



Trinidad State College Report of Activities June & July 2021

Rhonda M. Epper, Ph.D., President

Transform the student experience.

- Eight Trinidad State College students have received scholarships through the Foundation for Community Colleges of Colorado. Emma Gomez received a \$5000 scholarship from the Colorado Garden Foundation; Isaiah Coca received a FleetPro Association scholarship; Brent Place a Teruma BCT Scholarship; and Jon Montano, Corey Long, BrendaRae Baca, Ruth Edwards, and Holly Thomas all have received Stone Family Foundation Scholarships. Congratulations students, and thank you CCCS Foundation for administering these scholarships.



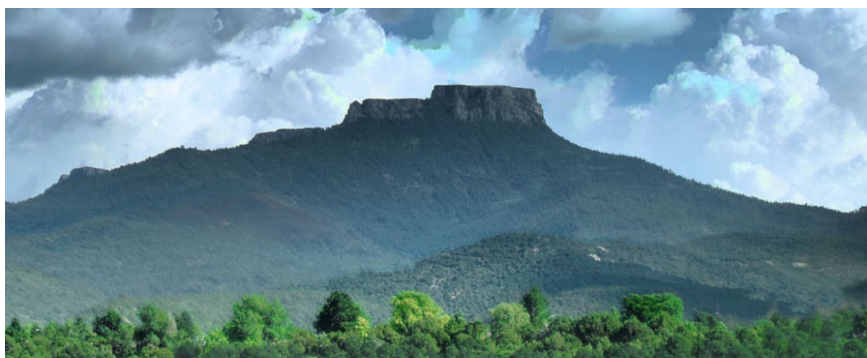
Trinidad State launches another NJCAA sport this fall – Trojan eSports. Students will participate in the world of competitive, organized video gaming in the new, state-of-the-art gaming arena on the Valley Campus. eSports students build teamwork, hone time-management and social skills, strategic thinking & planning, maintain academic standing, and effectively problem solve in various situations. Coached by Serena Sullivan. Go Trojans!

- Congratulations to Trinidad State coach Karli Salazar on team All-Academic Honors for Volleyball and Beach Volleyball! Wow -- #1 in Beach Volleyball and #3 in Volleyball! This is a testament to Salazar's work and support as a coach and dedication to helping student athletes succeed both on and off the court. Congratulations – you make us proud!
- The George W. Scott Award is presented to the Trinidad State athlete, or athletes who have participated in one or more major sports over three consecutive semesters and have the highest scholastic record of all athletes over that same period. This year Trinidad State had six student-athletes earn the prestigious award. The 2021 award winners are Andy Setser, Anna Palomar, Michael Allsup, Natalia Ospino, Antonio Collado, and Maria Llorente. "This group had to work harder than past Scott award winners due to the COVID issues which consistently interrupted their time in the classroom," commented Athletic Director

Mike Salbato. "They all handled the adversity well and excelled not only in the classroom, but they all stepped up as leaders on their teams and across campus. Managing to compete at a high level in college athletics at any level while maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA is impressive enough, but doing it during the COVID pandemic made it extra challenging and they all stepped up to the task. They are all high achievers who have amazing futures in front of them."



- Trinidad residents had a unique opportunity this summer to investigate Native American artifacts just miles from the classroom at Trinidad State. Only about one percent of the new Fisher's Peak State Park is open to the public now, but plans continue on trails, roads, and campgrounds. Covering more than 19,000 acres, this is Colorado's second largest state park and a rare opportunity for outdoor enthusiasts.



But before plans can be drawn, surveys must be done. What sights might visitors want to see? What's the most efficient way to protect those locations, while still allowing visitors to enjoy them? For four weeks, Trinidad State archaeologist and Scholar in Residence Calvin Smith lead students to suspected locations where Native Americans lived long ago. The Trinidad area has a rich fossil history and Smith wouldn't have been surprised to find evidence of paleontological life as well. "The first week was mostly classroom

introduction covering natural history as well. The second, third and fourth weeks, students worked on a very predetermined, logical survey to encompass as much as we could cover,” said Smith.

Transform our own workforce experience.

- Paul Boone, Ph.D., History will represent Trinidad State as our Southern Colorado UCCS Ethics Champion for the 2021-2022 academic year. Bill Hatcher and Desi Maxwell were last year’s ethics champions. Thank you Bill and Desi, Congratulations, Paul.
- Softball coach, Steve Swazo, was invited to present a workshop on coaching softball hitting at the Wyoming High School Coaches Conference. This year is the first year of softball being offered in Wyoming high schools and a dozen schools will be participating.
- Faculty member, Christopher Smith is working with the University of New Mexico Press to produce a book about Bank Night, a Depression-era promotion used by movie theaters nationwide and designed by a native of our region. The book's working title is *Bank Night and American Cinema During the Great Depression*. This book is based on research Smith began during a 2017 fellowship with the Theatre Historical Society of America. The book will be available in Spring 2023.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

- Trinidad State was pleased to host the June meeting of the Colorado Parks & Wildlife Commission in Scott Gym, keeping social distancing. CPW set up for both virtual attendance as well as a limited number of attendees in person. Governor Polis attended the meeting in person after a virtual press conference announcing the first five winners of the covid-vaccine college scholarships. We loved the jersey the governor wore! Dr. Epper greeted the commission and its new chair Carrie Besnette Hauser, President of Colorado Mountain College.



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

- What fun days both in Alamosa for the 99th Annual Ski Hi Stampede parade and in Manassa for the 136th Manassa Pioneer Days parade! Thank you to everyone who helped organize and decorate our floats for the events. We thoroughly enjoyed seeing all the smiles and wonderful community spirit. A few pictures are below. 😊

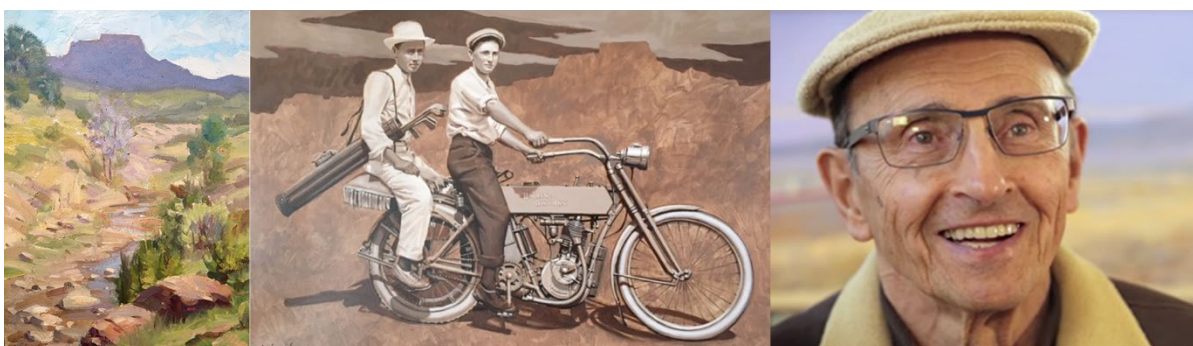


- Below is an excerpt from an article published in The Santa Fe New Mexican on July 14, 2021 about Trinidad State alum and world-renowned artist, Paul Milosevich.

The youngest of eight children, he grew up in a farmhouse at the edge of Trinidad, then a coal-mining hub. His parents had immigrated to Trinidad from the same village in Croatia. The Milosevich home didn't have electricity or indoor bathroom facilities. As a child of the Great Depression, Milosevich knew enough about money to wear out a pencil before asking his dad for a dime to buy a new one. Young Paul milked goats in one of his first jobs. He was more enthusiastic about caddying at a golf course, an early inspiration for his interest in drawing. He created a comic book at age 14 about the life and times of golfer Ben Hogan. In turn, Hogan would one day become a fan of Milosevich's paintings, calling the artist "a marvelous talent." Milosevich says his first big break came at Trinidad State Junior College, where Arthur Roy Mitchell was one of his teachers. Today,

paintings by the teacher and his star pupil grace the A.R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art on Trinidad's Main Street.

Mr. Milosevich's series of Fisher's Peak paintings were shown in the Trinidad State President's Office Art Show in 2018.



- In her monthly newspaper column, *Thriving in Trinidad*, faculty member Dr. Sue Nesbit recently noted “There are so many things for us to appreciate, everything from sunsets to the smell of fresh bread, a good joke, and most importantly, each other. I am delighted to have had the life experiences and opportunities I have enjoyed and appreciate everything and everyone that made it happen. I can even appreciate my own contributions toward these. If I had to reduce to one word that we need most in order to get along well with ourselves and others I would choose the word, “appreciation.””



The Recruit Database highlighted former Trinidad State women's basketball player Julia Trujillo. Upon graduation from Pomona High School ... “Trujillo would receive an offer to play for Trinidad State College. ... While at Trinidad, Trujillo was able to learn some valuable life lessons, those of which would translate for her both on, and off the court. “Coach D (Destiny Bragman) was a big reason for me becoming the person that I am today,” Trujillo said. “I would say that 95% of the confidence that I have, it came from her and the words of encouragement that she poured into me. “She knew what I could do as a player, and she also trusted

that I could become even better. “She also reminded me why I started playing, and that was huge for me. I am such a different person and player because of what I have gone through as a basketball player, especially at Trinidad.”

After receiving her associate’s degree at Trinidad State, Trujillo was fortunate enough to move on to York College, and complete her final two years there. After recently graduating with a Sports Management Degree, she is not quite done yet. “Due to the Covid eligibility, I am not done yet (laughs),” Trujillo said. I will play my final year here, and in doing so, I am going to get a master’s degree in Global Leadership and Organization. This year will be huge for me personally, as well as on the court.

