



## Trinidad State College Report of Activities October & November 2022

Rhonda M. Epper, Ph.D., President

### Transform the student experience.



**World Cup Soccer!** Thank you, Dr. Paul Boone, for hosting watch parties for World Cup Soccer matches over the Thanksgiving break for students who needed to stay on campus. Good sport, good snacks and a good time was had by all. Equity and Inclusion Committee sponsored.



- **The Rocky Mountain Line Tech Program Graduation** is both indoors for the ceremony and recognitions, and also outdoors for the *Line Tech Rodeo*, an opportunity for graduates to showcase their skills for employers. The program advisory committee also meets during this celebration day to discuss program needs, funding for students, and lessening barriers to student success. This semester 31 graduates were recognized. Congratulations, graduates!
- Division Chair and Criminal Justice faculty member, Sarah Sloane, brings **real and local-work experience into the classroom**. Early in November, City of Trinidad Police Department Detective, Jennifer Lay, gave a presentation to students about a homicide case she worked on a few years ago. The response from students was very positive, noting that they found the case compelling and learned the step-by-step investigation interesting.



- **The Trinidad Youth Mural Program** has finalized the 2022 Mural cycle. This mural is located at the “Waterworks” building site in down town Trinidad. There were seven full time students and multiple college art students were involved in the “Wander Through” mural which had a theme of natural and outdoor recreation. The full-time student artists each received a \$500 TSC scholarship. \$3500 was raised in total in collaboration with the TSC Educational Foundation. Five of these students used that scholarship for Spring 2022 courses. See link for photos and videos.  
<https://www.facebook.com/TrinidadYouthMuralProgram/>

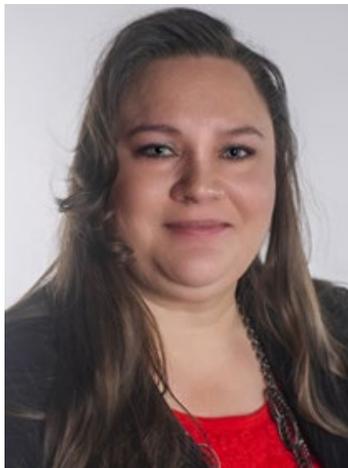
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>La Morada</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">is a literary journal based out of Trinidad State College in Trinidad, Colorado.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This inaugural edition features works of short fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and visual art.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>La Morada</i> strives to showcase the work of emerging regional talents.</p> <p><b>Editors</b></p> <p>ART: Ily Reiling        WRITING: Dustin Hyman, Thomas Nordgren        DESIGN: Christopher Smith, Joseph Reorda</p>	<p>“<b>La Morada</b>”, The TSC Literary and Visual Arts Magazine has published the 21/22 school year edition on the TSC website (link below). Students, Faculty, and Community Members are represented in the magazine. We have opened up the 22/23 edition submission and are currently looking toward a May 1, 2023 publish date.  <a href="https://online.fliphtml5.com/aoxbf/pxzu/">https://online.fliphtml5.com/aoxbf/pxzu/</a></p>
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- The Trojan runners wrapped up their championship week with the **2022 NJCAA Half Marathon Championships** in Tallahassee, Florida mid-November. The Men placed fifth and the Women were 11th. Loryn Trujillo put in an incredible performance finishing seventh overall. Trujillo, Hanibal Haile and Kameron Eustace all earned All-American status.



## Transform our own workforce experience.

- As a Regional Workforce Board member and State Rural Consortium Board Member, Adult Education Services Director, Tammie Mack, worked with Dean Alfredo Burciaga and Recruiter, Morgan Wadleigh, to regain presence back in the local **Workforce Center One-stop Program** to build recruitment numbers and promote the college. Having an in-person presence at the Workforce Center helps the college to grow and to meet the in-demand local workforce needs.
- Trinidad State College is proud of this year's recipient of the **Teaching Equity Champion Award, LiAnn Richardson**. This award is in recognition of those who have demonstrated excellence in fostering classroom environments, implementing strategies that reduce or eliminate equity gaps in student success and constantly are improving their teaching practice to meet individual student needs. Through her work with the Colorado Department of Corrections Richardson (photo on left below) has developed competencies for student achievement, created and fostered a strong advisory board for the program, enlisted credentialed professionals to teach and mentor students, and supported ongoing training for alumni of the program as they exit the penal system. She is an outstanding recipient of this award.



- Trinidad State College is proud of this year's recipient of the **Excellence & Innovation in Student Affairs Award, Mathilda Westerman**. This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated innovative excellence in Student Affairs programming. Innovative programs are those that use new ideas, methods, or techniques that result in improved educational or developmental activities, services, or management for a college community. Westerman (photo on right above) has worked tirelessly to ensure that every student she encounters receives the support they need to be successful. She is sensitive to their needs, whether it is basic student services, making a payment, or finding a resource such as food insecurities if needed. She is known as the go-to. She has recently been awarded a third-time staff member of the year which recognizes her efforts of sensitivity to Diversity Equity & inclusion of both staff and students. Mathilda contributes effectively.
- **Jim Kynor, Valley Campus Vice President**, has recently been named to two boards in the San Luis Valley. The charters of both organizations tie very nicely with the affordable housing mission of the TSC Construction program. The two boards are:

**The Rio Grande Community Trust (RGCT)**, incorporated in January 2022, is a community focused, non-profit Community Land Trust (CLT). The CLT model is a proven, practical, and efficient approach to affordability and can maintain the diverse character of the SLV. Our goal is to support long term San Luis Valley (SLV) community viability by securing affordable homeownership and accessible business opportunities for those of modest means.

**Christian Community Service Projects (CCSP)**, CCSP guides the efforts of volunteers that come to the San Luis Valley from all parts of the United States to assist the elderly and those who may have a difficult time performing home repair projects. These volunteers have helped build access ramps, painted houses and completed many other projects to enhance the safety and comfort of those who have reached out to CCSP for assistance.



As a fundraiser, **Cross Country and Track Coach Kyle Masterson** took a run, but not just any run. He ran from the San Luis Valley to Trinidad. You see him here with Coach Lauren Masterson at about 7:00 am – after 20 hours of running. In his words ... *“Tomorrow morning at 11am I will take off from the Valley Campus and make the journey on foot to the Trinidad Campus to encourage your support in our 2022 Fund Raising Challenge for the Cross Country and Track teams. That's no typo. We could probably raise some funds for our young people by just asking for donations. However, to show how much these young folks deserve your support and mean to me I'm going to run from one of our campuses to the other. While you're having lunch tomorrow I'll be running. When you have dinner, I'll be running. When you go to bed, wake up in the middle of the night, and likely still when you wake up Saturday morning...I'll be running. Please consider donating to our challenge.”* Great job, Coach Kyle.

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

- **Adult Education Services Director, Tammie Mack**, volunteers in the community and has recently judged the District FFA (Future Farmers of America) Creed Contest in Pritchett, CO.
- **The Visual Art Department has hosted four Artist Lectures** for the Fall 2022 series. We have expanded this programming to include national and state-based artists. We are

collaborating with the major galleries and museums in Trinidad via the First Friday showing schedule in order to increase community interest for these important visiting artists. We offer a virtual attendance option this semester and will continue to do so into the future. We have had an average of 24 people in attendance for each lecture: about 30% students, 20% staff/faculty, and 50% community members. The feedback from all stakeholders has been overwhelmingly positive! <https://trinidadstate.edu/event/arts.html>

- **From:** Veyna, Jason (Baseball Head Coach)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 1, 2022 9:28 AM  
**To:** Sanchez, Robert (Welding Faculty)  
**Cc:** Epper, Rhonda (President); Salbato, Michael (Director of Athletics)  
**Subject:** Dugout Rail Updates

Robert,

**Thank you for taking the time to organize raising the dugout rails for Central Park Ballfield.** The project consisted of the welding students cutting and adding a foot of pipe to each existing pole, then reassembling the top bar to it all. Both home and visitor dugouts were needing to look presentable and the welding program deployed 2 groups of students when the day came. They worked quick and diligently with Sanchez's help. We're very grateful to have welding's help and for Robert donating the pipe we needed to make it possible. Please see the images below, all happened in perfect timing for us and our baseball Fall World Series. The timeline of pictures does not include the old eyesore rails and fencing that were curling up and needing painting as well. Robert also donated some reinforcing rebar this fall to help strengthen our bullpen plyo wall. The baseball program appreciates the time, energy, and effort welding has put forward to help improve our facilities. Thank you to Bob Just and the City of Trinidad who provided the black fence and paint. It was great to have everyone chip in!

Jason





- **Trunk-or-Treat** is a fun event held yearly on each campus. It is a safe, fun, and festive event for families to come to campus at Halloween. Various student groups, programs, and community partners sponsored the trunks. Thanks to Valley Campus Corina Settle, Samantha Balderas, Charles Exley, and Julie Kotalik for being event leads and to Sarah Sloane, event lead on the Trinidad Campus. Thank you, Student Services, for sponsoring this fun yearly event.



- Each month, Continuing Education Coordinator, Donna Haddow, puts out “**The Monthly Scoop**” **newsletter** sharing business training and community education opportunities, ideas, and events upcoming. She highlights employment training possibilities, classes happening in the makerspace Collaboratory, and news about the college. Thank you, Donna, for keeping us informed. <https://trinidadstate.edu/continuing-education/newsletter.html>
- **In collaboration with the San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition**, Cooking Matters classes are winding up on the Valley Campus with a couple of final classes focusing on Menu Planning and Cooking Matters at the Store. It has been a good series appreciated by the community.

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

- **Trinidad State Adult Education Services** continues their strong program outcomes. The current session has had 96 students enrolled, of which 4 have graduated and 23 have passed one or more GED tests. Five STEP (Students Travelling Educational Pathways) agreements with area high schools for seamless transitions for students have been signed.



- How about that **Trojan Baseball Team**??! Shoveling snow around town to help out and keep people safe on the sidewalks. Thank you so much for service to the community.
- **Are you first?** As with higher education across the nation, Trinidad State honored First Generation college students on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

**What does it mean to be First Generation?** You are considered to be First Generation if neither of your parents have completed a four-year, or baccalaureate degree. For many, YOU are leading the way for friends and family members, out of poverty, and on to a higher earning potential. You may be navigating your career goals for yourself, but you are also mapping the path that your siblings, friends, children, and maybe even your parents, to pursue their dreams. Your achievements in higher education change the trajectory for others, and Trinidad State is proud of you for your accomplishments and for you leading the way and setting an example for others that higher education is achievable.

Why is November 8th National First-Generation college celebration day? November 8 was selected as the date for the annual National First-Generation College Celebration to honor the anniversary of the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965. The Higher Education Act (“HEA”) emerged out of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s War on Poverty.

Below you will find just a few of the employee faces of Trinidad State College who are First Generation Students.



Shannon Shiveley VP Administrative Services  
Lynette Bates Vice President Academic Affairs  
Jack Wiley Dean of Instruction  
Juliana Chaparro TRIO Director  
Yvette Atencio Human Resources Director  
Pam Espinoza Director, Title V  
Alfredo "Freddy" Burciaga Dean of Student Retention & Completion

- **Welcome back, Governor Polis!**

We are always happy to have Governor Polis come to Trinidad celebrating one part of our community or another. In late October, he was here to cut the ribbon celebrating 11 additional miles of trails at Fishers Peak State Park. Dr. Epper joined the festivities.

