



## Trinidad State College Report of Activities February & March 2022

Rhonda M. Epper, Ph.D., President

### Transform the student experience.

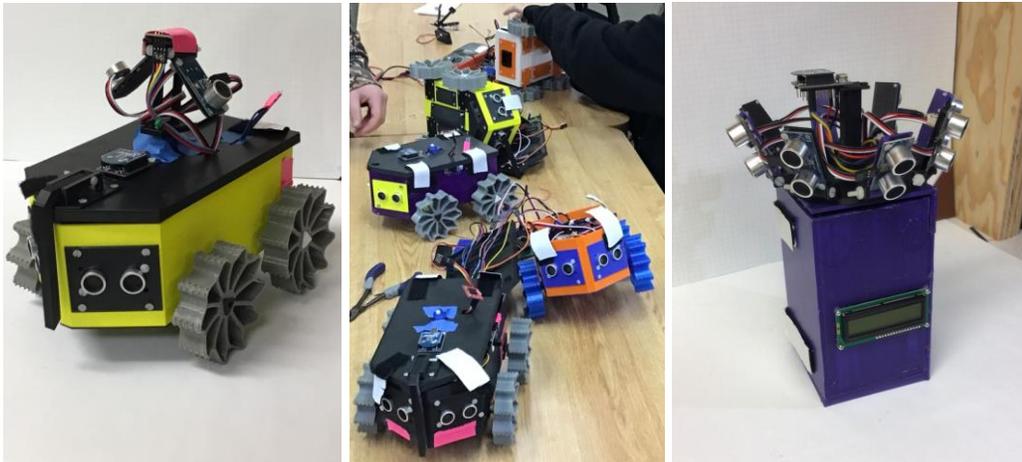
- Lunch and Learn series organized by the College Equity and Inclusion Committee February and March programs have been an informative lecture focused on Black History Month and another on Women's History Month. Dr. Paul Boone shared a presentation on The Long March to Citizenship: The Constitution, the Supreme Court, and Civil Rights. In March the Women in Education and Leadership panel included President Rhonda Epper, Vice President Lynette Bates, Business Division Chair LiAnn Richardson and Title V Director Pam Espinoza.



- Phi Theta Kappa's REACH Rewards program recognizes and rewards Phi Theta Kappa chapters that excel in membership development. PTK member benefits include scholarship opportunities and increased engagement with peers and faculty on campus, which lead to higher rates of completion. Phi Theta Kappa chapter at Trinidad State College – Main Campus has been named a 2022 REACH Chapter. Congratulations to PTK!

# PHI THETA KAPPA REACH REWARDS

- The TSC robotics team is hard at work this spring break. The balloon team will launch their payload on April 2<sup>nd</sup> early in the morning in Deer Trail. The wearables team is working on their lightning detector. The robotics team has five drones built and are working on testing in the sand. They hope to have them autonomously working together as a unit by the end of the week. We will report on the competition in next month's board report.



- Great Esports event at the Fox West Theatre in Walsenburg on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Students from John Mall High School and Alamosa High Schools plus Trinidad State competed in Esports games. Players and spectators alike had a good time in this new competitive arena.



- Dr. Epper shared her praise for the Trojan Track team in a recent email. “I would like to congratulate our men and women of Trojan Track for their impressive performance at the 2022 NJCAA Indoor National Championships! Trinidad State came away with four All-Americans along with several Personal Records for some of our athletes. Congratulations to Coaches Lauren and Kyle Masterson and all our athletes! You did us proud in Pittsburg, Kansas last weekend!”



- **Region 9 Champions; Men’s Basketball** – Trinidad State 95, Otero 94  
The Foundation Board and Executive Director Toni DeAngelis (along with the entire Trinidad State Community) were swept up in the amazing buzzer-beater moment by the Men’s Basketball team in their win over Otero! This team’s tenacity and determination is now forever marked with the title, **Region IX Champions!** Our congratulations for the incredible accomplishments, *so far*, this season! In recognition of the achievements of Coach Folda and the Men’s Basketball team, the Foundation Board has approved \$5,000 toward expenses for the trip to “Hutch” for Nationals! We’ll be rooting for you throughout the tournament! Onward to Victory! **Go Trojans!** #TrojanProud



- The Las Animas County Sheriff's Department and College and Community fans sent the team off in style with signs and waves and sirens as they began their journey for the national tournament in Hutchinson, KS.
- Spencer Haywood, NBA Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame class of 2015, played his first year of college ball at Trinidad State the 1968-69 season. Mr. Haywood attended the NJCAA Tournament Trojan game in Hutchinson, KS and met the team. What a thrill!



**Transform our own workforce experience.**

- Trinidad State Faculty Member and Division Chair, LiAnn Richardson, was selected to participate in the Vera Institute of Justice Corrections Education Leadership Academy (CELA) program. This competitive professional development opportunity is limited to 12 people from across the nation. CELA's goal is to help corrections education leaders expand and develop educational programs over the year-long program. Topics of discussion will include leveraging data and research, addressing issues of race, equity, and inclusion, and working with legislators and shaping legislative policy. Congratulations Ms. Richardson.
- Women's Basketball Coach, Destiny Bragman, earned the honor of Region 9 Coach of the Year. Congratulations Coach!



NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
REGION 9

## COACH OF THE YEAR

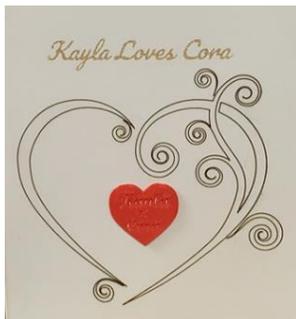
**Destiny Bragman**

Trinidad State College

- Dr. Kelly Kissane reviewed graduate student grant proposals for the Animal Behavior Society. Topics included the hybridization of two cardinal species in southern Arizona, the effects of wildfires in So California on lizard behavior, and myrtle warbler migration at high latitudes. Dr. Kissane also continues her educational science radio show and just completed her 17<sup>th</sup> on-air show (lesson).
- Library Coordinator and Scholar in Residence, Calvin Smith, shared information about his new book and the history of the Waco Mammoth Site on Baylor University's Oral History podcast.

### **Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.**

- Faculty, staff and students were treated to a free Valentine making project in the Trinidad State Collaboratory makerspace. From high tech cards made with the 3D printer and Glowforge 3D cutter/engraver to low tech cards made with fabric, stickers, and even googly eyes, a great time was had by all. An especially rewarding part was seeing faculty and students engaging in one-on-one conversations on topics of common interest outside of the classroom setting. Work- shops are also being held to learn the basics of 3D printing.



- Thanks to an ARPA grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Colorado State Library System, the first editions of the Gunsmithing

archives have been digitized and will be available soon in an online format. This will allow students and others with an interest in caring for and preserving historic firearms to access the most utilized books in the Freudenthal Library from one of the most complete collections in the industry.

- Trinidad State College and Colorado State University-Pueblo have entered into an agreement that will allow nursing students to work toward a bachelor's *and* master's degree at the same time. "This is a very efficient model," said Trinidad State President Dr. Rhonda M. Epper. "Students pursuing this option will have to work very hard, maintaining at least a "B" grade average, but it will save them a great amount of time and money." The program is expected to help fill the need for master's level qualified nurse educators, which in turn will help produce more nurses in rural areas. The classes are all taught online through CSU-Pueblo and Trinidad State. Qualified students can apply now and start in the program immediately.



Front row: Dr. Timothy Mottet, President, CSU Pueblo, Dr. Rhonda Epper, President Trinidad State College

Back row: Dr. Joe Franta, Dean, College of Health Education and Nursing at CSU Pueblo, LoriRae Hamilton, Dean of Instruction, Trinidad State College, Dr. Mohamed Abdelrahman, Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs at CSU Pueblo, Lynette Bates, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Trinidad State College

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

- Trinidad State Arts & Humanities Department sponsored an Open Mic in the Collaboratory makerspace on campus. Faculty, staff, and community participated.



TSC Housing was fortunate enough to host and watch the Trinidad Fire Department train their new recruits in search and rescue training last month.

- Continuing the Department of Visual Art and Art History Artists Lecture Series, local artist Hans Droog shared his professional artist's story with art students and with area community members.

