



Trinidad State College Report of Activities December 2021 & January 2022

Rhonda M. Epper, Ph.D., President

Transform the student experience.



- Trinidad State's first cohort of RN-BSN students were pinned on December 16, 2021 in a lovely celebratory ceremony. Graduates were Amanda Boggs (Folsom, NM), Sara Brunelli (Alamosa), Jamie East (Trinidad), Kathy Faulconer (Arvada), Roechele Martinez (Colorado Springs), Kaitlin Miner (Alamosa), Shelby Mortensen (Aztec, NM), and Kerry Rockcastle (Alamosa). Congratulations, graduates. President Rhonda Epper, Vice President Lynette Bates, and Dean LoriRae Hamilton, and Faculty member Jodi Garcia pictured with the graduates.
- To recruit, strengthen, and grow Trinidad State's Theatre and Arts Programs, five full scholarships including in-state on campus tuition, room and board are being offered beginning in fall 2022. Application requirements include student portfolios, essays, and short video introductions. The eligibility includes being a Colorado resident. The scholarships are made possible through the generosity of the Trinidad State College Foundation.
- The Trinidad State Titus Cabinet Food Pantry, with support from the ECMC Foundation food pantry grant, fed approximately 200 students on Thanksgiving Day and weekend, as well as during Winter Break.

The Titus Pantry works through Student Life, Student Housing and Title V to address food insecurity for on-campus as well commuter students on both campuses. The college is exploring local partnerships to help eligible students access benefit programs designed to address hunger and nutrition for both children and adults. Trinidad State is eager to work toward being a designated CDHE Hunger Free campus where the only hunger is for knowledge and success!



- eSports is competitive team video gaming and is reaching a billion-dollar industry. TSC has the only eSports arena in the San Luis Valley. Trojan eSports is entering its second season and collegiate players are competing at the national level through the National College Athletics Association of eSports (NJCAA) for championship titles. New this season, NJCAA has added Intramural play, Faculty, staff, prospective students, and alumni can now join eSports to play Intramurals and students meeting the player eligibility requirements can play on the collegiate teams.

Fall Academic Awards

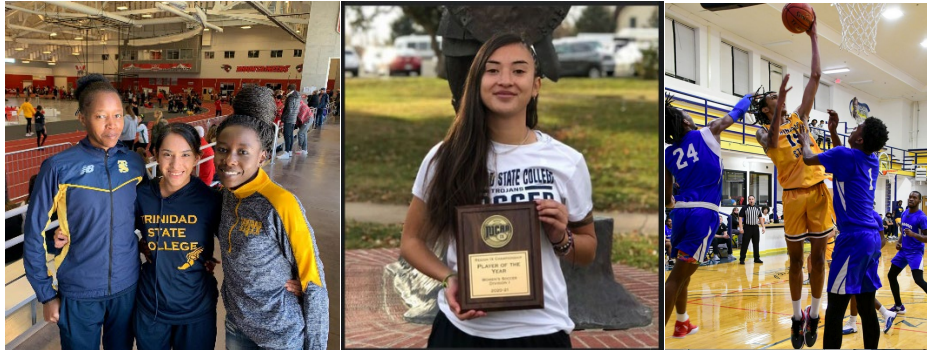
3.37 GPA

3.29 GPA

3.20 GPA

Softball, Soccer, Baseball take top academic honors

- The final sporting event for 2021 was a track meet at Colorado Western University. Congratulations to Laura Torres, two-time Region 9 Player of the Year and Trinidad State first ever Women's Soccer All American. Men's basketball moves to 3-1 in conference play this week with a win over Lamar.





I appreciate the support you've provided for me and all other students who may be getting this scholarship now or in the future. You shed light on the lives of people who may be struggling but are still determined to get their education finished.

— Ethan



As a single mother of three trying to finally pursue my dream of Nursing, this scholarship means I can hang on just a little longer. It is extremely helpful and I am honored to have received such a gift.

— Sarah, Nursing Major



I hope and plan to start up my very own business here in Trinidad CO. Your generosity is allowing me to make my goals and dreams a reality. I hope that one day I am able to give back to college students the way you guys have for me to further my education.

— Amy Diaz, Business Major



Because of your scholarship, I am able to put more time into class and get the grades to where they need to be. I was worried that I might have to take a semester off in order to be able to work to pay for school but thanks to this grant, that is no longer the case.

— Ruben

Transform our own workforce experience.

- Biology faculty member Kelly Kissane, Ph.D., attended the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology conference during the first week in January and chaired



the session "Pest, Pollution, and Ecotoxicology". She presented her research, titled "A Tale of Two Rivers" which described the differences between the Alamosa River, which was devastated by a mining accident in 1991 and the Conejos River, which is in the same location but was unaffected by the mining accident. She judged two poster competitions at this conference - one for the Division of Animal Behavior and one for the Division of Invertebrate Zoology. Dr. Kissane is currently reviewing three graduate student grant proposals for the Animal Behavior Society.

The 16th episode of [Science Views from the Valley](#), a radio show which will air this Thursday at 8:30 am has just been completed. This month's topic describes the natural history of three animals that live in Antarctica and how their behaviors and physiology help them survive the harsh environment.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.



- After the 2021 cancelation of the SHOT Show, members of the Trinidad State Gunsmithing faculty, Dr. Rhonda Epper, and TSC Gunsmithing students were happy to attend the 2022 SHOT Show in Las Vegas. At the request of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the Gunsmithing faculty help to

ensure the safety of attendees by removing the firing pins of any firearms the NSSF Safety team identifies through their inspection process, which renders the firearm incapable of shooting. The event provides an opportunity for TSC to build and maintain relationships with the firearms industry, which is critical for job placement. During the Show over 40 companies contacted us wanting to hire TSC Gunsmithing graduates. With 2022 being the 75th anniversary of the TSC Gunsmithing program and the 45th anniversary of the Summer NRA Gunsmithing program, an alumni reunion was held during the SHOT Show. The event was well attended and from the social media follow up of some attendees it sounds like everyone had a great time.

- Trinidad State Valley Campus participated in the Alamosa Christmas Light Parade. Mascot Titus popped out of a Christmas package encouraging students to “Register Now!” Great fun and celebration was had by all.



- The 85th annual Trinidad State Invitational high school basketball tournament was held in Scott Gym December 1-4, 2021. Teams from Trinidad, La Junta, Hoehne, Primero, Kim, Raton, Springer and Des Moines competed. Fans watched via live-stream as no fans were allowed in the gym. Congratulations to the Kim girls and the Springer boys for bringing home the titles.
- Governor Jared Polis attended the opening of the Pueblo Baseball Mill training facility last week. The organization was created for young athletes interested in baseball and softball so they can receive training to prepare them for the

collegiate level. Our Governor sported his Trinidad State baseball jersey, previously presented to him by Dr. Rhonda Epper. Looking good, Governor!



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

- Trinidad State College is proud to announce the establishment of two new degree programs and several certificate programs approved by the Higher Learning Commission. TSC has added Computer Science AS and Computer Information Systems AAS degree programs. New certificate programs include Computer Networking, Cybersecurity, Cloud Professional, Computer Applications Specialist, Database Administration, and Technology in Agriculture. Courses for computer science and computer networking are underway with additional courses beginning Fall 2022.



From March, 2022 to February, 2023 the prestigious Aspen Institute will facilitate a monthly workshop designed to increase opportunities for students who wish to transfer from a community college to a four-year institution. Fourteen college and university partnerships, including Trinidad State College and Adams State University, were chosen to participate. Each month, workshop sessions will help educators to drill down to more efficient ways students can transfer from two-year to four-year schools.

Topics will include fostering strong partnerships between two- and four-year institutions, creating seamless and efficient transfer systems, and making it easier for students to understand what they need to do before they transfer.

“We want students to feel confident in their goals and not waste time or money taking classes they don’t need, while still reaching their goal of a bachelor’s degree,” said Trinidad State President Dr. Rhonda Epper.

