



Trinidad State College Report of Activities February & March 2023

Rhonda M. Epper, Ph.D., President

Transform the student experience.

- The Trinidad State College Men's Basketball Team clinched the **NJCAA Region IX Title** for the second year in a row sending them to play at the National Junior College Athletic Association D1 Basketball Championship in Hutchinson, KS. **Coach Mike Folda was named Region 9 Coach of the Year.** The perfect league record and 19-game winning streak secured TSC' place at the NJCAA tournament.

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Kristy Ehart / NJCAA

TSC falls by 3-point margin during first round against Tallahassee

Photo caption: Trinidad State sophomore guard Jailen Bedford is seen working to move past Tallahassee during Round 1 of the National Junior College Athletic Association D1 Basketball National Championships Monday, March 21, at Hutchinson Sports Arena in Hutchinson, Kansas.

- Trinidad businesses came together and threw a congratulatory party for the basketball team this week in joyful fashion. The room was full, the praise well deserved, the food tasty as the community turned out to

standing room only. Thank you to Phil Long Dealerships, AdPro Marketing Firm, Griego Insurance, and Mount Carmel Community Center for hosting. Various speakers at the event included President Epper, Athletic Director Mike Salbato, Coach Mike Folda, Booster Club supporter, Kathleen Griego, and representatives of those who sponsored the event. In the photo below, Coach Folda introduces the team.



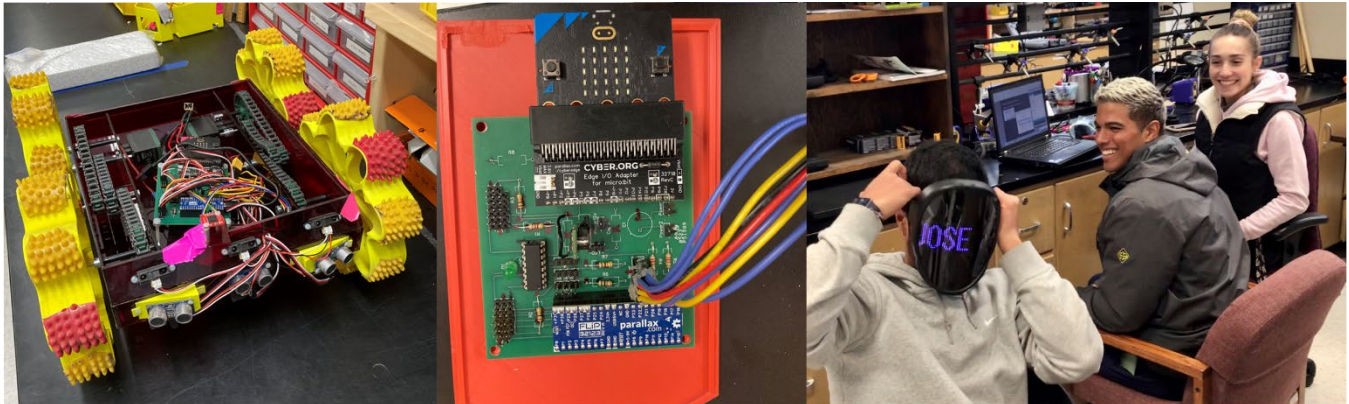
- Field Trips -- Experiential learning impacts students. On 2/22 Criminal Justice (CJ) students went on a tour of Trinidad Correctional Facility. They met with Corrections Officers and Administrators to learn about careers in the Department of Corrections, but perhaps the highlight of the experience was meeting with TSC faculty member LiAnn Richardson's Second Chance Pell (SCP) Students. The two groups engaged in a round table discussion about their experiences of being an on-campus student vs. taking classes while incarcerated. The two groups found commonality discussing favorite professors and the challenges of time management. They even shared a few jokes over the on-campus students being able to use Google and Siri's dictation services to draft papers and complete assignments.

The highlight for Criminal Justice Faculty Member, Sarah Sloane, was catching up with some former students who now work at Trinidad Correctional and knowing their career paths began with the same tour my students were embarking on. Sloan said, "I ask most of my students at the beginning of the semester if they are interested in a career in corrections and none raise their hands. Their entire understanding of the world of corrections is limited to what they have watched on "Lockup Raw." At the end of the tour I ask the same question and I'm rewarded with a room full of hands and students asking for applications."

Richardson noted, "This was a great opportunity for the two programs to come together. It not only demonstrated collaboration between programs but was also a high impact practice. From the SCP students' standpoint, they are still talking about the visit. It was impactful and insightful for our SCP students to have this conversation with on campus students."

- Mathematics faculty member and Colorado Space Grant Consortium Affiliate Director, Cindy Clements, guides students in engineering projects at TSC. The Engineering Projects class currently has 16 students and five projects: two demosat payloads that will fly to 100,000 ft, two wearable devices, and robotics.

One demosat will look at methane emissions at high altitudes and one will be exploring pressure and temperature on popcorn kernels (like will they even pop when they come back and do they taste different). One wearable group is making an armband for nurses to check vitals that is cheaper than a smart watch or fitbit. The other group is making a mask that will light up different colored lights depending on the frequency of a note (in a song). The robotics team has completed the big and small robot and is now working on navigation and retrieval.



- Blue & Gold Days were held on each campus this spring for current and prospective students. Informational sessions about admissions, financial aid, scholarship applications, program offerings, and registration were held. Multiple departments participated as well as faculty. A series of such sessions will be held throughout the year on each campus.



- The Collaboratory Makerspace welcomed BIO 1111 students who made 3D models of cells using clay. Thank you, Professor Wiening, for giving the students a new and fun way to learn.

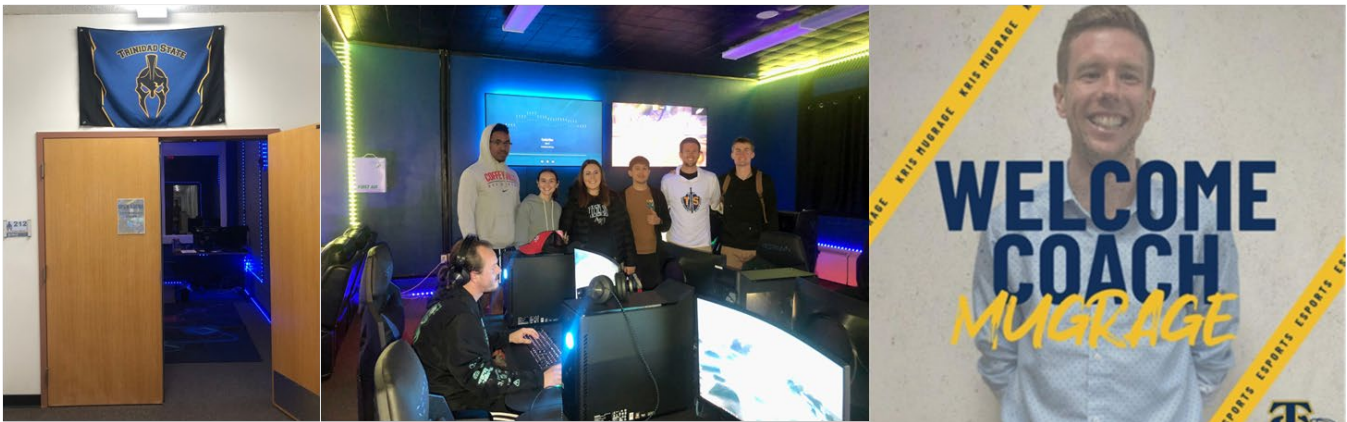


Transform our own workforce experience.

- Faculty member, LiAnn Richardson, is privileged to be a member of the Correctional Educational Leadership Academy (CELA). CELA meets monthly virtually with the exception of an in-person meeting in April. Each month a series of reading lessons are shared to be discussed at the next meeting. Through LiAnn's membership and active participation with CELA, she has gained valuable professional development and we, as a college, have developed a comprehensive program that sets Trinidad State College apart from other colleges. As LiAnn has said, "CELA is a lot of work, but worth every bit of the time commitment."

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

- Good news! Trinidad City Council approved Trinidad State's Housing Incentive application for \$50,000 to address the sewer line problem for the Stonewall houses! It is wonderful to have the City step up in partnership with us on this effort which is in collaboration with Attorney General Phil Weiser's office.
- Kris Mugrage is the new head coach for the TSC eSports program. He recently hosted a Valley Campus eSports Community Night and it was really fun. Thanks, Kris. This event is ongoing and opening up knowledge of the sport, engaging students and community members on the TSC opportunity.



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



A|M|I

Academic | Management | Institute

- Dr. Epper was honored to be on the President's Panel at this year's Academic Management Institute (AMI) spring session with Dr. Stephanie Fujii (Arapahoe Community College) and Dr. Song Richardson (Colorado College). Dr. Kim Dale, Western Wyoming Community College, moderated the panel. Dr. Epper noted how

interesting and energizing it was to be on the panel with outstanding colleagues and with conference participants who were focused on their professional development and career paths, their questions interesting, the experience energizing.



The Pillar, a CU Denver Monthly Journal of the TRIO SSS Community, featured **Travis Chacon** in their March edition.

“Travis has been an active participant in the program and will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Education and Human Development, Early Childhood Education (License) degree. He is part of the T-PREP Program, which is a unique and flexible program that provides tomorrow’s teachers who are living and/or working in rural communities with a way to earn a four-year degree and teaching license without leaving home. The key features of the program include taking classes on the Alamosa or Trinidad campuses of Trinidad State College (TSC) to earn your associate degree and then completing the rest of classes as a CU Denver student online. His short-term goals include passing his classes and graduating with his degree. For the future, he plans to continue working at the Head Start in Alamosa. He has intentions to continue his education to attend graduate school to obtain his Special Education degree.

Travis noted that his college journey was good. He was able to work full-time and attend college. He mentioned, “I have learned so much while obtaining my degree.” Travis is a first-generation college student who attended TSC on the Valley (Alamosa) Campus. His favorite quote by Les Brown reads, “You must tell yourself, ‘No matter how hard it is, or how hard it gets, I am going to make it.’” He noted that this quote resonates with him because no matter where life takes you, you are going to make it through. Travis has worked hard to meet his goal to graduate and teach our future generations.”

