

TRINIDAD STATE MAGAZINE

Fall 2020



**Grant Catapults Tech
Trades Receive Boost from AG
Centennial Moment
Spider Woman
Conversation and Action on Equity**

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TRINIDAD STATE MAGAZINE Fall 2020

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President's Message

As we near the end of 2020, we can say with certainty it has been one of the most challenging years in our history. The Coronavirus pandemic arrived in March and brought unprecedented changes to our college. Students were released at spring break, with all instruction being shifted to remote learning for the remainder of the semester. Faculty and staff, many of whom had never taught or worked remotely before, quickly adapted to teaching and working in a remote environment.

Change was the order of the day, and I'm proud to say that our team rose to the occasion. We jumped into action on many fronts while planning how best to continue putting students first, serving our mission, and keeping everyone safe. Students returned to our campuses during the summer to complete the hands-on learning experiences that were suspended in the spring. We then opened for fall semester with many COVID precautions in place. Through it all, our enrollment took a hit, but our determination to continue serving students remained - and still remains - as high as ever.

Amidst the challenges of the year, we have many reasons to be optimistic about the future.

We received grant funding to support new and growing programs in Performing Arts, Building Trades, and Trail Management/Construction. We refocused an existing grant toward building Information Technology and Computer programs in the Valley. We received a five-year renewal of our federal Trio programs on both the Trinidad and Valley campuses, allowing us to continue providing services to individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. We were selected by the U.S. Department of Education as the only college in Colorado to offer "Second Chance Pell" grants to incarcerated students across the state. We also received a new \$3 million Title V grant to strengthen our student support services on both campuses.

We submitted our four-year assurance review to our accrediting agency, The Higher Learning Commission, and passed with no required follow-up. We also hosted a virtual accreditation visit by our Nursing accrediting organization, requiring many months of preparation by our nursing faculty and staff.

Finally, we remain focused on our Centennial (2025) goals to increase enrollment, completion, and transfer rates, to eliminate the equity gap, and build reserves to improve our facilities. I'm excited about the future for Trinidad State. Thank you for taking time to see what we've accomplished over the past year.

Dr. Rhonda M. Epper
President



Above: Dr. Epper with members of the 2020 all-region Cross Country team showing their "top 5" medals from the regional meet held October 31, 2020

Below: Dr. Epper and students at the Valley Campus enjoy some cuddly time at a puppy play date in early March



Above: A day at the State Capitol in January with Rep. Julie McClusky, Dr. Tim Alvarez, OJC President, Dr. Epper, and Joe Garcia, CCCS Chancellor

Second Chance Pell

Trinidad State is pleased to have recently received qualification for Second Chance Pell. As the only community college named, TSJC will be offering more widespread programming to those eligible within the Colorado Department of Corrections. Faculty members, Dr. Sue Nesbitt and LiAnn Richardson, lead Trinidad State's program, which includes entrepreneurial classes as well as Human Services classes. Each cohort since the program has started has earned certificates and the current recidivism rate is zero.

Outdoor Recreation

Working with industry partners, Trinidad State is launching a Trail Management & Construction program that will prepare students to work in the design, construction, and management of trails in a variety of outdoor settings. TSJC's service area is home to a vast array of public lands, including a National Park (Great Sand Dunes), several state parks (including Fishers Peak), National Grasslands, wildlife areas, and city park/trail systems. The College is working with the national Professional Trail Builders Association to create this industry recognized certification for entry level jobs in our growing Outdoor Recreation economies. Trinidad State received a \$200,000 grant from an anonymous donor via The Nature Conservancy to purchase equipment for the program.



› Trail building classes to support Fisher's Peak State Park

While the new Fisher's Peak State Park is not yet open, planning has already begun on the first trail. Tony Boone of Timberline TrailCraft

A Part-Time Associate Degree in Four Semesters: TGIF!



This fall, Trinidad State announced an innovative and exciting new program, TGIF, a hybrid degree program that combines the best of online learning with important aspects of in-person learning. The program's key benefit is that it keeps every Monday through Thursday free so that students can go to a job or attend to their other responsibilities. Classroom sessions will take place on eight (8) Fridays per semester, while the rest of the coursework is delivered online. Students can complete their General Associate's Degree or an Associate's Degree in Business in just four semesters.

in Salida spent four days in the park recently scoping out the route. "It's about five miles of proposed new trail to connect to existing ranch roads," said Boone. "This first loop has some incredible views of Fisher's Peak." With Boone as the instructor, Trinidad State will offer four trail building classes this spring. "These classes are geared toward a technical trail career," said Boone, "designing and building and managing natural surface trail systems." Boone is also a member of the Professional Trail Builders Association, a growing world-wide group that focuses on sustainable outdoor recreation. According to Boone, the outdoor recreation industry employs 149,000 people in Colorado.



Grants Received

› Trinidad State awarded \$2.9 million grant

The U.S. Department of Education announced a five-year grant of \$2,964,464 to support Hispanic and underserved students at Trinidad State Junior College. Currently 42.7 percent of the students at Trinidad State claim Hispanic heritage. That number has hovered between 38 and 44 percent for more than a decade. The Title V Grant, also called the Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (DHSI) Program, will be used to provide services and resources for Hispanic and low-income students at Trinidad State Campuses in Trinidad and Alamosa. The grant will also pay for professional development for students, faculty and staff, as well as technology upgrades and support.

"This grant could not have come at a more important time," said Trinidad State President Dr. Rhonda M. Epper. "The COVID-19 pandemic has put pressure on all of our students, but especially on our highest risk populations – first-generation, low-income, and students of color. We know that a college degree can change a student's life trajectory, both for them and future generations of their family. Our project will be focused on helping students get to the finish line successfully."

› TRiO Student Support Services Funded

TRiO - Student Support Services is a federally funded program that provides opportunities for academic development, assists students with basic college requirements, and serves to motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education. The goal of the program is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants and help students make the transition from one level of higher education to the next. Trinidad State was awarded \$3.3 million over five years to provide services to nearly 400 students between the two campuses.

Accreditation Success

- ▶ TSJC has successfully completed its Year 4 Assurance Review by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) with no recommended monitoring. As noted by the peer reviewers, “TSJC has embraced the use of data to review programming and effectiveness of the college performance. Merging concepts from the 2018-2023 Strategic Plan, the College’s Centennial Goals (2025), the Colorado Community College System 2015-2025 Strategic Plan, and the Colorado Department of Higher Education Master Plan (Colorado Rises), rich data is being collected by the College and strong goals established for various measures of student success. Highlights include retention, persistence, and graduation rates but also include breakdowns of data based upon classifications of students and types of academic courses. The College appears to be utilizing data well to drive discussions and decisions to enhance the quality of the student experience.”
- ▶ The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) virtual visit was September 30-October 2, 2020. Three peer evaluators facilitated this accreditation process. ACEN has oversight of every stage of the peer review process and is committed to strengthening the quality of nursing education through accreditation process. The initial report will be sent to the ACEN Commission for final review that will take place in March-April 2021.
- ▶ The TSJC Associate of Applied Science degree in Occupational Safety and Health Technology (OSHT) is accredited by the Applied and Natural Science Accreditation Commission (ANSAC) of Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). The recent accreditation visit approved this program to the next site visit in 2025-26. This program supports student entry to a technical profession, and verifies that the students’ educational experience meets the global standard for technical education in this profession. Graduates from an ABET-accredited program have a solid educational foundation and are capable of leading the way in innovation, emerging technologies, and in anticipating the welfare and safety needs of the public.

- ▶ Trinidad State received their approval for candidacy status for the RN to BSN program with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The College will host a site visit in Fall 2021. Currently, 16 students are in the RN-BSN cohort.
- ▶ The Paramedic Program received a Letter of Review from the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services (CoAEMSP). The students that are finishing up will be going forward with their National Registry tests and the second cohort has started their didactic portion of the program.



Gunsmithing Technician Certificates

Trinidad State is the only summer NRA program where a student may earn a Gunsmithing Technician Certificate. The 16-credit certificate includes basic and advanced machine shop, welding for gunsmiths, bluing, benchmetal hand tools and metallurgy and three electives. For more information, contact Donna Haddow at donna.haddow@trinidadstate.edu.



New Vice President at the Trinidad State Valley Campus



Last fall, Trinidad State welcomed James Kynor to the Valley Campus. Kynor made the move to Alamosa from Community College of Denver where he was Dean of Business, Industry, Technology and Public Service. “I felt we needed an executive leader at the Valley Campus who could provide consistent, day-to-day leadership for the campus and community,” said President Dr. Rhonda Epper. “I was also looking for a leader who can take the Valley Campus to the next

level while supporting the economic growth that’s happening in the Valley. TSJC is looking to expand our CTE (Career and Technical Education) programming, and Jim Kynor has a track record of success that he will bring to the San Luis Valley.” CTE includes manufacturing, agriculture and health sciences.

Kynor had been at Community College of Denver since 2016. Before that he served for four years as the Associate Dean of CTE and Workforce related programs at Pikes Peak Community College. He also has private sector experience as a director of Quality, Planning, and International Business for a manufacturing, construction and engineering firm. He served in the military and graduated from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and has a Master’s in Business Administration from Boston College.

Outcalt grant leads to *steep upgrade* for computer programs at Trinidad State



A million-dollar grant from the Outcalt Foundation has made it possible for cybersecurity guru, Serena (“Sully”) Sullivan, to relocate to Alamosa from the Community College of Denver. She recently assumed the new position as Director for Technology Program Development and Instruction at Trinidad State’s Valley Campus.

“It’s an exciting opportunity to start new degree programs, stackable certification programs and include industry certifications students can earn as they work toward a degree,” said Sullivan. “I want to appeal to students no matter what their skill level is,” she added. “I would like to show potential students that technology is not intimidating and that it can be a lot of fun. I would like to see an active technology club that can participate in activities and coach interested students in national technology or cybersecurity competitions.”

Sullivan is working on her doctorate in computer science with a cybersecurity concentration. She has a bachelor’s in Computer Science and a master’s in Instructional Design Technology with a concentration in online learning. Industry certifications include CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional), CompTIA Security+ and more.

Sorum Tractor Company owner and Alamosa business leader, the late Ralph Outcalt, supported many causes in the Valley but he was especially interested in promoting education. He wanted to see the Valley’s youth excel and help them become community leaders. Karla Shriver, one of the executors of his estate, said, “Ralph was a very smart and generous man. He started with nothing. He said the community was very good to him and he wanted to give back.”

Outcalt Foundation grant funds are being used to “beef up” the computer programs on the Valley campus beginning with Computer Information Systems (CIS) and statewide-transferable Computer Science degrees, all spearheaded by Sullivan. “We will start it on the Valley Campus, grow it and then develop a similar program for the Trinidad Campus as well,” said Trinidad State Vice President, James Kynor.

“Pretty much every career field you go in to is going to need some kind of technology, whether it’s basic office skills like creating word documents, to building a network and securing it, to creating data bases, to using specialized equipment at

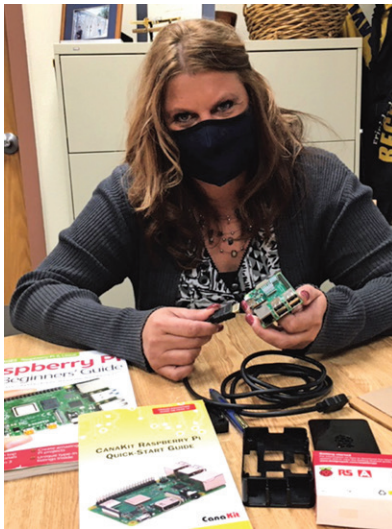
work,” said Sullivan, whose list of qualifications is long. She served for 13 years in the U.S. Air Force where she was the Communications Officer in charge with 65 others working in the shop. Her job was to trouble shoot and set up communications, including classified and unclassified networks.

Sullivan spent five-years at Pikes Peak Community College (PPCC) where she completed the process for the college to be a National Center of Excellence for Cyber Defense – the first community college in Colorado to receive that designation. After leaving PPCC, she worked as an analyst and as a course designer to develop cybersecurity courses for military special operations. As a civilian, she set up a Security Operations Center (SOC) where network traffic is monitored for unwanted cyber traffic.

Eager to share her extensive computer knowledge and to create new opportunities for students, Sullivan said, “Once you become technologically savvy, you’re not scared anymore. It doesn’t make you nervous.” Subjects to be taught include databases, hardware skills, networking, cybersecurity and computer science. “Even though these are all interconnected, they are all very separate, different fields and within each of those, there are hundreds, if not thousands, of different jobs you could do,” said Sullivan.

Kynor said he worked closely with Outcalt Foundation executors, Karla Shriver and Carolyn Kawanabe, to repurpose grant funds the College received several years ago. “One of the driving factors for the Outcalt dollars is to enhance and create new career and technical programs in the Valley while preparing youth for new opportunities. Inherent in that is computer information systems. The digital literacy of the Valley is critically important, to not only building up the skill sets for existing businesses, but also to develop a work force that may be attractive for new businesses coming in. From my perspective, digital literacy is probably the key element right now to drive other CTE (Career and Technical Education) programs in the direction that Outcalt helps us.”

The Outcalt Foundation mission is “to strengthen our community by supporting those committed to the betterment of the San Luis Valley” which parallels Sullivan’s work. She plans to develop a “robust technology program” with unique offerings to attract students who will hopefully choose to complete their career paths at Trinidad State.



Southeastern Colorado community colleges get a \$5 million boost from Attorney General's Office to revitalize rural housing, support trades programs



Ryan Newport, center, a professor of gunsmithing at Trinidad State Junior College, describes his classes to Attorney General Phil Weiser, right, and TSJC President Dr. Rhonda Epper, during Weiser's October visit.

The Colorado State Attorney General's Office has granted \$5 million in funds to Trinidad State and fellow southeast Colorado community colleges Lamar Community College and Otero Junior College. The funds will support construction trades programs at the colleges in order to address labor shortages while helping to increase the availability of viable and affordable housing. According to the Attorney General, the funds were received from the national mortgage settlement; a settlement reached in 2012 after 49 states sued mortgage servicers following the 2008 financial crisis.

The Attorney General's Office created the Colorado Partnership for Education and Rural Revitalization (COPERR), in the Office of Community Engagement. It is designed to both revitalize rural housing and support construction training programs at community colleges across southeastern Colorado. Trinidad State received a third of those funds (\$1,666,000) for its building trades program.

Before the launch of COPERR, none of the funds obtained in the 2012 settlement were used in southeastern Colorado. "One of the requirements of that settlement was to spend a portion of the funds on housing," said Colorado State Attorney General, Phil Weiser. "I asked 'how much was spent on housing for southeast Colorado?' And the answer was 'None.' That led us to thinking about an employee-training program and to working through the state's community colleges. I'm a big fan of community colleges."

The skilled trades programs offered at TSJC, LCC, and OJC are considered essential, especially in rural Colorado. "Rural communities are a vital part of Colorado's cultural and economic

fabric," said Weiser. As economic contributors in southeastern Colorado, each college has the infrastructure and expertise to shape their trades programs so students can help revitalize housing in their own communities.

"I'm impressed with the College, the program and I've been really impressed by the people here," said Weiser following a tour of Trinidad State and the building trades program in October. "We are very excited to bring our construction trades program back to life," said TSJC President, Dr. Rhonda Epper. Weiser saw the beginning of that new life on his tour. "There is a legacy of a building trades program in Trinidad," added Weiser. "We're building on that legacy, historically speaking for the trades program there — and we're bringing that back today."

TSJC's building trades program will have in-class learning and experiential learning, during which students will complete remodels and new construction of blighted properties that the College has acquired or purchased via COPERR funds.

Students pay tuition for the courses, but will also receive a stipend after completing their work for the experiential learning component, allowing the homes to be remodeled or rebuilt for a lower, but still fair, cost.

"Trinidad State is thrilled to be a partner in COPERR," said Epper. "This investment is just the boost we need to help train more construction workers while addressing blighted housing in Trinidad and surrounding communities in Las Animas County." Once the College completes the remediation of a property, they will sell it back

to the community and reinvest the proceeds into COPERR.

"We are working together to build a future for residents in southeastern Colorado that includes reasonable, affordable housing and job opportunities," said Weiser. There is something really special about collaborating with one another to support the community. I think that is secret sauce to making this a success."

Pictured (L-R) are students William Cervantes, Ruben Serrano, Shane Montoya, Colton Ferguson, Jeremiah Lucero, Logan Justman, instructor Charles Exley, President Dr. Rhonda Epper, Program Director Keith Gipson, Attorney General Phil Weiser, Dana Crawford and Project Manager Vanessa Devereaux.





Our Centennial Moment

Trinidad State Junior College will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2025. We remain proud of our rich heritage as the first community college in the state of Colorado.

As we look with great anticipation toward our centennial celebration, the College is focusing on a few achievable and measureable goals to take us to that century mark. Our Strategic Planning Committee is fully engaged, seeking input from all voices and stakeholders to identify and prioritize the opportunities ahead. As we approach 2025, several key outcomes have been identified:

- 20% Growth in Enrollment
- Increase Graduation Rate to 50%
- Double the Number of Student Transfers from TSJC to Universities
- Eliminate Our Student Equity Gap
- Build Reserves to Underwrite Our Facilities Master Plan



Facilities Master Planning

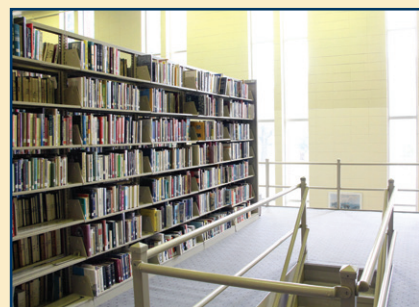
Trinidad State has also created a Facilities Master Planning Committee, as many of our buildings on campus are aging and in need of renovation. This Committee will identify and prioritize projects that best enable the College to realize our strategic outcomes. We will be seeking the community’s input and funding support as we move forward.

Trinidad State has touched countless lives across our communities since 1925. It’s a remarkable legacy, one we

carry with us as we move toward our centennial anniversary. Most importantly, all the right pieces are in place—we have outstanding programs, dedicated faculty, and academic excellence. It’s a remarkable time to be a part of Trinidad State. Together, we can accomplish great things.

Samuel Freudenthal Memorial Library

Several high priorities have been identified for Trinidad State, including securing the funding needed to underwrite capital improvement projects that emerge from our Facilities Master Plan.



Although specific strategies to fully realize these key outcomes are still under consideration, one foundational goal will be a comprehensive renovation of the Samuel Freudenthal Memorial Library. Trinidad State will create new, innovative spaces that take student engagement to new levels.

A library is a primary campus resource, where students access to individual study spaces, electronic databases, and locations where work groups can convene. TSJC is committed to modernizing our library to provide accessible, innovative options that support greater student success.

With input from the Facilities Master Planning Committee, the College produced a detailed program plan for the Library that was submitted to the Capital Development Committee. The College will work closely with the Colorado Department of Higher Education to position the Library for state investment. In addition, we anticipate the need for private philanthropic support from our friends and alumni to fully realize this project.

More information will be coming in the months ahead.

We’re excited about our Facilities Master Planning effort and the priorities that will emerge. And we’re excited about the Freudenthal Library project. As we look with great anticipation to our centennial



celebration—we are truly excited about the enhanced educational experience TSJC will provide to our students.

We are grateful for your commitment to Trinidad State.



Trinidad State's Own "Spider Woman"

For Dr. Kelly Kissane, it's the little things. Specifically bugs. Many find spiders and small flying critters creepy. She finds them fascinating. "I was born to be an entomologist," she says. Entomology is the study of insects. "For as long as I can remember, I was into science. I still remember my first experiment in the sandbox at the age of four or five. Earthworms didn't have legs and snakes didn't have legs, so I was going to raise earthworms until they got bigger!" said Kissane. Much to her mother's dismay, she has been turning over rocks and looking under logs ever since.

Kissane has been teaching biology at Trinidad State since last fall. And she has wasted no time in getting acquainted with the Valley, one bug at a time. "Water is really important to me especially when I study semiaquatic spiders. The Rio Grande is nearby along with other bodies of water and the Valley has the drier climate that I prefer," she said.

Kissane spent hours at a local campground collecting specimens while observing spiders and other insects. "Most of what I found are wolf spiders," she said. "Wolf spiders chase their prey and ambush it much like a wolf. They have chewing teeth, are very hairy, and don't spin webs," she added. They can be quite big, up to two inches. Kissane is a wolf spider expert.



Spider wasps, which are solitary wasps, burrow into the ground and feed mostly on wolf spiders. Kissane recently co-authored a scientific article on Spider wasps and their prey. It was published in *Insecta Mundi*, a peer-

reviewed publication. The article has had over 300 reads worldwide including Europe, South America, Israel, and Turkey. Kissane was one of the five co-authors. She was invited to join the project because she is the only Dolomedes (genus or group of species) expert in the United States and possibly in North America.



When she was working in a genetics lab at the University of Arizona, there was an arachnology (spider) lab down the hall with some very enthusiastic students who had brought back some large spiders from Florida about the size of her hand. Fascinated with these spiders, Kissane knew this would be her life work.

After ten years of living and teaching in Texas, Kissane was missing the mountains. Besides Tucson, AZ, her studies had taken her to Reno, NV and Western Oregon University with their respective mountain ranges – Santa Catalina Mountains, Sierra Nevada and the Cascades. "I used to hike to relieve stress and I didn't have that in Texas. Now I'm back in the mountains hiking again."

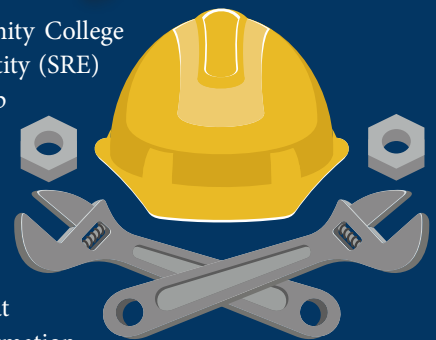
Kissane grew up in a small town on a farm near Saginaw Bay on Lake Huron. Her family was poor. "First generation students don't feel like they belong at college. They don't know if they can make it. There's a lot of insecurity there," she said. "I want to help first generation students and help guide them over the obstacles I faced."

Kissane is a member of the Animal Behavior Society and the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology. Her focus is the study of insect behavior. Kissane teaches General Biology 1 & 2, Microbiology, Pathophysiology and non-majors biology.

New Apprenticeship Model Pioneered at Colorado's Community Colleges

The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) announced that they selected the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) as one of 18 organizations in the nation to serve as a Standards Recognition Entity (SRE) and to oversee the development of new, high-quality Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs (IRAPs) that will be available through CCCS's 13 colleges, including Trinidad State.

While CCCS currently supports dozens of Registered Apprenticeship Programs through the USDOL, the creation of IRAPs will greatly expand opportunities beyond traditional programs, provide additional flexibility and customization, and bolster apprenticeship creation across all sectors. CCCS will begin work with employers and other partners to establish standards for IRAPs that provide apprentices with college credit and industry-recognized credentials in manufacturing, information technology, real estate/rental and leasing, healthcare, and social assistance



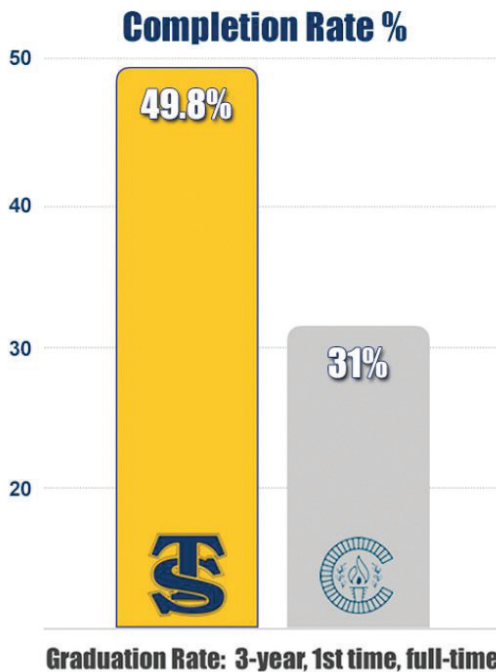
"This approval will allow us to aggressively scale apprenticeship development across our 13 colleges," said Michael Macklin, associate vice chancellor of workforce development at the Colorado Community College System. "We applaud USDOL in their swift support and vision that aligns with our goals to create innovative pathways for students to achieve a fulfilling career and increasing our state's economic vibrancy."

The Need for Conversation and Action around Racial Equity

Dr. Rhonda Epper

Our country is going through major shifts in how we think about, talk about, and address racial injustices. Trinidad State's enrollment shows that we are becoming a majority-minority institution. The college's enrollment of students of color has increased from 42% to 50% over the last five years, which makes it apparent why we must work to eliminate disparities in educational outcomes. It's a moral imperative, and it's also a success imperative.

One of our Centennial Goals (that we are aiming to reach by 2025) is to eliminate the equity gap. Trinidad State has an overall graduation rate of 49.8%, which is the highest in the state system of community colleges. However, when looking closely at the data, our students of color have a graduation rate of 45.2% compared to non-students of color at 54.7%. Thus, we have an equity gap of 9.5%. One of the ways in which we are addressing this gap is to disaggregate data at the classroom level so faculty can identify areas in which students of color are struggling. We also have taken on a college-wide series of book readings around equity and inclusion. In addition, we have organized an Equity and Inclusion Council that has developed an action plan to help us reach our goals by 2025.



Graduation Rate: 3-year, 1st time, full-time

Source: CCCS Factbook, AY 2018-19

Trinidad State is committed to the work of equity -- to creating a college where success cannot be predicted by race, ethnicity or socio-economic status.

We recognize that our work is not complete after reading one article or book, holding a meeting or discussion, or even participating in a book club. "Diversity and equity conversations are not conversations you can have once and expect to be fluent, like any other language, you have to study it, you have to do it repeatedly, you have to do it consistently over time or you will never gain the ability to speak fluently," said Joe Garcia, Colorado Community College System Chancellor. "That's true whether we're talking about a foreign language or about the ability to communicate with people effectively from different backgrounds, racially, ethnically and otherwise." With that in mind, we are committed as a college to engaging in ongoing reflection and having difficult discussions around privilege, equity, and racial injustice. Consistency is necessary to create systemic change.

One thing I'm sure of. Education is the greatest tool we possess in building and sustaining a strong, prosperous, and equitable civil society. My pledge to you is to work diligently, with our college community and the greater Southern Colorado community toward a society that fulfills the promise of opportunity, the promise of a just and prosperous America.



Trinidad State joined the **CEO Action for Diversity & Inclusion™**. Recently, Dr. Epper signed the **CEO Action Pledge**. "As the leader of Trinidad State Junior College, I am committed to implementing the pledge within my workplace and support other companies in doing the same," said Epper. The **CEO Action Pledge** outlines a specific set of actions to cultivate a trusting environment where all

ideas are welcomed, and employees feel comfortable and empowered to have discussions about diversity and inclusion.

 **Overall Graduation Rate** **49.8%**

 **Non-Students of Color** **54.7%**

 **Students of Color** **45.2%**

STUDENTS FIRST

COVID Ends Spring Seasons



The spring sports season came to a sudden halt in mid-March when the NJCAA cancelled all of its events because of the COVID pandemic. The Indoor track season was able to get their final competition in, but the outdoor season was cancelled before it was able to start. Baseball and Softball were both sitting in good shape, with Baseball drilling Lamar in their final game, and Softball sitting atop the Region IX standings. Softball was still unbeaten in region play when the season was called. The NJCAA would rule that the seasons did not count and the athletes will receive an extra year of eligibility.

Cross Country Places Fifth in Nation

The Trojan Cross Country team placed fifth at the NJCAA Cross Country National Championships in November. Devin Paredes finished 9th overall in a new School Record time of 24:32. Felix Kemei, Miguel Coca, Micah Stanton and Caleb Palmer rounded out the Trojan scorers. The Trojans combined to score 155 points, garnering them 5th place overall. This marks the team's highest finish at a National Championship event.



VALLEY CAMPUS ATHLETES





TROJAN ATHLETICS

2019-2020



TRINIDAD CAMPUS ATHLETES

Trojans earn NJCAA Academic Honors



The National Junior College Athletic Association released the list of top academic teams and top student-athletes for the 2019-2020 academic year. All of the Trojan teams and 48 of the athletes were on the list for top academic achievement.

To qualify as an NJCAA All-Academic team the grades for the entire squad are averaged together. If the team has over a 3.0 combined Grade Point Average they make the list. For the first time ever all of the Trojan teams qualified. Softball edged out Volleyball 3.50 to 3.49 for the top GPA at the college. 48 Trojans also earned individual academic awards by the NJCAA this year for holding a GPA over 3.6.



George Scott Award

For Excellence in Academics and Athletics at TSJC

TSJC had a record number of George Scott award winners in 2019-2020. Seven Trojan athletes completed their two years at Trinidad State with perfect 4.0 GPA's.

Ashlee Minne, Jessica Arellano, Hayley Leatherwood, Jocelyn Charlesworth, Jade Glasser, Mary Baldwin and Reina Sotelo all earned the prestigious award.



Two Gift Ideas – Smarter Philanthropy?



When considering a gift to Trinidad State, most people think of their checkbook first. Depending upon circumstances, however, a more tax-efficient option might be available.

Gift of Appreciated Stock

One idea is to review your investment portfolio for stock positions with a low cost basis. When you sell that stock, capital gains tax becomes due on the appreciation. By donating that stock, however, Trinidad State would receive its full value—no capital gains would be due. 100% of your gift would support our students.

In addition, a savvy investor might also consider repurchasing an identical position for the portfolio. This not only restores your stock holding, but it does so with a new, improved cost basis. Since the “Wash Sale” rules apply only to sales—not charitable donations—this offers an opportunity to improve the tax position of your portfolio.

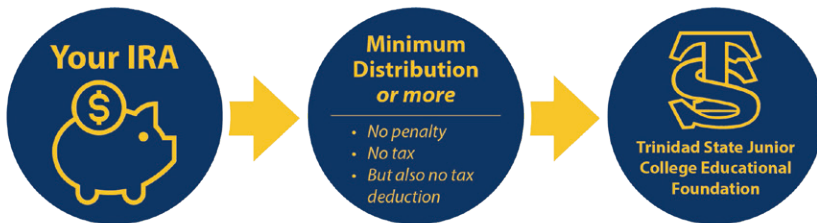
If you're considering a donation to Trinidad State, please consider whether a gift of appreciated stock might be advantageous.

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

A 'QCD' from your IRA is an option once you become 70½ or older. As you may know, IRA distributions are taxable at ordinary income rates. However, no income tax is due when you transfer assets from your IRA to Trinidad State with a QCD.

This strategy makes sense for people who:

- Have sufficient retirement income from non-IRA sources
- No longer itemize income tax deductions
- Want to preserve available cash on hand



Fewer people than ever itemize their deductions for tax purposes—instead, most now claim the Standard Deduction. Even though a QCD is not tax deductible, nothing is ‘lost’ for people who’ll claim the Standard Deduction anyway.

Perhaps most importantly, this option preserves available cash balances. Funds in these accounts have already been taxed. Why use them for charitable donations (if there’s no deduction), when you can donate from ‘pre-tax’ dollars instead? In the right circumstances, a QCD can be a very smart option.



2020 Annual Fund – You Can Help

As I reflect on this past year, and the new challenges it has presented for all of us, I’m reminded of the profound impact Trinidad State has made on my life and the lives of countless students. Not only can education improve the quality of life for our students, but the positive contributions our students make within their communities after graduation are vast.

For 95 years now, Trinidad State has been educating students to fill those essential roles in communities—roles such as nurses and nurse aides, teachers, paramedics, agriculture and line technicians, among others. Additionally, Trinidad State provides an affordable start for students who wish to pursue a four-year degree.

Support to the Annual Fund ensures current and future students have access to a quality education at Trinidad State, allowing them to achieve their goals and contribute to society in meaningful ways. As you consider making your gift to the Annual Fund, please know your generosity and the same from others will truly make a difference.

Take a minute and use the envelope provided here...join me in making your gift TODAY, showing your belief in Trinidad State and our students.



Toni DeAngelis, '89
Executive Director
TSJC Educational Foundation

Hey!

See that envelope right here?
We are kicking off the Annual Fund,
there's no time like the present!

More Information?

In all situations, please consult with your advisors to help decide the best option for you. In addition, if you would like to contact us, please know there is no expectation or obligation at all. Please contact Toni DeAngelis at toni.deangelis@trinidadstate.edu or 719-846-5520 if we can be of any help.



Foundation Commits \$200,000 to Massari Theatre Renovation

In February, 2020, TSJC received a \$200,000 award to help support a \$400,000 renovation project for the Massari Theatre. This generous award to the College is from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA).

“We are thrilled to be awarded this grant to improve our Massari Theatre,” said Dr. Rhonda Epper. “We will use this money wisely to bring this fine facility into the 21st century, with an eye toward supporting the growing arts community in Trinidad.”



Planned renovations, including upgrades to the sound system, lighting, and electrical infrastructure along with a remodeled foyer, will enable the College to re-energize its Theater Arts program, and successfully launch a new Technical Theater program. Trinidad’s burgeoning creative arts industry has also become a critical economic driver, which the College can strengthen with the Massari project.

As a condition for the DOLA grant, TSJC was also required to secure dollar-for-dollar matching funds to fully realize the \$200,000 award. In partnership with the College, the Foundation has agreed to provide the necessary \$200,000 to fulfill the DOLA requirement. A generous donation to the Foundation from Joe and John Tarabino will represent the first \$50,000 toward the matching requirement. The remaining \$150,000 will be provided from Foundation assets, increasing the total to \$200,000.

“The entire Trinidad State community is thrilled by the vision for a renovated Massari Theatre. We hope it will become an artistic gathering place for the entire city,” Dr. Epper added, “while supporting enhanced educational opportunities for our students.”



Your plans today make a difference in someone’s future.

CONTACT US TODAY

about ways to make a future gift to help students at Trinidad State

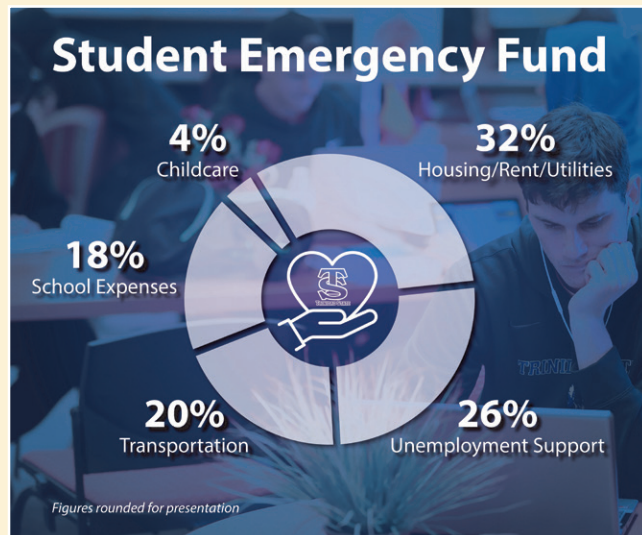
SOCIETY OF 1925 Toni DeAngelis (719) 846-5520
tsjcfoundation@trinidadstate.edu
trinidadstate.edu/foundation



Student Emergency Fund

When we issued the call for help, our Trojan Community responded! Students in need received financial support as they worked through the challenges of a sudden job loss, food insecurity, medical and technology needs, and other financial struggles. Most importantly, hardworking, deserving students were able to find some much-needed peace of mind in the midst of so much uncertainty.

To date, the COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund has supported 109 students, with awards totaling \$30,238. Please consider a gift to help our students continue working toward their educational goals, even during these difficult times. Every dollar can make a difference to a student already working at capacity. To learn more about the Student Emergency Fund, please go to <https://trinidadstate.edu/foundation/sef.html>



Student Emergency Fund Gifts in Action

“It feels good to know that there is someone who is trying to help us as students, and that motivates me to keep going and to see that I am not alone in this process.”

– Karla, Accounting Major

Remembering Trinidad State Junior College

By Mark Hellenschmidt

Trinidad State was surprised and pleased to learn of a generous estate gift from Mark and Glee Hellenschmidt. Mark was kind enough to share a few words about his experiences at TSJC.

TSJC significantly impacted our family. I attended Trinidad's gunsmithing program from 1967-1969, and my wife, Glee, attended the LPN program from 1967-1968. Glee's brother, Arlon Johnson, also attended the gunsmithing program from 1967-1969, and later returned to the computer repair program from 1977-1978. These educational opportunities opened important doors for all of us.

The gunsmithing program gave me an excellent skill set for trades work after graduation.

During high school, I thought a career as a mechanical engineer might be a good choice. Since I had hunted from a young age, and my father was an expert shot on many rifle teams through the years, I naturally enjoyed shooting and firearms. Integrating my enjoyment of shooting with engineering prerequisites—and recognizing a path to a trade—pointed me toward the TSJC gunsmithing program. I knew I could not afford to continue college without learning a trade. And I worked to pay for the rest of my college.

The gunsmithing program gave me an excellent skill set for trades work after graduation. Initially, I went to work as a prototype machinist at Lawrence Radiation Lab. The Lawrence Lab job was fun and challenging, but ended shortly after the Draft Lottery System was implemented. My lottery number was five! Shortly after, I enlisted in the US Marine Corps.

During high school, I thought a career as a mechanical engineer might be a good choice. Since I had hunted from a young age, and

After leaving the Marines and Vietnam in 1973, I earned my Bachelor of Science degree in both Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences from UCCS, graduating in 1977.

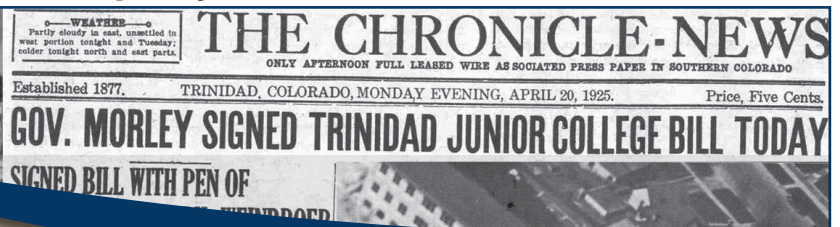
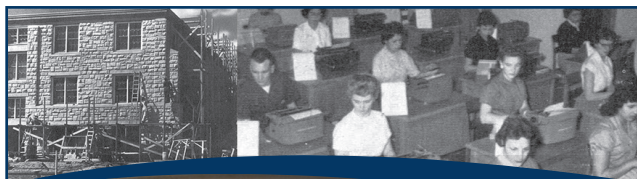
Since Glee was a young girl of four years old, she knew she wanted to be a nurse. While considering her options, Glee was impressed with the Licensed Practical Nursing program at TSJC. The program was very demanding, requiring 22 credit hours per semester plus additional work at one of the area hospitals. During this time, Glee also became Vice President of her class. The LPN program instilled both discipline and knowledge, so much that everyone in her class passed their state board examinations on their first attempt!

After initially working in a nursing home, Glee found government civil service work at the Ft. Carson Hospital from 1969-82—including the remaining years of the Vietnam War. She also treated infants from the 1975 Operation Babylift from Vietnam.

Glee's brother, Arlon, would find gunsmithing work around the country for several years, before coming back to TSJC for the computer repair program in 1977. From there he found work with Sperry-Univac, repairing computers on the Trident submarines.

In so many ways, TSJC prepared us for our careers, gave us great basics and advanced training for the future, and left us with lifelong friendships and many memories.

Glee and I are grateful for the many ways Trinidad State impacted our lives. And we are pleased to give back to the College through our estate planning.



The *Society of 1925* honors those who remember Trinidad State Junior College Educational Foundation in their estate plans. Estate gifts come in all shapes and sizes. All gifts are welcome, as the spirit behind each one is the same.

There are many ways to create an estate gift:

- Bequest (Will or Living Trust)
- Beneficiary Designation (Life Insurance or IRA)
- POD Instructions (Bank Account)
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Charitable Lead Trust
- Retained Life Insurance

The most popular options – Bequests and Beneficiary Designations – preserve your full control over your assets for life, helping to protect against any future uncertainties. Other planned gifts can help you achieve specific financial, tax and estate planning goals.

SOCIETY OF 1925

For more information, please visit www.trinidadstate.edu/1925 or contact Toni DeAngelis at 719-846-5520 or toni.deangelis@trinidadstate.edu



Philanthropy with *Purpose*

“When I first contacted TSJC regarding my interest in a Named Scholarship, it was to fulfill a promise I made to my wife,” Dennis Grabowski said. “She wanted me to help her give back—to support the next generation of nurses in appreciation of those who helped her during her battle with cancer.”

Vickie and Dennis Grabowski shared a beautiful and loving marriage for three decades. “To best describe my wife—she was a person who became instant friends with everyone she met. Vickie had a unique ability to always see the sun on the darkest of days, and make everyone around her tingle with her effervescence for life.”

After graduating from Trinidad State in 1972, Dennis started his career as a Mechanical Draftsman, but would continue his studies and achieve his career goal of becoming a Mechanical Design Engineer. In 1978, he accepted a career changing position with Sperry Corporation in Durham, NC as a senior sales engineer. Later, in 1986, he would launch his own company to considerable success, before selling his business in 2008.

“Looking back, I started my company from scratch—I built a business focused on custom chemical solutions, growing it into a multi-million dollar entity,” he said. “I then ran the company until it became necessary to care for Vickie.”

When Vickie’s diagnosis first arrived, it would confirm an aggressive form of breast cancer. The prognosis optimistically predicted 18-36 months of continued life. “Her 10-year battle was a testament to Vickie’s physical and emotional strength—to her incredible will to live,” Dennis explained. “Her positive attitude, and the blessing of a gifted and compassionate medical support team, allowed Vickie to beat the odds and bless us with many additional years of quality life.”

Honoring Vickie Grabowski would become a clear and guiding purpose for his philanthropy. And this purpose would be further refined by deep, thoughtful reflection.

“I began with a mandate from my wife,” Dennis explained. “Many on her care team were nurses, and we wanted to establish robust scholarship programs to accelerate and develop the next generation of Nursing professionals. At Trinidad State, a permanent, endowed Nursing scholarship now bears the name of Vickie and myself.”

“Our second scholarship focuses on STEM technologies,” Dennis added, “in recognition of my time at Trinidad State and the indelible, life-altering impacts that resulted.”

Dennis then elaborated to describe a greater philosophy, one that deeply impacts his philanthropy.

“I intend to support TSJC students who are passionate in their pursuit of an education, and who are responsible and accountable

to the results. I want to invest in student success, in the development of excellence. No student should ever think a ‘full ride’ is a ‘free ride’—I want them to know the financial support they’re receiving encourages them to work harder to achieve excellence in their education.”



“The skill sets I wish to promote philanthropically are those of ‘Critical Thought’ as it applies to problem solving in our technical world. And I want to honor my wife by supporting students pursuing a Nursing career, with an emphasis on ‘Compassionate Care’ as it applies to the field of Oncology.” My life experiences have exposed the benefits and power of both objectives,” he added.

Since 1983, Dennis has also served as a financial mentor to over 100 individuals and small business owners. Today, he still manages and guides investment portfolios in excess of \$25 million. “As with investing, my philanthropic objectives are long-term,” Dennis explained. “As a result, all my donations will be targeted for endowed, perpetual scholarship programs.”

In creating their scholarships at Trinidad State, Dennis appreciated the role of the Foundation in these conversations.

“When I first contacted TSJC,” he said, “I was lacking in knowledge about how to best accomplish my goals. I have learned a great deal—and it teaches me that a working partnership between a Donor, a responsible institution, and a committed student can be very powerful.”

“Vickie was the catalyst—she led me back to my alma mater, and the realization that it was time to give back,” he explained. “The objectives I wish to accomplish are, in part, a direct result of my life experiences.”

I intend to support TSJC students who are passionate in their pursuit of an education, and who are responsible and accountable to the results.

“But I will say, it doesn’t matter what the next person’s inspirational trigger will be,” he said. “What matters is that everyone becomes inspired to give back. And I would challenge any TSJC alum to deny the many positive impacts Trinidad State has had on their life.”

“Genuine, thoughtful reflection is a powerful inspiration. We can all help.”

A Chance to Give Back



Born in Trinidad as the son of a miner, Ron Lopez graduated from Trinidad High School in 1964. During his formative years, his mother, Rachel, would have a powerful impact on Ron and his three younger brothers. “During my freshman year, our Dad left the home,” he explained. “Our mom ran the household, guided us, enforced discipline—all while working as a waitress. To this day, I’m amazed how she kept everything together for us.”

“And she always encouraged us in school,” he added. “However, given our limited financial resources, the possibility of a higher education seemed doubtful.” Ron soon learned that Trinidad State was an affordable option, and after working some summer jobs to earn money for his education, Ron enrolled at TSJC that fall.

After TSJC, he would continue his education at Western State College. While at Western State, Ron met Shari Addington and they would be married the following summer in southern Indiana, where she was from. Their marriage meant relocating, and Ron would ultimately earn his Accounting degree from the University of Evansville in 1970 by going to night school. Shari would earn her degree from UE as well.

Ron started in an entry level position at Whirlpool Corp. He went on to Kimball International where he worked his way up to Assistant Controller, then Ron would finish his career as the Controller for Spencer Industries—a plastics manufacturer. “And so, as it began at good old TSJC,” Ron added, “I put my Accounting degree to use! It helped me enjoy a good career, and to raise a wonderful family.”

Ron made regular summer visits to Trinidad. “These visits gave me the idea about helping a student who might be in a tough spot like I was,” Ron said. “I got some help once, our children each earned their degrees—now it was time to help someone else fulfill their dreams. And what better way to do it than by helping someone in my own home town? And, by extension, help the College as well?”

In 2013, Ron set up the **Rachel Padilla Scholarship Fund**, named in his mother’s maiden name. “I wanted to honor everything she did for us four boys while we were growing up,” Ron said. Ron loves to receive the appreciation letters from the scholarship recipients. “It’s heartwarming to know you’re helping young people pursue their dreams—as you once did, too!”



Jay and Beryl Jacobson – Scholarship for Skilled Trades

Last fall, Jay and Beryl Jacobson established a legacy scholarship for the Skilled Trades Programs at Trinidad State. Scholarship preference is given to students in Nursing, Construction Trades and Line Technician Programs.

“TSJC can give its students employable skills,” Jay explained. “In business, we are short of labor—a lot of good people are not working and need work, but they don’t have the necessary skills to grab the good salaries available. For so many employers, personnel issues are driving them crazy because they don’t have trained people applying for the work. That’s what starts my engine about the community college—you can train people and do it in a cost-effective manner.”

The Skilled Trades programs are geared for industry and rank among the highest at Trinidad State for immediate job placement. Students get hands-on training in a short amount of time and can enter the workforce with strong starting salaries. “I feel that our scholarship is one small way I can encourage students to get employable skills—and that’s what TSJC can do.”

Jay and Beryl first became acquainted with Trinidad and TSJC 50 years ago. “We set up our two businesses [in Trinidad] starting in the 1970s, and Beryl worked as the County Extension Agent for Colorado State University.” The Jacobsons now live in the Denver area. “We loved our time in Trinidad,” Jay reminisced.



The Value of Education— the Draper-Fuentes Scholarship



The value of education would be firmly ingrained in both Ed and Judy Fuentes growing up. “Even though they could barely afford it, our parents sent me and my siblings to a private Catholic K-12 school,” Ed said. “They recognized what education could mean for our futures.” For Judy, the importance of education also came from her parents. “My mom was a school teacher,” she explained, “but

my dad saw it, too. Although he only attended school through 9th grade, he valued education and loved history—he had a plethora of books and read them all.”

Before choosing to retire in Trinidad, both Ed and Judy had careers in education, so education is a huge passion for the couple. Two years ago, Ed and Judy established their first endowed scholarship at Trinidad State. Then this spring, the Fuentes established a second scholarship—the first is designated to support nursing students, while the new one will support students interested in a career in education. “We just feel that with an education you can accomplish almost anything! We love Trinidad and we just want students to have some of the same opportunities that we were fortunate to have,” said Judy.

The Foundation is grateful to Ed and Judy Fuentes for their generosity, and for believing in the power of education.

For more information about scholarships, supporting programs or other areas of need at TSJC, please contact Toni DeAngelis at (719) 846-5520 or toni.deangelis@trinidadstate.edu.

GET YOUR TSJC GEAR ONLINE



tsjcbookstore.com

719.846.5610

600 Prospect St., Ste. A
Trinidad, CO 81082

CAMPUS LIFE

Trinidad State worked closely with the local health departments in each community to develop re-opening plans for the Fall. We recognized the importance and value of an in-person college experience and worked diligently to provide such a learning environment. And so, our doors were opened for face-to-face learning to start the semester and our students were thrilled to be here. Even though we couldn't see their smiles because they were hidden behind masks, we heard laughter and expressions of gratitude.

On November 2nd, out of an abundance of caution and in the interest of student and employee health, the leadership team made the decision to transition the Trinidad campus to remote learning. The Valley Campus pivoted to remote instruction on November 18th, though health care and law enforcement were able to continue in-person classes while adhering to strict guidelines. Students were encouraged to finish the semester strong and return safely for spring semester in January.



We are grateful for the commitment our students and staff made in following all of the COVID safety guidelines. Way to go, Trojans!



STUDENT'S FIRST

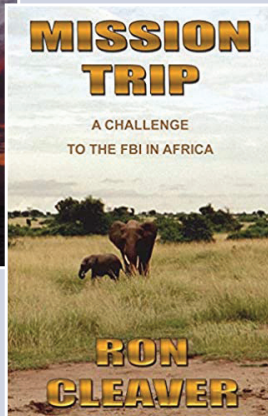
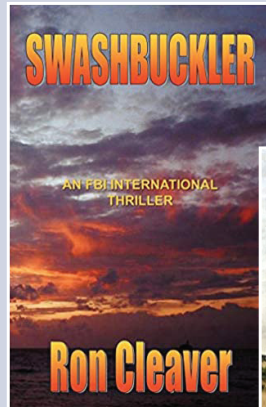
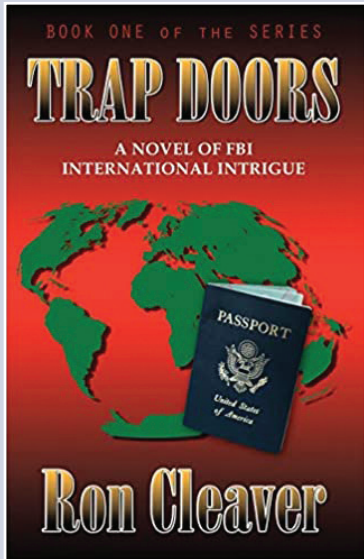
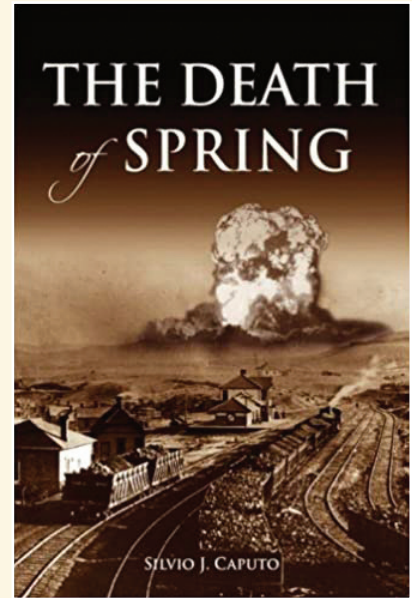
ALUMNI AUTHORS



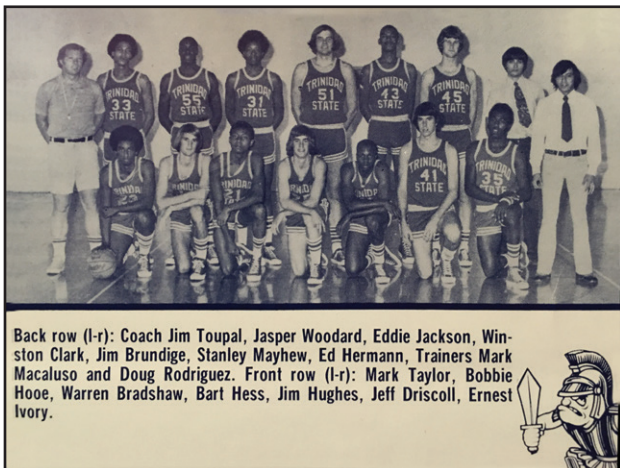
Mike Stitt, '62 goes by the pen name Michael Cosgrove. He has been an author, a print model, and an actor for the past twenty-five years, and owns an insurance agency in California. After TSJC, he graduated from Michigan State and holds an MA degree from Western Michigan in Psychology. In 2012, he authored "Imperfect Passage."



Silvio Caputo, '71 wrote "The Death of Spring" which tells the story of an "Italian immigrant who searched for the American dream only to find the harsh realities of life in the coal camps." Silvio has published both fiction and non-fiction articles on the Ludlow Massacre and labor relations of the last century.



Ron Cleaver, '65 spent his career in law enforcement as an FBI Special Agent. International assignments with both the FBI and as a consultant took him to over forty countries around the world. During his 20 year career in the FBI, he investigated and supervised complex criminal investigations and was a member of the faculty of the FBI Academy at Quantico. His investigative expertise is in the specialty areas of financial crimes, bank fraud, money laundering, and anti-corruption. He authored a trilogy, "Trap Doors", "Swashbuckler", and "Mission Trip".



Back row (l-r): Coach Jim Toupal, Jasper Woodard, Eddie Jackson, Winston Clark, Jim Brundige, Stanley Mayhew, Ed Hermann, Trainers Mark Macaluso and Doug Rodriguez. Front row (l-r): Mark Taylor, Bobbie Hoee, Warren Bradshaw, Bart Hess, Jim Hughes, Jeff Driscoll, Ernest Ivory.

Doug Rodriguez, '75 authored and published an article on LinkedIn entitled "Mentoring in the Paint". The article is a tribute to Coach Jim Toupal for his outstanding service to students during Doug's years at TSJC. Doug was the athletic manager/trainer for basketball and baseball under Coach Toupal. To read the full article, go to

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/douglas1rodriguez/detail/recent-activity/documents/>



CLASS NOTES



We're proud of our Trinidad State alumni. We want to celebrate your accomplishments and cheer you on – and so do your fellow classmates! Tell us about your memories and experiences at TSJC. Share your personal or professional accomplishments -- a new job, another degree, a recent wedding or a new baby, or another milestone in your life. Stay connected to your TSJC family. Submit a class note at <https://trinidadstate.edu/alumni/>

Elizabeth "Betty" (Phipps) Winters, '52 graduated from Holy Trinity in a class of 47 students, one of the largest classes. Her parents moved to Pueblo when the mines closed and her dad worked at the mill. Her grandfather owned a grocery store in Trinidad. After TSJC, she attended University of Denver for a year. She was able to start teaching in Pueblo and finished her degree in the summers. She and her first husband had 5 children, her daughter, **Diane Gordon** attended TSJC in 1975. Betty remarried, and she and her husband became exchange teachers in Alberta, Canada before getting jobs in Missouri. She retired at age 59. She has 15 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

Lloyd Ahnstedt, '54 joined the US Marine Corps before attending TSJC. He graduated from the University of Denver. Lloyd worked for Western Paving Construction for over 30 years and retired as CEO of the company. Sadly, Lloyd passed away January 12, 2020. He is survived by his wife, **Clare Mae (Vallejo) Ahnstedt, '53** and his brother-in-law, **Glenn Vallejo, '67**.

Harold Waterman, '54 commented "My education and subject matter at TSJC was both unique and strong. It fit me, I went on, after serving in the US Marine Corp, and got an engineering degree. Without question, it was my TSJC experience that USMC and eight gun companies found unique."

Roger O. Brunelli, '59 passed away February 8, 2020. He attended TSJC on a basketball scholarship. Roger then enrolled in Adams State College, but because of the draft, he chose to join the Navy. After completing his boot camp in San Diego, he returned home to marry his sweetheart, Cleatrice (Cleo) Beebe. They both returned to San Diego, where he was stationed for three years. Afterwards, Roger returned to Adams State College to complete his education. With degree in hand he began his life work as a history teacher and coach. Roger and Cleo had two sons, **Ronald, '86** and Kent.

Lydia Thompson, '61 expressed her appreciation for all the support that was given to her when she was a nursing student at TSJC.

Gary Ramstetter, '64 taught at Alamosa High School for 31 years and served as the school's wrestling coach for more than 34 years. His teams won nine state championships. He was named Colorado Coach of the Year in 1992, 1995, 1998 and 2006 and national Region 6 Coach of the year in 1996 and 2006. The National Wrestling Hall of Fame awarded him a Lifetime Service Award in 2012. Gary was captain of the wrestling team at San Jose State University and participated in the NCAA Division I wrestling tournament. In 2015, Gary was inducted into the Arvada West High School's Hall of Fame.

Gerald Maglia, '65 shared this message with the Foundation... "I feel that the junior college is the best way to go for young men and women coming out of high school. It is a great way to start and enter the college environment. TSJC gives students the chance to get to know their teachers and teachers get to know students on a personal basis. On a personal level, I had scholarship offers to 4-year colleges. I went one semester and saw it was not for me. Coming back was the best decision I made in my college career. I would very highly recommend TSJC and all that it offers."

Celestino Santistevan, '65 After graduating from TSJC, Celestino attended Adam State College and graduated in 1968. He worked for Conejos County in Antonito for a short time and then attended the University of Kansas, receiving his Masters in Social Work. He then went to work for El Paso County for 10 years before being offered the Directorship of Pagosa Springs Social Services. He worked there 5 years and then spent 11 years with the State Social Services Department. Due to a medical condition, Celestino decided to make his home in Rocky Ford where he worked as the Social Services Supervisor in Child Protection and the Area on Agency. He retired in 2010. Governor Hickenlooper appointed Celestino to a 4 year term on the Commission on Aging. He also served on City Council in Pagosa Springs and Rocky Ford. He enjoys volunteering in the community.

Mike Dippel, '66 grew up in Jasper, IN. He researched schools across the country and his search brought him to TSJC to play baseball on a scholarship. Upon returning to TSJC for his second year, he recruited **Jacob Ruxer, '68** to TSJC. Mike transferred to the University of Southern Colorado (now CSU-Pueblo). Mike was part of the building trades class that helped construct the TSJC President's house on Park Street. While they attend TSJC at different times, interestingly, he and **Bob Leid, '60** became friends having worked in the insurance business together in Arvada, CO. Mike was a Farmers Insurance agent for 35 years. Mike and his wife, **Eleanor Gonzales, '66**, have three daughters, all played fast pitch softball. Mike gave a shout out to friends **Debbie & Richard Nacewicz, '66**, **Richard Falsetta, '66** and **Ian DeBono, '66**.

Ronald Garcia, '66 served twenty-three years in the US Air Force and is a Vietnam Veteran. He earned his Bachelors Degree in 1980 from Minot State University. Ron was elected to two consecutive terms to the Minot City Council. He retired in 2017 and dedicates his time to serving Disabled American Veterans.

Larry Wermuth, '66 passed away on April 22, 2020. Larry graduated from Middleton High School in Wisconsin in 1964. He then attended Trinidad State, earning a degree in gunsmithing. Larry joined the Air Force and was stationed at Lackland Air Force base in San Antonio, Texas. He was assigned to the munitions and weaponry division. After four years at Lackland, Larry got out of the service and moved north to Belton, Texas where he started his gunsmithing career. No matter the problem with a new, used or old gun Larry could fix it.

Joseph Romero, '67 was born in Trinidad but moved to Golden, CO with his family in 1953. He returned to Trinidad to study Data Processing at TSJC. He recalled basketball games on campus watching the exceptional talents of Spencer Haywood. After 4 years in the Navy, he attend Red Rocks Community College using his Veterans Benefits. He was hired to work for the Federal Government, working for three agencies at the Denver

Federal Center and retired in 2009 with 38 years of service. He proudly noted that six of his Golden High School classmates are listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

Phillip Glendye, '71 passed away December 24, 2019 at home after a valiant one year battle with melanoma. Born and raised in Lawrence, Massachusetts, Phil was a 1969 graduate of Lawrence High School. He attended TSJC and received his Master's Degree in Special Education from Fitchburg State College. Phil went on to teach in the Lawrence Public School system for over 30 years, retiring in 2015. He was the supervisor of the Special Olympics in Lawrence for over 25 years where he brought two separate teams to the Special Olympics World Games in North Carolina and Alaska. Phil and his wife, Karen, were married 32 years but together 42 years having grown up in the same area. They knew each other since Karen was 16. Their daughter Jenna gave them their first grandchild this August.

Michael Mansour, '71 joined his high school friends, **Ron DiNicola, '71**, **Phillip Glendye, '71**, and **Nick Fortune, '71** at TSJC. Their high school coach, Bob Silva, recommended TSJC. Michael hadn't even filled out an application to TSJC but Coach Silva told him to take the money in his pocket and go. He started after Christmas and never looked back, enjoying his year and a half at TSJC. He went on to get his bachelor's degree, then a Master's Degree and was in education for 45 years. He taught Physical Education, was an athletic director, a coach, and an assistant principal. Michael didn't play sports at TSJC, "They were a little too good for me". However, he found a place he could play and went to Plymouth State to play football. That's where he met his wife, Maura. They have 5 children, 4 girls and a boy. The group of high school friends all went their separate ways and then came back to Lawrence. He shared that Phil worked with him a couple years coaching football.

John "Wayne" Ratliff, '71 recently shared some memories of his time at TSJC noting he came to TSJC on a football scholarship but regrettably the program was discontinued his second year. He played with Gary Weaver and Cody Jones, filling in as Jones' backup when needed. After TSJC, he attended Adams State University, then moved to Pittsburgh. He worked for US Air for 31 years and retired in 2003.

Antonio "Tony" "The King" Rodriguez, '71 recently shared, "TSJC was the foundation of my independence. It was my first year out of high school, totally independent. Meeting people from all over the country was phenomenal, an unbelievable experience. It was just a great time of life. Trinidad is very dear to me, beautiful memories!"

Abbas Ali Nouri Moussavi, '76 said "Thank you so much for keeping us the old timers in the loop! I had a walk down the memory lane while I was reading about the legacy of my English Professor, Mrs. Bacus." [see the October 2019 issue of the Foundation's quarterly e-newsletter, *Pillar & Post*]. He went on to say that the year he spent at TSJC was one of the best years of his life. He finished his general studies in engineering then transferred to West Virginia to finish up. As an international student, the first person he met on campus was Mr. Pete Deluca. "He always had a smile and still does. . . a great man!"

James Fidler, '77 said the training he received in the gunsmithing program was the starting point for a second career (his first career was in the US Army for 23 years). He taught gunsmithing at TSJC for a year after he graduated, then ran his own business for 20 years. He then went to teach gunsmithing for a competitor for 12 years. He also taught in the summer NRA program at TSJC for a few years. Jim turned 90 this year. He still enjoys teaching and has some friends that regularly try to stump him with a difficult project, but they haven't been able to stump him yet! Jim remains interested in the gunsmithing program. When asked what he would like to pass on to future generations of students, Jim said, "You only get back what you put into it. So put your most into it." *Thanks for the words of encouragement Jim!*

Patrick Malone, '93 has been a journalist for the Fort Collins Coloradoan, The Pueblo Chieftain, The Santa Fe New Mexican, and The Center for Public Integrity. On January 6th, he joined The Seattle Times as a senior investigative reporter and commented, "The Times' investigative unit is growing and full of very talented people."

Jason "Starky" Starkovich, '07 married Jessica Kraust on New Year's Eve 2019. The happy couple lives in San Tan Valley, AZ. Starky is a Trojan Baseball alum. After TSJC, he earned a Bachelors degree and Masters Degree from University of Northern Colorado. While working on his degrees, he got into baseball officiating. He has climbed through the ranks of baseball officials doing games in Single-A, then Double-A and now Triple-A Baseball (Pacific Coast League). One step from the big leagues!

Monica Hanley, '09 and **James Volturo, '07** welcomed baby girl, Olivia, on July 19, 2020.



Alumni Memorials

| | |
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| Kathryne (Giardino) Giuliano, '40 | Anthony Veltri, '68 |
| Lois (Cunniff) Lindstrom-Kennedy, '42 | Leslie K. Berry, '69 |
| Charles Long, '47 | Philip Early, '69 |
| Betty Diele, '48 | Lorene Cusimano, '70 |
| Marjorie (Hadad) Kraker, '49 | Phillip J. Glendye, '71 |
| Marjorie (Jolly) Simons, '50 | Janice (Bulson) Shew, '71 |
| Charles Burnap, '51 | Margaret (Steinberger) Paulich, '72 |
| Roger R. Debruno, '51 | Shirley Sanchez, '72 |
| Adele (DeRouen) Benter, '52 | Carolyn Amato, '74 |
| Pete Fiorenzi, '52 | Anthony B. Santistevan, '74 |
| Donna (Gagliardi) Pedri, '52 | Raymond Torres, '74 |
| Diana (O'Connor) Mauney, '53 | Martin (Marty) Solano, '75 |
| Richard M. Pachelli, Sr., '53 | Doug Mangino, '76 |
| Lloyd Ahnstedt, '54 | Lucy Antista, '79 |
| Helen Torres, '54 | Douglas Ridolfi, '81 |
| William Billett, '55 | Nelson Rix, '81 |
| Nick Dosen, '55 | Thomas E. Gonzales, '82 |
| Eleanor (Juliano) Falsetto, '55 | Terry Sue (Rolf) Valdez, '82 |
| Thomas S. Parker, '55 | Carmen (Gallegos) Colangelo, '84 |
| Lawrence Sebben, '55 | Floyd N. Sandoval, '85 |
| Alice I. Gutierrez, '56 | Mary Gayle Ruiz, '86 |
| David R. Torres, '56 | Ruby Sanchez, '90 |
| Lowell D. Baird, '57 | Bradford Davis, '93 |
| Loretta (Gagliardi) Paolucci, '57 | Richard Carlisle, '96 |
| Charles Pfallmer, '57 | Jesse Gutierrez, '96 |
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| William Matros, '62 | Friends of TSJC |
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| Janet (Link) Lowther, '65 | Dr. F. Dean Lillie |
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| Dwight E. Ready, '65 | Angelina "Angie" Sciacca |
| Bruce Abeyta, '66 | Eleanor Marie (Plein) Sena |
| Charlene Kay Villani, '66 | Kathryn Sicco |
| Larry Wermuth, '66 | Henry "Butch" Southway |
| Robert "Bob" Allen Abel, '67 | Betty Story |
| Francis J. Bambrick, '67 | |
| Vinco Yob, '67 | |

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The TSJC classes of 1970-73 are sponsoring the creation of a **TSJC Legacy Scholarship Fund.** It will exist on a perpetual basis providing financial support for deserving TSJC students.

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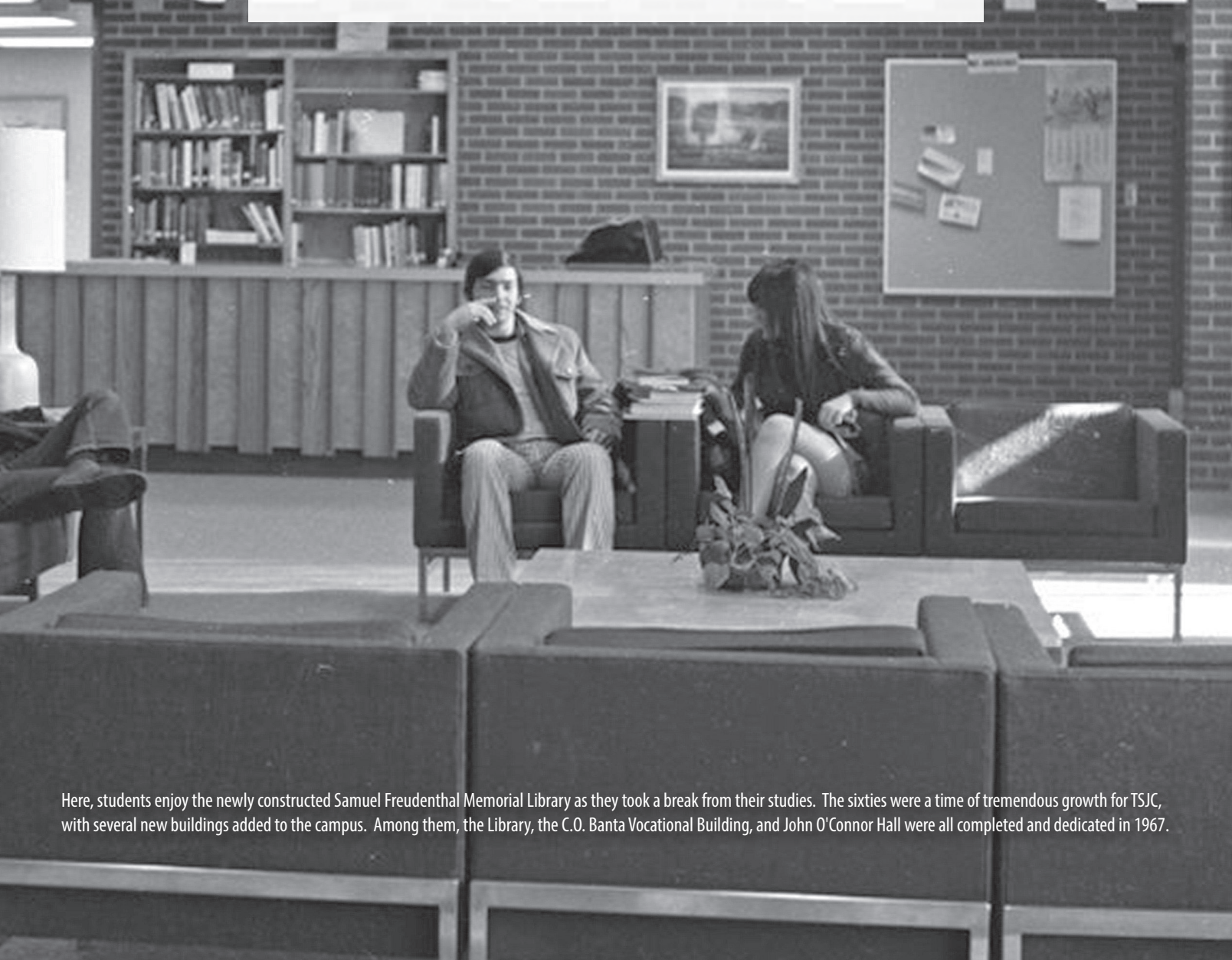
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Here, students enjoy the newly constructed Samuel Freudenthal Memorial Library as they took a break from their studies. The sixties were a time of tremendous growth for TSJC, with several new buildings added to the campus. Among them, the Library, the C.O. Banta Vocational Building, and John O'Connor Hall were all completed and dedicated in 1967.