

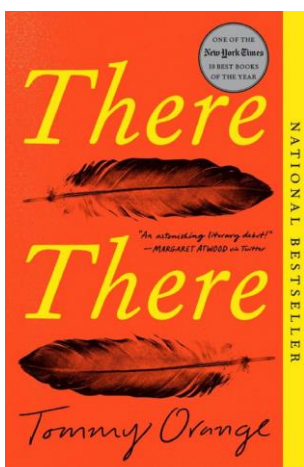


Trinidad State College Report of Activities September 2022

Rhonda M. Epper, Ph.D., President

Transform the student experience.

The **Trinidad State College Equity Committee** hit the ground running this semester, starting off September with a Lunch & Learn event covering the Summer's Equity themes called the *Summertime Rights Review*, presented by faculty member, Dr. Paul Boone. The picture below shows the faculty, staff and students who attended in person, though we also had virtual attendees from both campuses. The committee facilitated the semester's first Trojan Book Club meeting, where we discussed our Summer book *There, There* by Tommy Orange. The discussion was held on both campuses, in-person for the first time in three years, with a virtual connection between the campus rooms. This fictional work notes the challenges facing Indigenous people living and working in urban Oakland, California and their connection to each other through generational events. The committee also shared the first monthly equity newsletter in September, and plan to offer another Lunch & Learn (generally scheduled for the last Wednesday of each month), which will be set up as a panel discussion about Serving Hispanic students.



- Trinidad State College is proud to be a Hispanic-Serving Institution, with over 40% of our student population with a Hispanic background. In addition, we currently have students from: Brazil 🇧🇷 Colombia 🇨🇴 Dominican Republic 🇩🇴 Mexico 🇲🇽 Panama 🇵🇦 Spain 🇪🇸



- Trinidad State Robotics** recapped their robot building 2021-2022 and late spring Colorado Space Grant Consortium Sand Dunes Challenge in this video showing the building, testing, corrections, trying again, and success of their *Swarm* of robots. Check out their 3.5-minute video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ge2ZITo3WTA>



Beginning table loop weaving class through the Trinidad State College Heritage School and the TSC Collaboratory is underway. Says student Dara Sobel, "Almost finished dressing the loom. Sabine MacWaters is teaching us weaving from start to finish, what a fantastic class!"

Next class – Hatmaking. <https://trinidadstate.edu/heritage/>

- For our students in residence halls to feel more at home, Housing Director, Omar Cano – with support from Donna Haddow and the TSC Collaboratory -- have set up a portable greenhouse. Right now, there are 13 plants started with interest

continuing to grow as are requests for a variety of plants. Cano has looked up a number of studies and shares that gardening may help with our overall well-being (Texas A&M AgriLife), increase community interactions (CSU Boulder 2011 study) and perhaps it will help bring our residence hall community together when we all begin to see the fruits of our labor.



- Trojan Cross Country had a great showing at the Woody Greeno/Dirksen Invite in Lincoln Nebraska last weekend, racing against some of the top NJCAA teams in the country as well as teams from NCAA Division I and II. Currently Men's Cross Country is ranked third in the nation!



- TSC hosted volleyball Region 9 opener against Otero in Scott Gym – Excellent match although Otero got the best of us in 5.



Transform our own workforce experience.

- Trinidad State Dean of Student Retention and Completion, Alfredo Burciaga, was honored to be a member of the Higher Education Panel “**Critical Conversations Regarding Equity in Rural Higher Education**” at the Adams State University Beyond Buzzwords: Critical Conversations for Equity in Rural Education symPAWsium in September convening the first day of Hispanic Heritage Month. Primary keynote speaker for the conference was Dr. Roberto Montoya, The Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) Chief Educational Equity Officer. Additional panelists were Heather DeLange, CDHE Director of the Office of Private Postsecondary Education and Dr. Victoria Obergon, Assistant Director of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Colorado State University, Pueblo. The symPAWsium brought together professionals from multiple institutions and departments to discuss issues surrounding equity in rural higher education.



Alfredo Burciaga, Heather DeLange, Dr. Roberto Montoya above; Dr. Victoria Obergon, Alfredo Burciaga right.



- Adjunct instructor, Jim Hamilton, and his wife Gail (TSC retiree) were chosen and proudly served as **Grand Marshal and Silver Queen 2022 for the 112th Annual Trinidad Round-Up Association Labor Day Rodeo and Parade**. Congratulations!

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

- Alaska next summer? Book with the **Trinidad State Foundation** for a 10-Night Interior Express Cruise Tour of Alaska, August 1-11, 2023. Foundation Executive Director, [Toni DeAngelis](#) will have details.



Join us next summer... in ALASKA!

- The Trojan athletes, coaches, nursing and others students and took part in the annual Labor Day Parade in Trinidad. Trojan Softball player Zoey Neeld-Stewart photographer. What a great time, the students love it!



- **The Purgatory 4 Adventure Relay** challenged competitors across the country to run through the rugged terrain of Sugarite Canyon State Park in Northeastern New Mexico, paddle a course on Lake Maloya at 7,500 feet, bike up to 8,500 feet over San Francisco Pass and into Southern Colorado, and prove their prowess on a challenging shotgun shooting course. The shooting portion of the relay was held at the Trinidad State Foundation's Prator Range with the help of ten TSC Gunsmithing students who volunteered at the range throughout the competition. Students Kaiser Forcade, Andrew Hosea, Mike Immel, Trevor Knowles, Caleb McCune, Eric Montoya, Garrett Neumeister, James Sheppard, Joey Selle, and Lou Tarango are to be commended.
- With meeting room tents set up on campus, we were proud to host members of The Nature Conservancy from Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Texas who met in mid-September on our beautiful campus in Trinidad in talks about landscape scale conservation.



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



Fox 21 Local News recently featured the City of Trinidad. Links to those stories focused on Trinidad State College are below.

Links: <https://www.fox21news.com/features/we-are-trinidad/we-are-trinidad-trinidad-state-college/>

<https://www.fox21news.com/news/we-are-trinidad-trinidad-state-college-athletics/>



- It was a pleasure to welcome the Presidents Council, the Colorado State Board for Community Colleges, and the CCCS Executive Administration to Trinidad for September meeting. Thank you for coming.

