



Trinidad State College Report of Activities June, July, August 2024

Rhonda M. Epper, Ph.D., President

Transform the student experience.

- This summer, **TSC cosmetology** students both learned as well as served the community through giving free haircuts at the nursing home, then styled the resident's hair for glamour shots. Continuing to focus on serving the community, in August the department offered free back-to-school haircuts for area K-12 students. They also gave away free school supplies in backpacks.

2023-2024 TSC Student Athletes Academic Review

15 Athletes with 4.0 GPA
49 NJCAA All-Academic Members
66 NJCAA All-Academic Awards
3.51 Highest Team GPA: Softball
58 Region 9 All-Academic Members
8 NJCAA All-Academic Teams



Congratulations to **Torie Sandoval** who was named to the NJCAA All-American team. Torie was selected to the All-American Third Team and is the third Lady Trojan to become an NJCAA All-American. Sandoval broke every TSC pitching record during her career. She now has the most career wins (49), most career strikeouts (381), lowest ERA (2.46), most innings pitched (353), most wins in a single season (27) and most strikeouts in a season with 196 K's. Her 27 wins this season ranked her 5th in the nation and she was 13th in the nation with 196 K's. We are enormously proud of you Torie.



- For some gunsmiths, the dream of earning an Associate of Applied Science, Gunsmithing degree by attending school for two years is not possible. Trinidad State offers an opportunity for students to attend short-term classes in the summer, which will earn them credit toward a **Gunsmithing Technician certificate**. The 16-credit hour certificate includes skills building such as basic and advanced machine shop, welding for gunsmiths, bluing, and benchmetal hand tools and metallurgy. Oftentimes, students attend summer classes multiple years before earning a certificate. This year, five students completed the Gunsmithing Technician certificate.



- Trinidad State eSports, which has been housed only on the Valley Campus will be expanding to the Trinidad Campus this year. The announcement was met with nods and cheers! The college is getting the eSports lab up and running in the Boyd building driving interest in our CIS/Cyber programs.
- TSC bookstore Starbucks underwent a significant renovation this summer, expanding and transforming the space to better serve the campus community. The renovation was a collaborative effort between Trinidad State and Sodexo, with key contributions from Joel Ihrle, Sodexo General Manager; Kyle Schmella, Sodexo Vice President of Operations; Mel Shiveley, Trinidad State Maintenance; and Shannon Shiveley, Trinidad Vice President of Finance.
- Welcome week roller skating at Skateland was great fun! Over 60 students attended!

Welcome Week BBQs



[Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center](https://trinidadstate.edu/nursing/index.html) is with [Trinidad State College](https://trinidadstate.edu).

Welcome to our new cohort of nursing students! Looking sharp and ready to take on the day. We look forward to another great semester. ❤️💎💎

<https://trinidadstate.edu/nursing/index.html>

Transform our own workforce experience.

- The **National FFA Agricultural Proficiency Awards** honor FFA members who, through their supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs), have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers. **TSC Dean of Instruction, Agriculture Program** Instructor, and New Mexico Agriculture Teacher Hall of Fame member, **Jack Wiley**, again this year was a national judge. Says Dean Wiley, “The students are outstanding. It is an honor to review and judge their SAEs.”
- Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Lynette Robinson Bates is pleased to announce that beginning August 1, 2024, TSC Academic Affairs will have a **new Dean of Instruction, LiAnn Richardson**, and a **new Division Chair (Valley Campus), Dr. Emily Hammer**. With the CIS/Cybersecurity Emergent Campus project and our approval for the Bachelor of Applied Science in Business, the coming year will be filled with exciting opportunities for our new Dean and Division Chair! We have other projects in the works to grow and expand educational offerings, and these two positions are key for increasing FTE on both campuses.



- **Trinidad State Art Faculty member, Ily Reiling**, received first place in the current *Mountains, Plains and Canyons* art exhibition displaying the work of women and woman-identifying artists from southeastern Colorado and northeastern New Mexico. Two Trinidad State students also had pieces hung in the juried show. The exhibition was co-produced by The Corazón de Trinidad Creative District and the Women's Caucus for Art Colorado Chapter.

Kudos to **Desi Maxwell** for representing Trinidad State presenting “**Easing Access to Opportunities by Educating Adult Learners on Their Terms**” at the Chancellor’s Adult Learner Summit. President Epper, Jim Kynor and Nicole Shannon also attended the summit. The event offered interesting sessions and good networking opportunities.



TSC Softball Coach, Steve Swazo, was honored by the Las Animas County Board of Commissioners with a proclamation noting his illustrious career coaching, the softball teams achievements on the field, including their 2024 showing at the NJCAA National Tournament as well as their outstanding academic achievements. Trinidad State is proud of Coach Steve Swazo.



Student Affairs Retreat focusing on “Students First” customer service and teamwork.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.



TSC's Dr. Lynette Bates, TSC President Dr. Rhonda Epper. ASU's President Dr. David Tandberg and Margaret Doell.

- **Adams State University and Trinidad State College sign ten transfer agreements, strengthening ties to better serve students in the San Luis Valley**
President David Tandberg of Adams State University and President Rhonda Epper of Trinidad State College took a bold step in solidifying ten new transfer agreements that will allow students to seamlessly transfer from Trinidad State into bachelor’s degree programs at Adams State. These agreements have been over a year in the making. Drs. Tandberg and Epper noted that Adams State University and Trinidad State College are committed to improving transfer for students. [Full Article](#)
- **Monthly Artist Lectures** have resumed this fall with Megan Wimberley & Morgan Buckert in August and Arna Miller in September. An outstanding opportunity for our community and our students to learn from working artists their process, inspiration, and business acumen.



Trinidad State College was proud to support the annual Bolos & Boots gala in support of the San Luis Valley Health Foundation. We value our community partners throughout the San Luis Valley! Representing TSC were VP Jim Kynor, President Epper and Myland Pride.



- **Trinidad Youth Mural Program** under the guidance of TSC Art Faculty member, Ily Reiling, and the Trinidad Animal Shelter in collaboration with the City of Trinidad and The Trinidad Arts and Culture Advisory Commission designed and created two murals at the Trinidad Animal Shelter this summer. Nine Trinidad State art students, including concurrent students, committed their time, design and artistic talent, and leadership to the project. Up to four murals may be designed and created. The dog-adoption room mural is shown here.

Strange Doors

A STAGED READING
of works in progress

by the writers of TSC's summer class,
"Exploring Scripts through Performance"



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



A big thank you to **Community College of Aurora** and its Student Affairs team for joining us in Trinidad for a workshop on enrollment and retention strategies. We are stronger together!

#Powerof13
#exceedexpectations



- Mascot Titus found it easy to round up some Trinidad State employees to enjoy celebrating the annual Manassa Pioneer Days parade in the San Luis Valley! Manassa Pioneer Days is one of the oldest festivals in the state of Colorado, tracing its history back to the founding of Manassa in 1879. Manassa Pioneer Days have been held almost continually for 145 years!

