the very best in how we treat one another. While writing this board report, it was as if three small, but meaningful things bumped into each other and enlarged beyond their individual parts. The first was the outstanding willingness to jump into action last Friday evening as heavy snow was falling, the men’s basketball team was playing (and winning) in the gym, and Dr. Epper and athletic director, Mike Salbato wondered if Air Force Prep would be able to travel home after the game. Omar Cano, Housing Director, Freddy Burciaga, Dean of Student Recruitment and Retention, Danny Rogers, Facilities Director and Matt Martinez with High Point Security pulled resources together and were ready to house the visiting team if they needed to stay on campus. They didn’t and all was fine, but we were also ready to extend hospitality if needed, thanks to Omar, Freddy, Danny, and Matt. The second was an email this morning from Marketing Coordinator, Justin Bustos. Quoting, “Our goal is to get the word out about all college events to build a culture across both campuses where everyone feels invited and is also informed about all of the great things we have going on at TSC.” Thanks, Justin for this statement of inclusion, well said. And the third was Donna Haddow, Continuing Education Coordinator, popping into the President’s Office to let Dr. Epper know about a generous community partner offering free room for a week for the instructors of an upcoming Wilderness First Responder class that will be held here on campus. The free rooms will enable the class expense to be lowered for students and a comfortable option for the instructors. Thank you to the owner/general manager of LaQuinta Inn and Suites for supporting Trinidad State and its programs. As long-term employee, Mike Salbato says – Typical Trojan Moments. Collaboration within, affirming inclusion, and community support of the college – great stuff!

Thank you!

