



## Trinidad State College Report of Activities April 2023

Rhonda M. Epper, Ph.D., President

**Transform the student experience.**



- Congratulations to the Trinidad State Robotics team for their outstanding performance at the 2023 Colorado Space Grant Consortium Robotics Challenge, which was held April 15 at the Great Sand Dunes National Park. The TSC robots, F.R.O.G. and F.L.Y., completed all five courses and were judged to be the best performing robots of the day. Highly impressive, especially since we were up against some of the best universities in Colorado, including Colorado School of Mines and CSU.

But the winnings didn't stop there! At a symposium the following week, our team continued to shine. According to Professor Cindy Clements, "there were two awards for best video, no ranking, and we took one of those." "We then won the grand prize overall for our research paper and presentation. A first for Trinidad state. We have actually now won nine people's choice awards and five session paper awards over the past 14 years, but never have we gotten close to the grand prize." The students brought home a check for \$2,000. Congratulations to Cindy Clements and the entire Robotics team. You have made us proud!

- **The Trinidad State College Career and Transfer Fair** was attended by students from TSC as well as area high school students. Twenty-seven employers talked with students about local job opportunities. Twelve colleges and universities helped students with questions in regards to transferring to a four-year institution after earning a degree or credits from Trinidad State. Prior to the Fair, Student Services offered a Resume Writing workshop and Title V offered a Financial Literacy and Budgeting workshop.



*Photo taken in the museum. There are no cameras allowed in or near the prison.*

Alcatraz of the Rockies and houses many notorious prisoners including El Chapo, Ted Kaczynski (aka the Unabomber), Boston marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, Zacarias Moussaoui, Robert Hanssen, and Terry Nichols.

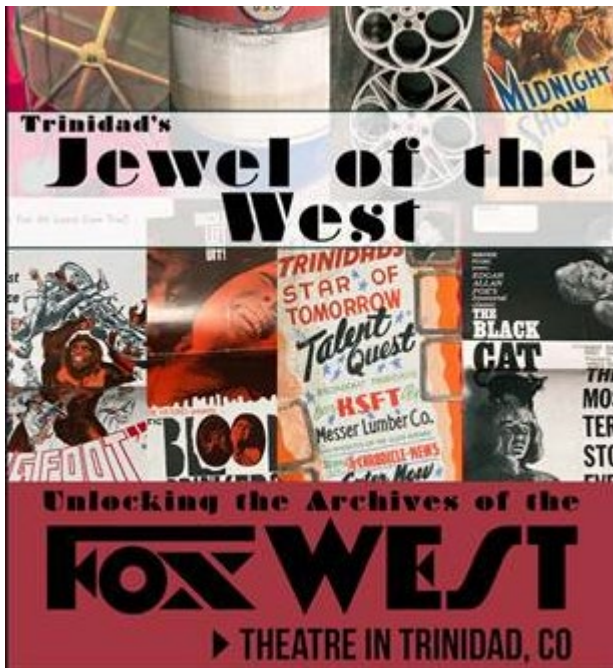
After the tour, students explored the Museum of Prisons in Canon City, where they learned about the history of Corrections in Colorado. Students and lead Criminal Justice Instructor, Sarah Sloane, would like to thank an anonymous donation made to the foundation which provided the funding for this incredible field experience.



Cliff Wienen, Biology Faculty Member and PTK Advisor, Omar Cano, Housing Director, students Caleb McCune, Ylena Esposito, Jaheim Dewar, Alicia Massarotti, Student Life Coordinator, and President Epper attended the CCCS Student Excellence Awards celebration. Students Tamera Flores Hernandez and Carolyn Shreiner attended, but are not in the photo.

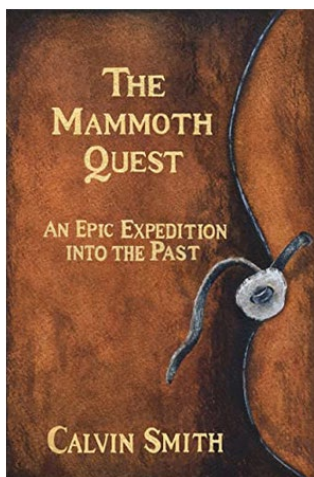
- On March 31, 2023 **students from the Criminal Justice program** at Trinidad State took a field trip to the ADX in Florence, CO also known as the Supermax. Students toured the facility and learned about careers in Corrections from the Federal Officers there. It's extremely difficult to get security clearance to tour a facility of this level and we owe a huge amount of gratitude to Officer Corey Espinoza, a TSC graduate, who made this possible. Corey now works at the ADX. The ADX is known as the

## Transform our own workforce experience.



Trinidad State Theatre Tech faculty member, **Christopher Smith, PH.D.**, serves our community through his work with the Fox West Theatre Alliance. Recently he curated an art exhibit of Fox West Theatre artifacts at the A.R. Mitchell Museum. Opened in 1908 as a venue for traveling Vaudeville acts, the Fox (named the West until the 1940s) was designed by the [Rapp Brothers firm of Trinidad](#), and was funded by Ed West, a local cattle rancher. It seats 650 people and is Colorado's only two balcony theatre. It boasts a seventy-one foot stage that has hosted a wide array of history's famous performers, including John Philip Sousa, Mother Jones, Roy Rogers, Sitting Bull, Rube Welch, violinist Rubinoff, and many others. The theatre was fully converted into a motion picture theater in 1929, and was operated by the Sawaya family from 1959 until its closure in 2012. Thank you, Chris, for sharing your talent and skills with our historic community.

- In another Trinidad State and A.R.Mitchell Museum collaboration, Art Faculty Member, Ily Reiling continues organizing and hosting visiting artist lectures the night before art openings at the Museum. Master Roycroft Artisan, Julie Leidel, specializes in creating revivalist artwork inspired by the Art Nouveau and Arts & Crafts Movements (1880 – 1920) was the March artist featured. Ms. Leidel's artwork may be found at: <https://www.thebungalowcraft.com/> The artist lectures series link found at: <https://trinidadstate.edu/als/>



- The Trinidad Carnegie Library recent hosted a book signing with Calvin Smith, Coordinator of the Freudenthal Library at Trinidad State College. Calvin has a distinguished career as a local archaeology expert, historian and museum director. He has written a novel, *The Mammoth Quest: An Epic Expedition into the Past*, about life with the ancient Clovis and Folsom people who lived in this area many thousands of years ago.

The novel is an action-adventure story about the first person to be transported back in time to 13,000 years ago in an attempt to discover the origin, culture and livelihood of the Clovis people who are known to have hunted and killed mammoths with stone tipped darts thrown with atlatls in what is now northern New Mexico.

- The college community celebrated milestone years of service and recent retirees at receptions on each campus. On the Trinidad Campus four retirees were celebrated: Linda O'Donnell (4 years), Laura Gowen (11 years), Wilma Atencio (13 years), and Bob Philbin (27 years). The Valley Campus celebrated retiree Norm Williams (17 years). Years of Service milestones were recognized on each campus as well. Thank you for serving Trinidad State College and its students.



*Tammie Mack (15 years) Shannon Shiveley (25 years) Dr. Epper, Alicia Massarotti (20 years), retiree Linda O'Donnell, Leslee Watson-Flores (30 years), retiree Laura Gowen, Penny Bueno (10 years), Jack Wiley (10 years), Juliana Chaparro (10 years) and Mathilda Westerman (30 years).*

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

- The Valley Campus in Alamosa partners up with San Luis Valley Local Foods and hosts a series of evening classes on campus to learn nutrition, cooking, and healthy habits. It's a great program for our communities. The program is "Cooking Matters."
- Members of the Trinidad State Soccer Teams volunteered their time to work with Special Olympics Youth for a skills-based soccer camp. It was a beautiful early April day on the Trinidad Campus.

