

Trinidad State College
Report of Activities
November 2023



Rhonda M. Epper, Ph.D., President



Email excerpt ... 10.31.23

Good morning, TSC colleagues,
I'm delighted to announce that Trinidad State has been selected by the Aspen Institute as one of the "Top 150" community colleges in the country! This is a tremendous honor, and one that signifies our collective work toward achieving strong outcomes for our students.

This is not the first time we have been recognized with this honor. As you have seen during our annual convocation meetings, we have - for years - been among the strongest colleges in Colorado for graduation, retention, and equitable outcomes.

Being named a Top 150 college means we are eligible to apply for the 2025 Aspen Prize. We will be working on our application over the coming weeks and will keep you apprised of our progress.

Thanks for all you do to support student success at Trinidad State. This recognition is for each and every one of you.

Respectfully,

Rhonda

Rhonda M. Epper, Ph.D. | President
Trinidad State College

Transform the student experience.



Lunch and Learn

For the November Lunch and Learn, TSC was honored to have Elaine DeLott Baker meet with students, staff, and faculty. Dr. Baker provided an intriguing and educational presentation covering her personal experiences with the Civil Rights Movement and education.



Congratulations to Everette Velarde, who along with 31 classmates, graduated from the **Rocky Mountain Line Technician Program** in late November. The intense program is designed to prepare students to build, repair, and maintain electrical distribution systems for private and public utility companies and related employers. Instruction in this program includes safety and overall electrical system operations, including electrical distribution, basic electrical theory, overhead and underground operations and maintenance. Velarde received multiple job offers during the job fair held the same day as graduation and will decide soon where he will launch his career. Velarde is son of college employee Leslie Velarde, Admissions Coordinator, who notes “Everette is prepared and ready to enter a tough career. The instructors were truly amazing and a wonderful team.”



- On October 31 both the Trinidad and Valley Campuses hosted **Trunk or Treat** for the community. Students, staff, faculty, athletic teams, clubs, residence hall staff decorated their trunks, first responders dressed up and shared laughs and fun times with children and youth from each respective community. This TSC sponsored activity is always a well-attended community event.

TrinAcoustic Concert

In October, TSC students, staff, and faculty were treated to free concert by the local band TrinAcoustic. TrinAcoustic provided a high energy concert experience with a great light and visual show that was enjoyed by many students, staff, and faculty. Lead guitarist is TSC Theatre Tech student, Jace Baribeau. The newly renovated (sound and light) Massari Theatre was a successful venue. The following night the band gave a public concert.



- **The Art Department** shared their fall semester review including the following service and community outreach items.



- Trinidad Youth Mural Program, directed by Art Faculty member Ily Reiling with student co-leaders, celebrated the completion of the 2023 mural in Downtown Trinidad, in collaboration with the City of Trinidad, The Trinidad Office of Outdoor Recreation, Trinidad Arts and Culture Council, and Spanish Peaks-Purgatoire River Conservation District. Seven scholarships were awarded through TSC Foundation's private fundraising efforts, supporting the ongoing program.
- Two \$500 scholarships were granted to studio students through commissioned illustrations, contributing to one student's enrollment as an Art major. These illustrations will be featured in the upcoming Trinidad State College Foundation alumni magazine.
- Four art students participated in set design and poster creation for the TSC Theatre Department. The set design involved four large paintings/drawings and one large painting displayed on the set.
- In collaboration with Daryl Oh, Smithsonian Museum Grant Recipient and Space to Create Artist, art students benefited from the guest lecturing in two studio art classes on art business, grant writing, and analogue photographic processes. This collaboration involved eight students working with Ms. Oh for a photo shoot. The exhibited photos will be featured in a local art opening in December, followed by a national traveling show and archival inclusion in the Smithsonian Museum.
- The TSC art department successfully hosted three Artist lectures this semester, attracting good attendance from both students and community. Artists being hosted included Cody Kuehl, TJ Pittman, and Valerie Savarie. This ongoing collaboration with the AR Mitchell Museum will continue with three lectures scheduled for Spring 2024 and two for the summer.



Cosmetology celebrated Friendsgiving this year with a potluck lunch!

- Wrestling Coach, John Lewis, notes that “It Takes a Village.”
“The support that Trinidad State Wrestling has received from parents, family, faculty, and community members has been truly welcoming and heartwarming for all of our wrestlers. Without this support, the TSC Trojans would not be where they are today. Your encouragement has allowed our men’s and women’s teams to feel in the right place as they dwell in their “home-away-from-home” and grow as young men and women. The faculty and staff work diligently to aid our wrestlers in their coursework; coaches dedicate countless hours for the betterment of our wrestlers; families give their hearts to the program as their kids develop into young adults.”



Trinidad State Men's Cross Country Team Triumphs at 2023 NJCAA Championship

Posted: Nov 12, 2023

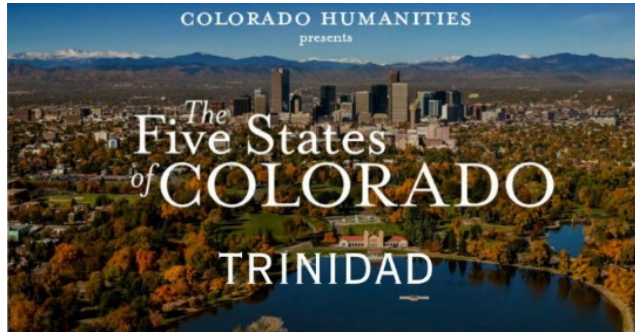
*Huntsville, Alabama - In an exhilarating display of grit and determination, the Trinidad State College Men's Cross Country team emerged victorious at the 2023 NJCAA National Championship held in Huntsville, Alabama, this Saturday morning. The Trojans' stellar performance marked a historic achievement for the team, securing their **first-ever NJCAA Championship in Cross Country.***

Transform our own workforce experience.

- Serving not only our students, but our community, TSC hosted a Career Fair in late November. It was attended by college students, high school students, and community members looking to talk with area businesses and agencies that are hiring. Over 20 employers as well as the Trinidad Workforce Center set up booths to talk with potential employees or to guide students on educational pathways to job opportunities.
- In support of those in our community who are working remotely, Trinidad State Continuing Education and the Trinidad-Las Animas County Chamber of Commerce have begun a

regular *Remote Worker Meet-and-Greet* event to connect socially as well as identify training needs or other resources needed for local remote workers. One was held here on campus in the makerspace “Collaboratory”, the next at a downtown gathering location. The connections strengthen opportunity for an important segment of our community.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.



- In collaboration with the Corazon de Trinidad Creative District, Smithsonian Exhibition, Crossroads: Change in Rural America and through association with Colorado Humanities, Trinidad State College screened the film “**The Five States of Colorado**” during Dr. Paul Boone’s Colorado History class. Students from both campuses were in attendance along with additional faculty and staff. The film is an engaging exploration and illustration of the five featured regions’ history, culture, concerns, and needs. Designed for a wide range of audiences from elementary school age to adults, this film addresses the history and issues within the five regions of Colorado.



Brad Rowland, Emergent Campus Entrepreneur, TSC President Rhonda Epper, Trinidad School District Superintendent, Bonnie Aaron, and School Board members toured Emergent Campus, Florence to learn more in anticipation of the Emergent Campus, Trinidad initiative as it moves forward in grant writing and planning.

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



- San Luis Valley Attainment Network Career-Connected Pathways Partnership Kick Off – Healthcare focus, College President's Epper and Tandberg attending with healthcare partner organizations in the San Luis Valley.

