

TRINIDAD STATE MAGAZINE



Faculty Focus – Biology
Robotics
Dental Assisting
Nursing
Alaskan Cruise and Reunion Recap

IN THIS ISSUE...

- Campus News3
- Faculty Focus5
- The Little College That Could6
- Dental Assisting.....8
- Nursing.....9
- Athletics 10
- Cruise 2023 11
- Foundation Focus..... 12
- Stories of Generosity..... 14
- Reunion 19
- Class Notes20
- Memorials.....21
- Donor Report.....22

TRINIDAD STATE MAGAZINE Fall 2022

President
Dr. Rhonda Epper

Editor
Toni DeAngelis

Writers/Contributors

Bill Albrecht, Greg Boyce, Todd Cotton,
Toni DeAngelis, Michelle Goodall,
Linda Perry, Joanne Palmer, Mike
Salbato, and Margaret Sanderson

Cover photograph courtesy of
Colorado Space Grant Consortium

Graphic Design
Melissa McCann

Trinidad State Magazine is published by
the Trinidad State College Foundation
for alumni and friends of the College.

Share your thoughts

Email: toni.deangelis@trinidadstate.edu
Mail: Trinidad State College Foundation
600 Prospect St.
Trinidad, CO 81082

Support Trinidad State

Visit: trinidadstate.edu/foundation
Call: 719-846-5520

2 trinidadstate.edu



President's Message

Once again, this year was full of inspiring accomplishments from students, faculty, and staff. As we emerged from the ever-lingering pandemic, we adopted a catchphrase, "Onward and Upward!" I truly believe our college community has embraced a positive outlook toward the future. It is a joy to see students interacting with their instructors and peers in the classroom. Students are participating in activities like movie night, dances, theatre productions, and the annual Halloween Trunk-or-Treat extravaganza. Athletics are back in full force with Trojan Pride radiating from all corners of our campuses. Perhaps we once took these things for granted, but now we cherish each opportunity for engagement and personal interaction.

Enrollment has stabilized this fall semester, with some programs experiencing growth. While our enrollment numbers were down during the pandemic years, I should note that our graduation and retention rates have remained strong. In fact, we exceed the state and national averages, and on several indicators, we are the top college in our state community college system. This means we are providing great instruction and support to our students.

In these pages, you will see some of the outstanding programs Trinidad State is bringing to our communities. From Robotics (continuing their winning track record), to Nursing, Dental Assisting, and our Cadaver-based Biology Lab. We continue to excel in Teacher Education, Law Enforcement, Construction, Gunsmithing, Welding, Automotive, Line Tech, and many transfer programs in the Arts and Sciences. We are also doing great work in Adult Education and Prison Education.

And stay tuned. . . We will soon see scaffolding, cones, and hard hats around campus as some major capital projects get underway, including the renovation of Freudenthal Library, the Loudon-Henritze Museum, as well as the renovation of Romero Residence Hall. Several smaller projects are nearing completion, such as technology upgrades in Massari Theatre, the opening of the Boyd Athletic Center, and a new roof for the Mullen building. And we're excited about our plans for the Valley Campus, with a full capital improvement request having been submitted to the state last spring.

Overall, it is a great time to be at Trinidad State College, and we appreciate your ongoing interest and support.

Rhonda M. Epper

Dr. Rhonda M. Epper
President

President Epper celebrating the Men's Basketball Region 9 victory over Otero, with OJC President Alvarez serving as the gracious host.



Left: President Epper celebrating with Governor Polis as Fishers Peak State Park opened 11 miles of new trails for hikers and mountain bikers.



2022 Graduation Line Technician Ceremony

Fox 21 Local News recently featured the City of Trinidad, including a special highlight with President Epper sharing information about Trinidad State College



Below: Mt. San Rafael Hospital Golf Tournament with all proceeds going toward TSC Nursing Scholarships. Representing TSC L to R: Rich Holden, Brooke Lucero, (Rhonda Epper), Steve Swazo, and Rob Lucero.



2022 Graduation Trinidad Campus Ceremony

Below: President Epper and Dr. Jodi Garcia, Nursing Faculty, backstage awaiting the 2022 Valley Campus Graduation Ceremony



Keep up with the latest news and sign up for Campus Connection at trinidadstate.edu/alumni

Faculty Recognition

The San Luis Valley Joint Interagency Oversight Group (SLV Joint IOG) honors partner agency staff members with the “**Boots on the Ground**” award in recognition of employees who exemplify the spirit of cross-systems collaboration. One award recipient for August was Tanner Kingery of Trinidad State College. Teri Sisneros of SLV Joint IOG had this to say about Tanner – “For several years now, we have reached out and collaborated with Tanner to help us with vehicle repairs for families that we are working with. He has always worked well with us and has done all he can to fit our families’ vehicles into his process of teaching students. Our families’ situations can be difficult sometimes and Tanner has always tried his best to accommodate and work around barriers. He has been a part of this team and may not know what a blessing he has been to both the ISST team and the families who might not otherwise have been able to get their only means of transportation fixed. He has always been upfront and honest if the repair work was unable to be done in the class and not to give any



false hope to the families. He has even let us know if the cost to repair would end up costing the family more than investing in a used running vehicle. We are grateful to have people like Tanner who are willing to team up with us to help families in our community. Thank you, Tanner. Your thoughtfulness and willingness are greatly appreciated.”

Trinidad State Faculty Member and Division Chair, LiAnn Richardson, was selected to participate in the Vera Institute of Justice Corrections Education Leadership Academy (CELA) program. This competitive professional development opportunity is limited to 12 people from across the nation. CELA’s goal is to help corrections education leaders expand and develop educational programs over the year-long program. Topics of discussion will include leveraging data and research, addressing issues of race, equity, and inclusion, and working with legislators and shaping legislative policy. Congratulations Ms. Richardson.



Trinidad State College and Colorado State University-Pueblo have entered into an agreement that will allow nursing students to work toward a bachelor’s and master’s degree at the same time. “This is a very efficient model,” said Trinidad State President, Dr. Rhonda M. Epper. “Students pursuing this option will have to work very hard, maintaining at least a “B” grade average, but it will save them a great amount of time and money.” The program is expected to help fill the need for master’s level qualified nurse educators, which in turn will help produce more nurses in rural areas. The classes are all taught online through CSU-Pueblo and Trinidad State. Qualified students can apply now and start in the program immediately.



Instructor Arin Hart transformed learning, holding a mock crime scene event for Criminal Justice students on the Trinidad Campus. The crime scene was part of Arin Hart’s Crime Scene Investigation class and was open to all Criminal Justice students. Students learned how to process and document a crime scene including diagramming, rough scene sketches, and

photography. Students also learned how to tape a scene off, bag and tag evidence, question witnesses, dust for fingerprints, cast footprints, and look for gun-shot residue. The event included a luminol demonstration, blood splatter examples and students learned about bullet trajectory. Mr. Hart was assisted by members of the Las Animas County Sheriff’s Office and Faculty member, Sarah Sloane.



ACADEMIC PATHWAYS

AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY	BUSINESS & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	HEALTH SCIENCES	EDUCATION	SKILLED TRADES	STEM & LIBERAL ARTS
Agriculture Business Agriculture Education Animal Science Soil & Crop Sciences Line Technician (UAS) Drone Pilot	Accounting Clerk Business Computer (CIS/CNG/CS) Criminal Justice Law Enforcement	Nursing (ADN, BSN) Dental Assistant Medical Assistant Emergency Medical Paramedic Nurse Aid	Teacher Preparation Elementary Education Special Education Early Childhood Supervisor (Infant/Toddler)	Welding Technology Automotive Service Construction Technology Trail Construction Gunsmithing Cosmetology / Barbering	Biology Mathematics Pre-Engineering Psychology History / English Art / Theatre
... and so much more and so much more and so much more and so much more and so much more and so much more ...



Large collection of important area artifacts donated to Trinidad State

Jimmy and Mai Vigil recently purchased a large and important collection of historic Native American cultural material accumulated from throughout the Southwest by Jim and Tana Stadjuhar. It also included prehistoric artifacts gathered from the Trinidad area that have been donated to the Freudenthal Library at Trinidad State College. The collection will soon be photographed and made available for digital viewing worldwide. Important pieces will eventually be displayed on campus. They represent about 7,000 years of history.

The collection

James Stadjuhar grew up west of Trinidad in Sopris and spent countless hours looking for artifacts left behind by previous residents. He and his family collected archaeological, paleontological and geological artifacts over many years from the area and amassed a large collection. He enrolled at Trinidad State in the 1960s and spent two years as a field foreman in the college Anthropology Department.

Stadjuhar kept copies of his field notes, maps, photos, professional papers and presentations he made to interested groups including the Colorado Archaeological Society. Stadjuhar graduated from Trinidad State and later, in 1969, joined the Air Force and became a pilot, eventually retiring to Nebraska with the rank of Lt. Colonel.

While Trinidad State's Loudon-Henritze Archaeology Museum is the repository for artifacts found during the Army Corps of Engineers Trinidad Lake project, Stadjuhar's collection predates that and includes a rich collection of metates, grinding stones, tools, weapons, and other items which tell the story of the early inhabitants of the Trinidad area. The collection is impressive because of the sheer numbers of artifacts, the field notes and documentation as well as an extensive archaeological library because of the timeline represented – from 7,500 years ago to as recent as the 19th century.



The area west of Trinidad is known as an edge habitat -- the prime land between mountains and plains. "Native American people gravitated to these 'edge' regions because of the abundance of wildlife," said Trinidad State Library Coordinator and Scholar in Residence Calvin Smith. "They had easy access to water and wood, large game like elk, deer and pronghorn and smaller animals like birds and rabbits." The oldest piece in the collection is a large stone projectile point which would have been attached to a long dart and

launched with an atlatl. In the hands of a skilled hunter, it could have killed even the large ancestors of modern-day bison, which stood 12 feet tall at the shoulder. "The collection includes over 50 framed displays and hundreds of pieces from cases and spans thousands of years, and includes a digging stick [like a rudimentary hoe], pottery, a broken bow and even metal arrow points that are 200 to 400 years old," said Smith.

The donors

Jimmy and Mai, in consultation with Jimmy's parents, Jim and Ellie Vigil, who reside west of Trinidad, recognized the collection was

historically important and should come "back home." They traveled to Stadjuhar's home in Nebraska in May and purchased it all with the intent it become a permanent part of Trinidad history for online study and the enjoyment of everyone in southeast Colorado.

"We are humbled the Vigils chose Trinidad State to house and protect this collection," said Trinidad State College President Dr. Rhonda M. Epper. "Digital photographs will soon be available to researchers worldwide and we'll eventually display the most unique and important pieces when our library re-opens to the public."



Searching for the "Science Series"

The Loudon-Henritze Archaeology Museum is searching for copies of the Science Series, published by the Trinidad State Science Club in 1942 and 1943.

If you have a copy that you could share with the Museum, please contact Loretta Martin: 719-846-5508 or loretta.martin@trinidadstate.edu



Thanks to an ARPA grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Colorado State Library System, the first editions of the Gunsmithing archives have been digitized and will be available soon in an online format. This will allow students and others with an interest in caring for and preserving historic firearms to access the most utilized books in the Freudenthal Library from one of the most complete collections in the industry.

Faculty Focus – Dr. Kevin Walker



“There’s a calling on my life to help people in some way,” said Hall. After completing A&P (Anatomy and Physiology) with Dr. Kevin Walker, Ph.D, Trinidad State biology instructor, Hall has set his sights on neurology and cardiology as areas of surgical interest.

Walker is “highly organized and he made A&P really exciting as

he related things to life. He is a very in-depth professor, and the class blew my mind!” said Hall, who plans to complete his Associates of Science at Trinidad State and move on to a four-year college and then on to medical school. Initially, Walker wanted to follow in his father’s footsteps and become a general surgeon and physician, until he had the opportunity to do research on timber wolves. Fascinated by the wolf for many years, he loved being outside doing his research and he loved his teaching assistant position in his college biology and chemistry classes. He knew then that he was meant to be a researcher and a teacher, and the study of biology would win his heart - specifically macroecology which deals with the study of relationships between organisms and their environment.

Learning how all the systems work together is knowledge he has taken into his cadaver labs. His biology and anatomy/physiology students have dissected individual organs from pigs, such as a heart “but working with that particular organ doesn’t do justice to what the heart does in relation to the vascular system,” said Walker. At least five other Colorado community colleges are using real human cadavers to teach human anatomy. One college transports students to a local hospital where they observe the process, while another uses cadavers brought in already dissected. Still, another college uses an anatomage virtual dissection table where life-sized human and animal bodies can be studied electronically. At Trinidad State, students can begin dissecting in their first semester of biology or A&P.

For Walker, establishing a cadaver lab was time consuming. Working through the red tape and locating a source from which to secure cadavers took time, but once approval was received, Walker set up his lab and purchased two cadavers from a Colorado source. Most often donors who give their bodies to science for research range from age 70 to 90 when they die. The female cadaver the students began dissecting was 100 at the time of death. The students have been working on her musculature system. One assignment for Austin Hall was to cut into her hamstring and separate the skin from fat. “We separated muscles from blood vessels and learned how they are interrelated and why. We were taught the whole human anatomy. It was most definitely my favorite class,” said Hall.

The male, who died around age 84, was overweight and students had to remove about 55 pounds of abdominal fat in two separate attempts to access his organs. They opened his chest cavity to study the digestive, respiratory and cardiovascular systems. “You can feel the blockage in his heart plumbing,” said Walker, “and his spleen is shriveled up.”

The class has been working on his internal organs. His musculature on one side of his body was much smaller than the other suggesting the cause of death may have been a stroke. His lungs have a black

substance leading the students to believe he either smoked or worked in a mine. The students have found fatty deposits in organs as well as cancer that was growing between his heart and lungs and his heart was “humongous” Hall said, almost twice its normal size according to Walker. The students are seeing how fat accumulates in organs and in the abdomen. “It changes your idea about weight management,” said Walker.

“Students are not required to dissect,” said Walker. Although some students choose not to, all the students are involved in the work even if as spectators only. Some students take biology as an elective, but the nursing students are required to take biology as well as A&P. Walker sees no difference in the students’ skill sets regardless of the reason they are taking one of his science classes. Before any dissecting is done, students must sign a strict contract detailing the do’s and don’ts of dissecting. The cadavers are then introduced to determine a student’s comfort level.



Cadavers are in body bags when picked up and transported. They are embalmed and do not need to be refrigerated. Once they are dissected, they will be used for observational and physiological analysis in future semesters.

Born and raised in east Texas but always drawn to Colorado, Walker says, “Trinidad has such a rich history. It’s everything I’ve been looking for. Ever since I was a little kid, I’ve loved Colorado. I love it here (Trinidad). I love the school. I like working with the students and the faculty and staff. It’s a complete package. It’s a family-oriented school. I’m glad I made the choice.”

Austin Hall likens Trinidad State to a “bonfire in a fireplace – a lot of interesting things in a small school,” he said.

“I couldn’t believe we had human bodies (cadavers) to learn on. I learned more than I can imagine. It was like tasting the appetizer to a full-course meal that I want to have,” said nineteen-year-old Austin Hall. Hall has his heart set on being a surgeon.”



Kevin’s passion for and knowledge of biology began early and continues today. He received his BA from Austin College with a major in Biology and his PhD from the University of Ottawa studying Macroecology--broad empirical patterns, across continental scales. His experience in teaching is broad and diverse and includes years of teaching anatomy and physiology, zoology, general biology, cellular biology, organismal biology, plant science, entomology, microbiology and environmental science.

“With respect to Anatomy and Physiology, my work in Macroecology gives me a unique perception in relation to our participation in the natural selective process that has given rise to our common and species-specific characteristics. Subsequently, I incorporate how our anatomical and physiological traits have been instrumental to our macroevolutionary success.”



The Little College That Could

By Joanne Palmer as featured in *Colorado County Life*, September 2022

Everyone loves an underdog — the long-shot horse that wins the Kentucky Derby by a nose; the rookie quarterback who throws the winning touchdown in the final seconds of the game; or the middle-aged Olympian who, against all odds, racks up more medals than competitors half his age.

But not all underdog stories revolve around sporting events and athletic achievements. This is a story about an academic underdog, a heartwarming account of a two-year community college, Trinidad State College, that is home to a robotics team that competes against bigger, mostly four-year colleges and not only holds its own but consistently defies expectations.

It's the story of the little college that could and the mathematics professor, Cindy Clements, who started it all.

Trinidad is not what you'd expect. One of the main streets of this southern Colorado town in San Isabel Electric's service territory [part of the Colorado Rural Electric Association] is paved with bricks.

Equidistant between Denver and Santa Fe, New Mexico, with a population hovering around 8,000, it's surprising that Trinidad has a college at all. And yet, founded in 1925, TSC was the first community college in Colorado. The college is widely regarded as having the best gunsmithing school in the United States. Students can also pursue a vocational, arts or science track at either the Trinidad or Alamosa campus.

Many high school students take advantage of the unique opportunity to earn college credits and pursue concurrent enrollment. In fact, this past school year, the seven-member robotics team included two high school students. The college is so small, with only about 1,000 students on the Trinidad campus, the robotics team is considered an athletic team and the athletic director publicizes most of their events.

"No one expects Trinidad to have this kind of program," Clements says wryly.

Robotics team member Kayla Gardiner agrees: "Cindy is incredibly dedicated to the robotics program. The region would not have anything like it without her."

LOOKING BACK

According to the TSC website, "The Trinidad State Robotics Team got its start in 2009 when the school was invited to join the Colorado Space Grant Consortium. The program has evolved gradually and each team has improved on the previous year's design."

This past spring, students again competed in COSGC's Robotics Challenge at the Great Sand Dunes National Park. As part
6 trinidadstate.edu

of the event, students submitted a research paper and presented their research at COSGC's symposium.

The first paper from a TSC team was accepted in 2011 and, since then, the team has won best robot in its weight division every year it has been entered. It has also won the People's Choice Award five times, and its paper/presentation has won a session award four times. In 2022, TSC robotics again took the best paper/presentation session award.

Clements' efforts do not go unnoticed. According to Bernadette Garcia Galvez, interim director of the Colorado Space Grant Consortium, "Clements is an exceptional educator. She has developed an approach in which she is able to engage beginning students and develop their skills to a point that her teams are consistently the only team able to demonstrate advanced autonomy at the annual event. She gives her all to keep the program going."

Her students, who refer to her as "Ms. C," appreciate her ability to connect. Co-captain of the robotics team, Ruth Edwards, comments, "I love the way she teaches, especially math. In the past, my math teachers would largely dismiss my questions because I was deeply concerned about the minutiae of how things work and fit together. She does not dismiss these questions; she understands why I want to know."

A CHANCE CONVERSATION

Clements was in the middle of teaching a math class when she overheard a conversation in the hallway between a physics professor and another colleague about robotics. On impulse, she called out, "I want to do robotics."

Impulsive is not really Clements' jam. She leans more toward the practical — she's the type of person who started thinking about her retirement while she was in her 20s, which led her to buy acreage outside of Trinidad in 1998 even though she had a teaching job in Oklahoma. Fast forward eight years and Clements landed a job at TSC.

After that chance conversation, Clements took a crash course on building robots from a person on the Colorado Space Grant Consortium and went to work.

"In 2010, we made our first robot completely out of recycled pieces and parts and were thrilled it moved in the sand and went in the right direction. It was a simple goal and we achieved it. Not only did we achieve it, but there were only two out of 30 robots that moved at all," recalls Clements.

THE S.W.A.R.M.

When you think of robots, you might think of Rosie the Robot in the cartoon sitcom "The Jetsons"; R2-D2 in "Star Wars"; or the adorable little trash compactor, WALL-E, in a 2008 film. The Trinidad robots are just as lovable as their Hollywood counterparts and, while they don't talk, they are cute. Yes, cute.

The wheels look like large LEGO® pieces, and some sport bright pink duct tape. The bodies are bright primary colors that house little cameras and a gaggle of electronic whosie-whatsits.

But building a robot is a painstaking process,



and it doesn't happen overnight — start to finish is about six months. "I take students and teach them everything and anything they need to know, literally nuts and bolts, from electronics to 3-D design and testing." In 2022, the seven-member robotics team built five robots known as the S.W.A.R.M.: Scorpion, WASP, ANT, Roly-Poly and Mantis.

Robots are about the size of a tissue box, but, unlike a box, they can perform incredible achievements. They whirl, spin and pivot. But most importantly, they're autonomous — they think for themselves.

Clements explains, "Currently, the robots on Mars are dependent on a person giving them further instructions back at NASA. This year, our goal was [to learn] how interconnected robots can work together to communicate with each other and create accurate maps on planets such as Mars."



THE PROCESS

Work begins in December each year, at the latest. There are classes in programming, electronics, 3-D design and building. Then the fun begins. The students meet and divide into groups; next, they program,

build, test. Repeat. Program, build, test. Fine tune. Test runs down the hallway. Revise. Tweak. More programming. Collaborate. More test runs. Tweak, tweak, tweak. Finally, months later: the sand pit. Which brings us to the story of Clements and the sand pit.

Clements will stop at nothing to help her students succeed, even if it means importing sand from Alamosa. Say what? The sand at the Great Sand Dunes is very similar to the terrain on Mars. Since all robots compete and are tested at the Sand Dunes in April, Clements simulates a mini Sand Dunes on campus.

"We have actual Sand Dunes sand. The farmers around the Sand Dunes don't want the sand that blows onto their farms, so I hired someone to go around and pick up the sand and bring it to Trinidad," she says.

It's just one more reason what was once a long-shot team in Colorado robotics is now the team to beat.

Joanne Palmer is a freelance writer from Colorado's Western Slope. Photos courtesy of Michelle Goodall.

ROBOTICS PROGRAM ALUMNI

Matt Barela, '09 attended Colorado State University, Fort Collins and graduated in 2016 with a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. For his Senior Design project at CSU, he was on the Human Powered Vehicle Competition (HPVC) Team. The HPVC is held by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and is a competition that is held worldwide. He was grateful to be involved in both the Robotics and Balloon Satellite Program at TSC noting they really laid a solid foundation of engineering skills and principles that have been very beneficial throughout my career.

Jeremy Begley, '10 went on to Colorado State University and graduated in 2013 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering then on to University of Colorado at Denver where he graduated in 2018 with a M.S. in Structural Engineering. He first worked for URS Corporation in Denver as a structural engineer working on industrial and oil/gas projects largely based in Canada. When URS merged with AECOM, Jeremy was put on a new project working on a large nuclear facility in Idaho. He now works as a Civil Structural Engineer at Gannett Fleming working on the structural evaluation of dams and hydraulic structures.

James Donnelly, '10 transferred to CSU (Ft. Collins), however, he was not entirely confident in his decision to pursue a degree in Electrical Engineering. After working as a low-voltage electrician and running his own recycling business for just over a year, he enrolled in the Mechatronics program at CSU (Pueblo) where James was able to work on another Space Grant Robotics Challenge. In 2015, he graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Engineering with an emphasis in Mechatronics.

Tyler Jensen, '10 finished his baseball career at Oklahoma Panhandle State and earned his Bachelor's in applied technology with a minor in mathematics. He then moved to Alaska and started a general contracting business. He's now co-founder and president of Visser Construction in Anchorage, Alaska. They build custom homes specializing in energy efficiency and do foundation repairs.

Catherine Jimenez-Benson, '10 went to the Colorado School of Mines and graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry with a Biochemistry specialty and minor in Public Affairs in 2014. She entered medical

school in Fall 2015 at the University of Illinois-Chicago in Peoria, IL. In medical school, Catherine met her husband, Kyle, and they moved to College Station, TX where she completed her family medicine residency at Texas A&M. With plans to move back to Colorado, Catherine will practice full scope family medicine and obstetrics! "I am proud my younger sister Joanna joined the robotics team a few years after me as well!"

Laura Mourer, '10 teaches Math Foundations and Linear Relationships and Equations at Cascade Middle School in Vancouver, WA. She graduated from Concordia University at Portland, OR with a Masters of Arts in Teaching. It was a great opportunity to be part of this great team, an unforgettable experience.

Onorio Franco Jr., '12 worked for North American Testing Inc as a Field/Lab Technician in Colorado Springs, doing construction materials testing for the military installations in and around the Front Range. He then worked as a Quality Control Technician for Tesla for 3 years before taking a position with Amazon.

Zach Scott, '12 attended the University of Colorado at Boulder, graduating in 2015 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering with a concentration in Environmental Sustainability. He worked as a Mechanical Design Engineer and CAD drafter at Ice-O-Matic, prior to starting at Comptek Technologies as a Mechanical/Thermal Engineer.

Brett Gonzales, '13 went to Colorado State University in Fort Collins, starting as an engineering science major, but switched to electrical engineering. In his senior year, he worked on a design team to make an autonomous underwater robot (csuauv.colostate.edu). He would graduate in 2017 with his Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering (BSEE) with a minor in math. He would later start a career in healthcare working as a Sterile Processing Tech/Surgical Tech saying he found his true calling in the field of surgery. He's considering options such as nursing, medical school, or even surgical tech.

Joanna Jimenez, '13 received her Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Colorado, Denver in 2020. In 2022, she completed her certificate as a Medical/Clinical Assistant from Arapahoe Community College. She's currently working as a Medical Assistant at the Integrated Ear, Nose, & Throat in Lone Tree, CO.

Jeff Manders, '13 received his Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering in 2016 from the University of Colorado, Boulder. In 2018, he accepted a position with Kitchell in Phoenix, AZ starting as a Vicon Engineer and then Field Engineer. Most recently, he was promoted to Senior Virtual Construction Engineer using drone photography and videography.

Larry Vidaurre, '13 continued on to Nyack College in Nyack, NY and received a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science. He moved home to Dallas- Fort Worth TX where was hired at Hewlett Packard Enterprise to fill the role of a Cyber Security Engineer. "Working in cyber security means that you are constantly going to encounter new threats and attacks and this requires you to think critically to solve these problems. This requires you to be an active learner and never get complacent with where you are and what you know today," said Larry.

Camille Arn, '14 attended Colorado Mesa University where she was a graduate of the CMU-CU Partnership Program in Mechanical Engineering. She started her career at NASA Johnson Space Center where she served in Mission Control as a Specialist Flight Controller. Camille is currently the Manager of the Program Management Office at Astrobotics helping develop multiple Lunar Landers. Prior to that, Camille was a Satellite System Engineer at Leidos. She was the keynote speaker at the 2022 COSGC Symposium.

Rachel Hadaway, '14 & '15, went onto New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, studying Mechanical Engineering but decided that wasn't what she wanted to do with her life and transferred back to TSC to earn her Associate of Arts in Psychology in 2015. She then transferred to Colorado State University and received her Bachelor's in Social Work. "If I can make a difference for one person, I've done my job as a social worker."

Andrez Leyva, '14 completed his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering at the University of New Mexico in 2017. He was a part of the Formula SAE program at UNM where they constructed a Formula 1 style race car. In 2019, Andrez earned his M.S. in Mechanical Engineering. Beginning in 2014 and throughout his time as both an undergrad and master's student, he worked as an intern at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, NM. Following the completion of his degrees, he accepted a job as a Regulatory Compliance Specialist serving as the

Corporate Program Lead for the Chemical Information System, which serves all Sandia National Laboratory sites in New Mexico, Nevada, California, and Hawaii.

Eric Perry, '14 received a scholarship to attend Colorado Mesa University to work on another Colorado Space Grant Consortium project. The project was for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Robotics Challenge Finals. After this experience, he enrolled in the mechanical engineering program at the University of Colorado, Boulder, receiving his Bachelor's in 2017. In 2019, he received his Master's from the University of Southern California in Astronautical Engineering. He worked for USC Liquid Propulsion Laboratory starting as a Testing & Operations Engineer, then Lead Engineer and finally Development & Test Engineer. He's now working for Ursa Major as Manager, Test Operations.

Leia Zagone, '15 completed her Bachelor's of Nutrition and Dietetics at the University of New Mexico and after, completed her graduate degree in Nutrition at New Mexico State University. She now works as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist at a long-term care and rehabilitation center in Albuquerque, NM.

Joshua Hoffpauir, '15 went on to CSU Pueblo and was part of their Space Grant Consortium program.

Hayden Alworth, '18 runs his own computer and networking business and also created his own internet service provider business. He uses many of the things that he learned in Robotics to design his own network and building towers and repeaters at remote locations. Hayden also write programs and recently began development on a surveillance network video recorder program based in C++. He has used it frequently for building camera systems for some of his customers.

Jennifer Kramarz, '18 currently is employed at Lockheed Martin as a Software Test Engineer. In 2019, she interned at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility where she created software to assist in the electrical engineering department. She graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.





New Funding to Benefit Dental Assisting Program



Dental Assisting students are positioned to benefit from the new Care Forward program. As Colorado looks to address the need for more trained health care workers, Trinidad State continues to graduate students into these key roles.

Founded in 2017 with the help of area dentists, the Dental Assisting program's completion rate was an impressive 100% at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Although people in Colorado could choose to train directly with a licensed dentist to become certified as a dental assistant, the two semester program at Trinidad State also includes instruction in radiology and CPR.

While some students move directly into professional employment as dental assistants, others may see the Dental Assisting program as a first step toward something more.

"I think everyone should start off as a dental assistant because it introduces you to everything," said Crystal Benavidez, who leads the program. "From there you can go into oral surgery, or endodontics, implants, orthodontics—or into periodontics, surgical assistant, office manager, program coordinator, teacher. (There's) lots of opportunity."



One recent graduate anticipates becoming a dentist. "I want to go to dental school," said Ahlisia Gallegos. Noting that her certificate in the Dental Assisting program allowed her to first test the waters, she added, "It's a good place to start, and now that I'm doing this and working in it, I love it."

Recent program investments include updating a classroom to a well-equipped, modern classroom with six dental chairs and an X-ray area with an expanded lab workspace. The sound design includes four chairs connected to the lab station. Students have space to move around and get hands-on experience with dental equipment.



Dentists in the San Luis Valley offered help. Dr. Richard Williams donated instruments, a panoramic X-ray machine, and dental chairs. Additional dental chairs were donated by Dr. Lon Thurman and retired dentist, Dr. Rick Santi. His daughter, Carly Santi Lozoya, who has her master's in dental hygiene, comes to the class once a semester to review and assess the student's radiology performance and to certify them for that part of their degree.

Partnerships with area dentists also help students secure their 50 hours of internship required for the program. Benavidez is proud of her students whose average grade on a recent emergency medical exam was 90.



Care Forward Colorado Funding Students at Trinidad State

Colorado will soon invest \$26 million in federal stimulus dollars to help address the state's critical shortage of health care workers. The *Care Forward Colorado* program will invest federal COVID stimulus funding into tuition support for a two-year period beginning this fall.

Created with bipartisan legislative support, this effort will help fund students seeking to become emergency medical technicians, certified nursing assistants, pharmacy technicians, phlebotomy technicians, medical assistants or dental assistants.

Trinidad State is particularly attuned to these needs, as President Rhonda Epper also serves on the board of trustees for Mt. San Rafael Hospital.

"The number of job openings in these health care positions are increasing, and our health care providers in our communities are having trouble filling these openings," she said. "Trinidad State is trying to serve the workforce need. We're producing as many professionals as we can, but we're limited by the number of students who come to us."

The new program could reach as many as 4,000 students across the state, providing key support for hospitals and clinics. It also anticipates the growing need for more health care workers as Colorado's population ages.

Trinidad State is well-positioned to accept additional students, as its health care programs are fully staffed.

"The College currently trains students as nurse aids, dental assistants, medical assistants and EMTs," Dr. Epper said. "We have the capacity to handle a surge of new students in the event more enroll. The school's dental assistance program, for example, can accommodate a maximum of 12 students, but it is prepared to double its enrollment by running an evening cohort if necessary."

As rural communities increasingly seek to recruit health care workers, this program will help Trinidad State better serve community needs in Las Animas and Huerfano counties and the San Luis Valley.

Nursing Programs Thrive at Trinidad State



For over 65 years, Trinidad State has educated nursing students as they prepare to enter their chosen profession. Although times and technology have changed a lot since 1955, Trinidad State has kept pace. Today's Nursing program enrolls about 150 students—a number that's likely to grow in the years ahead.

Students arriving at Trinidad State can pursue multiple educational opportunities when they arrive, including programs to become a Certified Nurse Aide (CNA), Practical Nursing (LPN), Associate Degree Nursing (ADN-RN) and, most recently, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN).



LoriRae Hamilton
Director of Instruction, Nursing

“Our board pass rates are high,” noted Lori Rae Hamilton, TSC's Director of Instruction for the Nursing program. “The Alamosa pass rates are currently at 100%, and the Trinidad campus maintains a high pass rate above national average.”

Another factor driving higher enrollment is the option for students to earn their Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing at Trinidad State. Launched in 2019, the BSN program is the College's first 4-year degree opportunity.

“Students with an RN license or those who are enrolled in our ADN program can now pursue their BSN with us,” explained Hamilton. “They don't need to transfer. The program is fully accredited, and the courses can be accessed online.”

Today's Nursing program has benefitted from earlier investments as well, including the ‘Evening/Weekend’ program first launched in 2010. “With this opportunity, students who live outside of Trinidad—or who work during the week—can still pursue their degree,” Hamilton said. “We've helped many non-traditional students change their lives through this option.”

With the demand for healthcare workers increasing in rural communities, Trinidad State anticipates increasing its Nursing enrollment by as many as 50 students in the coming year.

TSC instructors use a variety of teaching methods to help students build their knowledge and skill sets. One example are the high-fidelity simulation labs, which appear on both the Trinidad and Alamosa campuses.

These labs simulate a variety of medical situations, from basic communication with patients and other healthcare professionals, to intense, life-threatening moments these students would not otherwise experience before entering their career.

“These simulated experiences prepare students for real life,” said Lori Rae. “Their clinical rotations might not present these moments, but we can still prepare them for difficult situations.”

“We recently updated our audio and video equipment,” she added, “allowing us to debrief student performance in a more robust way. We can also simulate the differences between rural and urban area hospitals, community health, nursing homes, clinics, and other resource settings.”

Key to this effort are ‘patient simulators,’ which represent another training tool that helps distinguish nursing education at Trinidad State. These patient simulators can be programmed to present clinical symptoms, encouraging students to recognize and respond appropriately.

“They can authentically imitate a variety of medical conditions, with human vital signs and bodily functions,” Hamilton said. “With the instructor at the controls, the patient simulator can also respond to the treatment administered by the nursing student.”

“This state-of-the-art equipment allows students to simulate certain conditions and gain experience,” she added. “We can enhance our students' critical thinking skills.”

The use of progressive simulation technology places Trinidad State's program at the forefront of nursing education. Our simulation activity can help a student secure up to 25% of the clinical hours required by the Colorado State Board of Nursing.

Additionally, students can gain their remaining clinical hours at Mt. San Rafael Hospital, Miners Colfax Hospital, Spanish Peaks Regional, Parkview, St Mary Corwin, Memorial, Sangre De Cristo Hospice and Home Health, CMHIP and various area clinics. Valley locations include San Luis Valley Health, Rio Grande, Colorado Corrections as well as with local physicians and home health agencies.

Trinidad State also educates students about the importance of service to professional organizations, and we currently have six students serving as Colorado members of the national Student Nurses Association.

The demand for nurses is projected to increase in the years ahead. Trinidad State will continue to combine superior education and training with cutting edge technology, helping students enter this noble profession.

Trinidad State Graduates First BSN Cohort



Trinidad State's first cohort of RN-BSN students were pinned on December 16, 2021 in a celebratory ceremony. Graduates were Amanda Boggs (Folsom, NM), Sara Brunelli (Alamosa), Jamie East (Trinidad), Kathy Faulconer (Arvada), Roechele Martinez (Colorado Springs), Kaitlin Miner (Alamosa), Shelby Mortensen (Aztec, NM), and Kerry Rockcastle (Alamosa). President Rhonda Epper, Vice President, Lynette Bates, Dean of Instruction, LoriRae Hamilton, and faculty members Dr. Jodi Garcia and Angie Medina are pictured with the graduates.



ATHLETICS AT



Men's Basketball - In a year of great Trojan athletic performances, the Men's Basketball team stole the show. Following a slow start to the season, the Trojans hit their stride in the spring, winning 12 of their final 18 games and claiming the Region 9 Title for the first time since 1986. The Trojans defeated Otero on their homecourt with a last second half-court shot to claim the title in a game, you can still



Volleyball - Volleyball had one of their best seasons in recent memory, winning 14 games and advancing past Laramie County to get deeper into the Region playoffs than they had since the new 16 team format came into play years ago. Coach Karli Salazar will have to replace All-Region standout, and George Scott award winner, Amirah Young, in 2022-23, but should have a strong leader in Jada Lawson who was second on the team with 183 kills her freshman year.



Soccer - Scoring goals was an issue for the Men's Soccer team all season as they finished with a 2-6-3 record. For the women, it was injuries. They finished with a 4-3-2 record but struggled to field a team down the stretch and played shorthanded in the playoffs. Two-time Region 9 player-of-the-year, Laura Torres, will prove to be a difficult player for Coach Peter Freeman to replace, but Laura Pardo, who led the team in scoring in 2021, should be the leader on the field. For the men, look for defenders Eduardo Cervantes and Luke

Pope to play a key role for the men in 2022-23.

Women's Basketball - The Women's Basketball team finished the season strong, winning five of their last seven regular season games, and ending up second in the region standings. They fell to a tough Laramie County team in the playoffs, but should be back strong in 2022-23. Coach Destiny Bragman has one of the best guards in the conference in Ylenia Expósito Pérez who averaged 16 points a game as a freshman.



catch it on YouTube. TSC then fell by ten to eventual national champion Northwest Florida at the NJCAA National Tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas. Coach Mike Folda loses a few key players from the title team, but returns one of the top players in the nation in Dejour Reaves. Reaves averaged over 20 points a game as a freshman and should prove hard to defend in 2022-23.



Former Trinidad State basketball great, Spencer Haywood, was in attendance. In addition to being an Olympic gold medalist and member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, Haywood was being inducted into the NJCAA Hall Of Fame. He took the opportunity to cheer on his

alma mater from behind the Trinidad bench. Encouraging our team, you could hear him say, "GO TROJANS!"

Men's Cross Country/Track and Field -

The Trojan men showed great toughness at the 2021 National Championships, claiming fourth place in the nation in Cross Country and third place in Half Marathon. Brian Rotich placed third overall in Half Marathon and seventh in Cross Country. Ahmed Sado carried the solid momentum into the spring track season, finishing second in the nation in the 3000m Steeplechase. Coaches Kyle and Lauren Masterson will bring a stronger and deeper men's team into the 2022-23 season.



Women's Cross Country/Track and Field -



TSC fell just short of defending their National Title from the previous year in Half Marathon, finishing second by four points behind El Paso CC. Ashley Lagat placed fifth overall in the event. Sharon Jesang finished fourth in Cross Country, helping carry the team to a seventh-place overall finish. Jesang carried her solid Trojan career

through to the end of track season, claiming a total of 12 All-American awards in her two years at Trinidad State, wrapping it up with a fifth place in the 5K and eighth in the 1500m at the 2022 NJCAA National Track Meet in Kansas.

Wrestling - the Wrestling program at Trinidad State was discontinued in 1971, but now, after all this time, the program will be returning to TSC. The athletic department is currently in the process to hire a new head coach for wrestling, not just men's, but a women's team as well. Stay tuned...



TRINIDAD STATE

Softball – TSC fell just short of defending their 2021 Region 9 title, falling in extra innings in their final game of the 2022 tournament. Overall, 2022 was a great year that saw tons of offensive output from the Trojans, including 87 home runs. Coach Steve Swazo returns for his 17th season in 2023 and has a solid base to build on, including freshman pitching sensation, Kirstin Ferguson, who racked up 13 wins and 75 strikeouts her first season. Shortstop, Sydney Loyet, will be looked at to lead the offense after hitting a team best .429 her freshman season.



Baseball – The Trojans had a fantastic season, going 44-17 overall and finishing on top of the Region 9 south standings. The season came to a sad end in the Region title game, falling to Southeast CC. The 2022-23 season will have a new look for the Trojans as Coach Justin Wichert moved on to Fort Hays following the 2021-22 season. Trinidad State has hired Trojan alum, Jason Veyna, to be their new head baseball coach. Veyna is a strong leader who will be looking to move the Trojans back to the top this coming spring. Benji Suave, who hit .408 with 8 home runs, and Carlos Solano, a 7-1 record with 69 strikeouts, will be leading the way for the Trojans this spring.

Join us next summer... in ALASKA!



We invite you to join the Trinidad State Foundation on a 10-Night Interior Express Cruise Tour of Alaska, **August 1-11, 2023**.

We'll start with two days in historic **Fairbanks**. From there, we'll travel by train to **Denali** and enjoy the fantastic Denali Natural History Tour. We'll explore more of Alaska's spectacular landscapes on a motor coach ride to **Anchorage** before transferring to **Seward** to board the ship. Once on board, we'll depart Seward and cruise **Hubbard Glacier**, with stops in **Juneau**, **Skagway**, **Icy Strait** and **Ketchikan**. Finally, we cruise the **Interior Passage** and complete our journey in **Vancouver, B.C.**

The Alaska cruise-tour is offered in partnership with Dream Vacations. Current group rates start at \$4644.56, and include the land tour, cruise, port fees, tax and pre-paid ship gratuities for two guests. When you book with us, we always recheck for the best rate

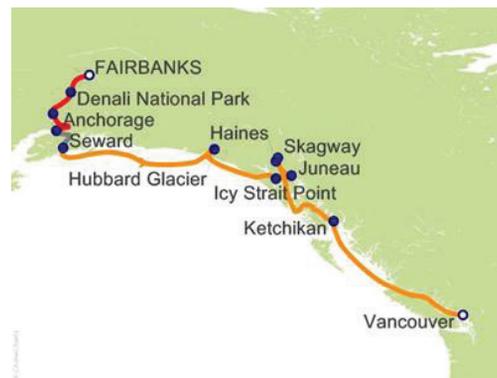
and promotion available. If we find a better rate, we can bring that rate into the group.

The best part is that a portion of the proceeds will benefit the TSC Foundation! The more who join us, the more funds will be available for scholarships, capital improvements, and programs at Trinidad State.

Your travel specialist at Dream Vacations, Darlene Jordan, will help you book this tour and everything you need for a fabulous Alaskan Adventure!

Book your Alaskan Adventure today! Call Darlene at 719-379-3133 or email djordan@dreamvacations.com.

Thank you for helping raise funds for TSC while enjoying a relaxing and spectacular cruise. **We hope to see you in Alaska next summer!**





Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)

Trinidad State College Foundation

Did you know that people can make donations from their IRAs? These gifts are called *Qualified Charitable Distributions*. If you're 70½ or above, a QCD can offer advantages for those who:

- Claim the Standard Deduction for income tax purposes
- Have sufficient retirement income and would like to support Trinidad State
- Want to preserve their available (after-tax) cash on hand
- Have reached age 72 and must take RMDs

Withdrawals from a traditional IRA are taxed as ordinary income. However, with a QCD you can use your IRA to support Trinidad State with no income tax becoming due. This makes donating directly from your IRA a highly tax-efficient option, and 100% of your gift still supports our students.

Donating directly from your IRA also helps keep your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) at lower levels. Keeping AGI low can help reduce the income tax on Social Security benefits and it may lower any Medicare surcharges. In addition, if you're currently taking Required Minimum Distributions, a QCD can be applied toward this annual requirement. Again, with no income tax.

Although a QCD is not deductible for tax purposes—if you're no longer itemizing your deductions, it doesn't matter. You can still maximize your tax benefit by claiming the Standard Deduction.

Finally, donating from an IRA preserves your available cash for other purposes. Funds in our regular bank accounts have already been taxed. If we donate from our IRA instead, we preserve our available cash for other life purposes.

Moving Forward

While the brief description above highlights why QCDs work so well for many retirees, it's always best to consult with your professional advisors. They are best positioned to review the specific benefits you may enjoy.

Creating a QCD is easy. If you decide to move forward, just contact your IRA company and they can help you make your gift. They're just a phone call away.

Thank you for the friendship and support you extend to Trinidad State. If we can help in any way, please let us know. Please contact Toni DeAngelis at 719-846-5520 or toni.deangelis@trinidadstate.edu with any questions at all.

Please consult with your financial advisors before making a gift of IRA assets.



We've included this handy envelope to jump-start your support of Trinidad State. All gifts are welcome!



MAKE YOUR GIFT

2022 Annual Fund - Together, we are making a difference!

A gift to the Annual Fund isn't just a donation. It's an investment in the goals and dreams of Trinidad State students. And seeing students make it to graduation is the perfect reminder of the profound impact of philanthropy. The Annual Fund provides support for scholarships, academic programs, and other areas of need that support an outstanding educational experience for our students. Students like Sarah, a mother of three pursuing her dream of nursing, and Ruben, who didn't have to take a semester off to work because of a scholarship, your support WILL change lives.

As you consider making your gift to the Annual Fund, please know your generosity together with others will truly make a difference.

Join me in ensuring that all deserving students have the opportunity to achieve their dreams!

Toni DeAngelis, '89
Executive Director
Trinidad State College Foundation





"We all pay month-by-month to pay down our mortgages. In a similar way, we can donate to Trinidad State month-by-month. Over time, it grows—making an impact that

might not be possible with an occasional gift. We believe in the good work of the Foundation."

- Jeff '76 and Judy '77 Mangino



"Trinidad State gives students a better opportunity to succeed in life. We've chosen to direct our gifts to support nursing students, in memory of Vickie Byrd Grabowski.

There are many ways to donate, but monthly giving is the easiest, most consistent and cost efficient. If you haven't joined the Partner's Program yet, we invite you to join us."

- Phil and Sandy Byrd, Friends of Trinidad State



"TSJC was a gift that has continued to enhance our lives since we enrolled over 50 years ago! We hope our giving will propel students to success and prosperity through

the life-changing opportunities they receive at TSC. The Monthly Partner's Program is our way of giving back."

- Richard '72 and Kathy '73 Holmes

Our **Partner's Program** offers an easy way to show your love for Trinidad State.

You set it up one time, and it automatically repeats each month. And by spreading out your gift over time, you can support Trinidad State in a way that fits your budget and lifestyle. You have total flexibility.

If something changes, it's also easy to adjust or suspend a recurring gift at any point—just let us know. You can manage your monthly contribution in whatever way is right for you.

As you know, the Foundation is deeply committed to allocating funds carefully and strategically—to build a positive future by maximizing the impact of your generous support.

The **Partner's Program** will help advance these goals. More consistent support will impact our planning in powerful ways. And a recurring monthly gift ensures that no matter how busy life can get—your commitment to Trinidad State will always remain strong.

Please join these and other members of our Partner's Program—those who share a little love with Trinidad State each and every month!

Thanks again for all you do for Trinidad State!

Trojans for life!

SOCIETY OF 1925

Enduring Society of 1925 Legacies – Roy Boyd, Dorothy DeMiller, & Charlotte Kilpatrick



Roy Boyd

Roy Boyd, a beloved member of the Trinidad State family, served in various roles, including a year as interim College President. In honor of his contributions, the

Roy F. Boyd Building on campus bears his name. In addition, Roy helped co-found the TSC Foundation in 1968. He would later establish the **Roy & Lucille Boyd Scholarship**. Upon his passing in 2006, Trinidad State received a legacy gift from Roy, further supplementing his endowed scholarship.



Dorothy DeMiller

In 2002, Dorothy (Okkerse) DeMiller informed Trinidad State of a legacy gift in her estate plans. According to Dorothy, this gift would be, "in the name of O.W.

DeMiller and Dorothy M. DeMiller, in recognition of O.W. DeMiller's part in establishing in 1944 the first classes in airplane engine mechanics and in establishing the first classes in gunsmithing." Dorothy & Wayne left an lasting mark in their service of Trinidad State.



Charlotte Kilpatrick

Talented music instructor. Trusted administrator. Devoted to her colleagues. Charlotte Kilpatrick brought many gifts to Trinidad State during her 25-year career. With her passing in

2022, the Trinidad State College Foundation learned that Charlotte had left a legacy gift to further support the **Charlotte Kilpatrick Scholarship** at the College. Her legacy at Trinidad State continues on.

We are pleased to remember Roy, Dorothy and Charlotte in our Society of 1925 for their legacy of support for Trinidad State.

Scan me!



“It’s Been a Good Life” – Paul Connell

Raised in Trinidad, Paul Connell would come to Trinidad State after Trinidad High School. However, after he’d completed his freshman year at TSJC, Paul decided to put his college education on hold to enlist in the United States Navy.



“All of this brings me back to 1954,” Paul began. “I decided to join the Navy and I was initially stationed in Norfolk, Virginia—they put me at ‘Weather Central.’ We collected all kinds of weather-related data for the Navy. I liked it, and after about 18 months, I volunteered for a cruise above the Arctic Circle.”

Not long after finishing his Arctic mission in the north,

Paul was soon sent to the Middle East. Paul would finish his four years of service aboard a light cruiser. “You know, not everyone can tolerate being at sea,” Paul added. “But for a dry land kid like me, I took to the sea quite well.”

During his first year at Trinidad State—immediately before joining the Navy—Paul had developed a strong interest in aviation. “I’d actually earned my private pilot license before I joined the Navy, but I had a sinus issue which kept me from flying for the Navy.”

After being discharged and returning to Trinidad State, Paul resumed his classes. Initially, he considered finishing his degree and then heading to Boulder to study Political Science at CU. “Morris Taylor made quite an impression on me at Trinidad State,” he said. “He got me thinking about politics. He was a very knowledgeable instructor.”

Paul was all set to enroll at CU after graduating from Trinidad State, but instead he got a job that summer at the Martin Company. He went to work building missiles. Paul would stay with Martin for the next six years, where he would meet his future wife, Bonnie.

“She worked in the Communications department,” he said. “We were married for 40 years, until she passed away in 2005.”

After the Martin contract ran out for the missile Paul was building, he needed to find a new job. “That was when my little Associate’s degree from Trinidad State really helped,” he said. “I ended up going to work for the AC Nielson Company, which did the television ratings. That degree was a requirement. I never would have been hired without it.”

Paul would stay with AC Nielson for the next eight years, before setting out on his own. “I guess after a while I just got tired of being a company man,” he said. “I figured if I was working this hard, I would be better off in the long run working for myself.”

Initially, Paul thought he would buy a hardware store, but he uncovered a better opportunity and purchased a liquor store in

Denver. He would own and operate his store for the next 15 years. Eventually, Paul sold the store and thought he might retire, but he ended up starting a small remodeling business instead.

“My earlier interest in the hardware stores was part of it—I have skills in that area,” he said. “Word of mouth took over, and pretty soon I had more work than I could handle by myself.”

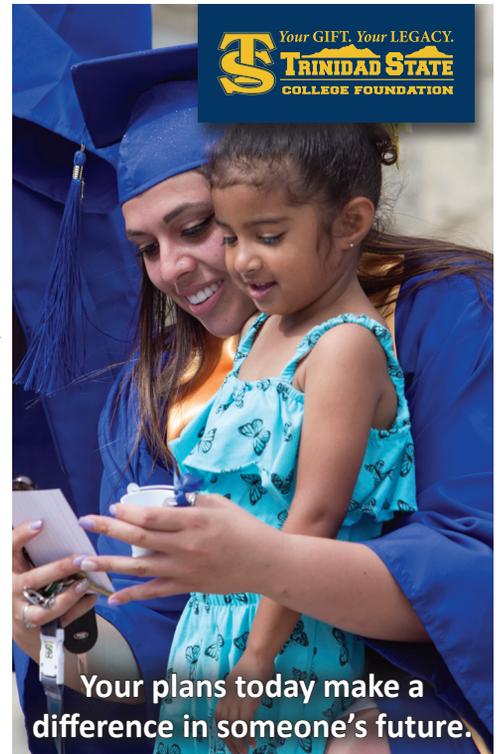
“But then it kind of hit me,” he added. “If I kept going I’d need to hire someone, which would put me back into running a larger business than I really wanted. So, at that point I just decided to retire in full.”

“I’m beholden to Trinidad State for educating me—sometimes against my will,” Paul said, chuckling. “And that’s one reason why I started thinking about giving back. I’m also blessed to have enough money to contemplate aid for needy students.”

“As I was thinking about all this, I remembered an old life insurance policy—something I’d almost forgotten about. I don’t have children, but I do have some nieces that I’m going to remember in my plans. But with this insurance policy, I’m going to give something to Trinidad State, too.”

“It’s been a good life,” he said. “No complaints from Paul. And if my gift can help a kid in need get an education, I’m happy to do it.”

Trinidad State is grateful for the generosity of Paul Connell and to all members of the *Society of 1925*.



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

Toni DeAngelis (719) 846-5520

SOCIETY OF 1925 tsalumnifoundation@trinidadstate.edu
trinidadstate.edu/foundation

James Lockett Creates 2nd Scholarship



James O. Lockett first decided to attend Trinidad State while in high school, as an Upward Bound student at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. A pre-college preparatory program, Upward Bound provides academic skills for students from first-generation and low-income families.

“We were strongly encouraged to further our education—which always made sense to me,” James said. “I remember being asked in 3rd grade

what I wanted to be when I grew up. I replied, ‘a teacher.’ By the time I was a senior at Wittenberg, I not only wanted to be a teacher, I wanted to become an *educator*.”

Trinidad State would help him pursue his goals. “Coming to Trinidad State was a blessing for me,” James said. “We were challenged to be competitive, but also to work with others who may be different. Diversity is life, and I embraced that. And I carried words of wisdom from my mother—‘We can never know who will be the one to offer a drink of water.’”

After graduating from Trinidad State in 1973, James would return home to Ohio to continue his studies at Central State University. “It was important to me to pursue my 4-year degree at a Historically Black University.” However, on April 3, 1974, these plans suddenly changed. On that date, over 140 tornadoes touched down in multiple states, devastating communities across the Midwest. At Central State, over 80% of the campus was destroyed. “I ended up in the basement of one of the buildings that was hit,” James said.

Given the devastation to campus, James decided to take a break from school—traveling for a year before enrolling in the US Navy. After four years of Navy service, James returned to Central State where he fulfilled his goal to graduate from a Historically Black College.

In the years that followed, James would earn his Master’s Degree and devote his career to educating students in the Fort Worth Independent School District.

“My passion has been communicating directly with students to have dialogue and give them hands-on tools,” he explained. “My expectations for what I tried to accomplish in the classroom was to get students to be humanitarians. I like the concept of paying it forward, and for students to have that on their mind as well.”

In addition to his career as an educator, James has also devoted his life to the ministry. He leads Bible studies for children, and works with juveniles in a correctional facility. He also ministers to men and women in a rehabilitation treatment center.

Shortly after arriving in Trinidad in 1971, James would meet Dennis Stone—quickly forming a lifelong friendship. Fifty years later, in 2021, these friends would establish the *Lucky Stone Scholarship* to support nursing students at Trinidad State.

“After creating the first scholarship last year with Dennis,” James explained, “I was inspired to create a second scholarship—this one in memory of my late wife and daughter. I wanted their memory to live on—to be a source of help to others.”

Trinidad State is pleased to announce the *Jania P. Lockett and Janice E. Lockett Memorial Scholarship*. This scholarship is available to support students in medical programs, the construction trades program, and also 2nd chance criminal offenders.

“I included students pursuing medical programs as a way of honoring the care provided to my late daughter, Jania, at Cook Children’s Hospital in Fort Worth. And I remain grateful for the same compassionate care that was given to my late wife, Janice, by the amazing team at Harris Methodist Hospital in downtown Fort Worth,” he said.

Biblical teaching informs his decision to also prioritize 2nd chance criminal offenders. “I encourage people to read Matthew 25:31-40,” he explained. “Jesus speaks about our responsibility as Christians to care for one another, especially for those in greatest need. What we do for others, we do for Him.”

James is grateful for the support of his current wife, Doris, and his son, Jamal. “I thank God for them every day. With their love and encouragement, I am pleased to give back to Trinidad State in this way.”



Trinidad State is honored by the generosity of James Lockett. His second scholarship will extend his caring support, benefitting future generations of students.

SLV Healthcare Foundation:

Recently, the SLV Health Care Foundation made a three-year commitment to fund scholarships to students attending Trinidad State College-Valley Campus to pursue a nursing degree. To be eligible, students must be enrolled in either the LPN, ADN-RN, or BSN programs. Students must also be a current resident of Alamosa, Costilla, Conejos, Rio Grande, Mineral, or Saguache county. A minimum 3.0 GPA is required to be considered and for renewal of the scholarship.



Pictured L to R: Nathan Haslett, TSC Nursing Faculty, Angie Medina, TSC Nursing Faculty, Lori Rae Hamilton, TSC Director of Instruction, Nursing, Beneranda (Bennie) Chacon, SLV Health Care Foundation, and Jim Kynor, TSC Valley Campus Vice President.

The Value of Education – Nagy Family Scholarship



Being the second generation of Italian and Hungarian immigrant grandparents who came to Huerfano and Las Animas Counties, Anthony Nagy grew up in Trinidad in a family connected to the mining and ranching history that spans southern Colorado. “The coal camps around Trinidad and nearby communities were a draw for immigrants—people who came to America seeking a better life,” he said.

Mining and ranching created opportunities, but each activity had its risks. “One grandfather was killed in a mining accident the other went bankrupt because of the depression. I believe these experiences impacted my parents, and in turn impacted me,” Anthony said.

“Money was tight growing up during and after World War II,” he continued. “My mother and I lived in the same house with my grandmother, aunt, and uncle—it’s where I learned frugality, honesty, ingenuity, and above all, self-sufficiency.”

During his youth, Anthony’s mother placed great emphasis on education. “I experienced a health condition as a child that did not allow for physical exertion. My mother knew I would need an education to make my way in the world. Her foresight was another gift for me.”

A strong basic elementary and secondary education also helped to awaken Anthony’s curiosity. The flood of 1955 and the arrival of the Trinidad Dam remain vivid memories.

“During high school,” he added, “I helped my classmate, George Leone, conduct a survey at the dam’s present location. His father had a construction business, and he was clued in on the potential locations. We took elevations and measurements. I was along for the experience of it all—it was fun.”

After graduating high school in 1959, attending Trinidad State was a natural step for Anthony. “At first, I thought I would become a draftsman or a pharmacist, but an early conversation with Ms. Weilbacher, the guidance counselor, identified new possibilities. She explained that my high school grades exceeded the requirements for a draftsman. She encouraged me to apply for a scholarship and take science and math courses.”

“Her counseling was the most influential moment in my career,” he added. “And I received that scholarship. I was very appreciative.”

Anthony worked hard at his education. “Advisors such as Dr. Stanley Biber, Robert Steige, and John Kosovich guided me toward a path that followed my intuitive mechanical and chemical bent,” he said. “Working in the chemistry lab for \$0.75 an hour fed my career appetite. The coming nuclear age and the Russian Sputnik fueled my imagination.”

“Even as I looked ahead, my frugality made me confirm that ALL my credits would transfer to the University of Colorado. My mother was still helping me with her \$300 per month salary,” he said. “I had to be certain.”

At the University of Colorado, Anthony would earn bachelor’s degrees in both Chemical Engineering and Business. After graduation, he went to work for Continental Oil Co (Conoco) in Research and Development and

Refinery Operations.

“Upon graduation I learned quickly how little I knew—and how much industry needed information not in books,” he explained. “This is where I learned how to learn.”

Two highlights during his work at Conoco included the development of an advanced rocket fuel utilized in the Space Program, and the development and production of low temperature lubricants essential to constructing the Alaskan pipeline.

“These were great accomplishments,” he explained, “but they also demonstrate the power of collaboration. They were team efforts. These achievements taught me lessons that I carried with me for the rest of my career.”

Leaving Conoco after 12 years, Anthony would join Kendall Oil as a Refinery Manager. From there, he went to Champlin Petroleum as Chief Process Engineer, and later as Manager of Engineering and Operations Planning.

Following consolidation within the petroleum industry in 1990, Anthony turned to consulting—gaining experience in accident investigation and litigation, contract disputes, asset appraisals and privatization of foreign based petroleum refineries. Finally, in 1995, he started his own consulting firm as an expert witness in accident investigations, contract disputes, and wrongful death and injury litigation.

After a career that spanned 53 years, Anthony finally retired in 2017. He’s now enjoying time with his wife, Xeita, and their two daughters, three grandchildren and one great grandchild.

“I first met Xeita at church, where she was secretary,” he said. “Fortunately, her family upbringing was similar to mine. We’ve been happily married for 56 years.”



Thinking back on his time at Trinidad State, Anthony remains grateful. “It was very beneficial for me to attend a 2-year college and all my credits were accepted at CU. I’m hopeful that today’s students recognize that transitioning to a 4-year university is not such a big jump.”

Trinidad State is grateful for the generous support from Anthony and Xeita Nagy. “Upon our realization of self-sufficiency obtained by our frugality, wealth management, and ingenuity—we decided to contribute to institutions that helped us and who can help others like us.” The **Nagy Family Scholarship** supports students attending the Trinidad Campus who believe in education and who have a sincerity to follow a path of education toward a specific goal.

“And I’ve not forgotten that my mother also supported the College—and she did so as a citizen of Trinidad,” he explained. “Our gifts have helped students, both then and now.”

A Chance to Give Back – Richard Peterson

Born in Julesberg, Colorado in 1945, Richard Peterson's family would move to nearby Ovid when he was five years old. In 1958, they moved again after his father starting working at the Sprague Brothers Ranch, near Crook, Colorado. It was during his early childhood moments when Richard fell in love with the great outdoors.

"My brother, Don, and I became young outdoorsmen," he said. "When not in school, we could be found hunting rabbits, ducks, camping out or chasing carp in the river during the summer months. It was a great place to grow up as a young boy."

As Richard's interests grew, he learned the basics of shotshell reloading, and he would read anything related to firearms, archery, camping, outdoor cooking, trapping, and log cabin building.

"I think I found out about Trinidad State from the college brochures in our small high school library," Richard said. "The Gunsmithing Program really got my interest, and it appeared to be affordable and something I would enjoy."

After graduating from Crook High School in 1963, Richard began classes that fall at Trinidad State. "I took a job sweeping up the gunsmith shops in the Mullen Building after the classes to help pay my way. I also had a track scholarship, which helped ease the financial burden."

Richard worked hard at his studies. "When I was a young gunsmithing student, I had three good instructors—Bill Prator, Louis Mrace and Harry Johnson. Mr. Prator's area of expertise was in metal work, while Mr. Mrace was a good stock maker," he explained. "Mr. Johnson, on the other hand, was an actual gunsmith who ran his own shop—he knew gunsmithing in the real world."

"He tried to get the point across that while we might all aspire to be custom gunmakers to the rich and famous, the bread and butter will be found in the unglamorous work of cleaning and repair."

"Finding this to be all too true," Richard added, "most, if not all, of my classmates pursued other lines of work after graduation. If they were lucky they found gunsmithing jobs on the side—or as I did, later in life, working as a firearms expert in a retail store."



After graduating from Trinidad State in 1965, Richard immediately enlisted in the US Army. He was initially sent to Fort Wood in Missouri for basic training, and then to Fort Knox in Kentucky for advanced training as a tank radio repairman. Then, Richard attended parachute jump school at Ft.

Benning, Georgia for about three weeks. With jump class nearing graduation, a couple of Special Forces sergeants were looking for anyone interested in applying to their unit. Richard applied and was accepted. He then received Special Forces medical training at Fort Sam Houston in Texas, followed by weapons training at Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

With his training behind him and the conflict in Southeast Asia well under way, Richard volunteered to go to Vietnam in 1967. "In retrospect, my year in Vietnam went well for me because I was assigned to a Special Forces "C" detachment in the 111 Corps area near Bien Hoa," he said. "I was given

the task of setting up and running the armory. Special Forces camps were opening and closing on a regular basis, and when that happened all of the small arms would come to me for cleaning, refurbishment and re-issue."

When his time in the Army ended, Richard returned home to attend the University of Colorado, where he would graduate with a B.A. in Anthropology. He then went north to attend the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, before returning to Colorado to work at the IBM plant in Boulder.



"But even while I was working in Boulder, Alaska was always on my mind," he said. "I decided to save my money, and I later returned again to live in the bush for a year. I lived inside a cabin that I helped build. My good dog, Zach, was my companion."

After leaving the bush country, Richard would find work on drill rigs and with US Forest Service in Oregon. Later, he spent large parts of his career with the Bureau of Reclamation at Grand Coulee Dam in Washington, and also at Roosevelt Dam near Globe, Arizona.

Richard's final employment would be at the Cabela's store in Sidney, Nebraska, where he spent 12 years as a product specialist in the gun department. "I decided to take early retirement at age 60," he said. "I now live in an old farmhouse just north of Crook, next to the Duck Creek State Wildlife Area. It's not fancy, but it suits me just fine."

"It's got a nice insulated, heated shop where I can finally do the gunsmithing work that I always wanted to do—ever since I left TSJC. I learn something new every day, and I've got firearms repair jobs waiting in the shop. I guess the circle is complete."

Despite life travels that took him to places far and near, Richard's fondness for Trinidad and Trinidad State endures. "The campus was, and still is, beautiful—the groundskeepers are to be commended," he said.

Richard also noted how much he appreciates the stories of generosity relayed in the Trinidad State alumni magazine. He specifically mentioned the recent story about Chuck Stevens, given their shared experience as Vietnam veterans.

Richard also recently shared the good news of his own legacy gift, which he hopes will one day help deserving students. The *Society of 1925* honors those who create a legacy gift in their estate plans.

"I still need to give some thought about how my small gift to Trinidad State should be directed," he said. "A gunsmithing scholarship named in memory of Harry Johnson would be nice, as well as something similar for future nursing students. But I'm glad to give back." Even with a few specifics still to be determined, Richard wants his gift to support students with financial need.

"I'm still enjoying fine health for my age," Richard added, with a smile, "so it might be a few years before Trinidad State will benefit. But I enjoyed my two years in Trinidad, and I learned skills which I am using even today as a gunsmith."

Trinidad State gratefully acknowledges the generosity of Richard Peterson.

STORIES OF GENEROSITY

Creating Futures – Honoring Loved Ones

Dan Wilson and his wife, Marlene, moved to southern Colorado in 2012. “I’d been an automotive instructor at a college in Denver, but my wife and I were ready for a change. We had some property in the woods near Trinidad and wanted to move there to enjoy that lifestyle.”

Denver’s loss became Trinidad State’s gain, as Dan quickly became a valued staff member. In addition to his teaching expertise, he also brought a special interest in working with students that arrived with challenging backgrounds.



“I’ve always had a passion for students who were struggling—those who maybe didn’t quite believe in themselves,” Dan explained. “It’s also the chance to help someone develop the life skills that lead to success.”

After joining Trinidad State, Dan’s interest in these students opened up a role as Disability Services Coordinator. In 2022, Dan transitioned from a full-time role into a 2-day per week schedule. His focus became Trinidad State’s technical programs, with a specific emphasis on the Line Technology program. “Our students learn to climb poles and do everything needed to keep power moving,” said Dan.

Dan’s role within this program includes student recruitment, support with admission and registration, helping identify any necessary financial aid, and ensuring they have books and tools. His efforts also include post-graduation support, including mock interviews, resume preparation, and preparing for job searches.

“Helping students, it’s just a very special place for me,” Dan said. “Seeing them achieve goals and build self-confidence is incredibly rewarding. Seeing them discover things inside themselves they didn’t know were there—it turns a person’s life around.”

* * * * *

Dan first approached Trinidad State about a legacy gift in the summer of 2022, after his family had suffered two recent losses. He was seeking a way to honor and remember people whom he loved and cherished.

“Marlene and I lost a niece and nephew within about a month of one another,” he said. “It was hard on our family—but especially so, since Stephanie and Nick were both taking important steps forward in their lives.”

“In some ways, their lives mirrored those of some of our students—where a person might not start on a solid career path, but who reach that crossroad and begin moving toward a better future. Stephanie and Nick were well on their way to writing their ‘comeback’ stories.”

“After everything happened,” he added, “we started thinking about how we could honor them.”

As Dan explained, he and Marlene had arranged their estate plan to provide for all living nieces and nephews in equal shares. “The idea

to change our plans came up after we lost Stephanie,” he explained. “I’d seen information about scholarships, and we started wondering if we could change things to honor her memory. Then Nick died and I contacted Toni DeAngelis to make scholarships in their memories a reality.”

Dan and Marlene have now created a legacy gift that will fund a permanent scholarship for students in Career & Technical Education programs. This scholarship will support low-income students and/or those with a disability, or a Veteran, or those seeking education after a period of incarceration.

“Connecting all this back to Nick and Stephanie means so much to me,” he added. “We’re creating a legacy in their names to help others succeed in life. We’re taking a difficult situation and turning it into something positive for others. This opportunity means the world to me.”

Dan added, “Creating this gift has been good therapy. I guess I’m also hopeful that our story might resonate with someone else too. When you work with a student who’s been told so many times, ‘you can’t do it,’ and they put in the work—they overcome the odds? It’s amazing.”



“We chose to honor Stephanie and Nick, knowing they’ll be permanently connected to helping others. And if another person decides to create a legacy gift too, I hope they’ll enjoy the same good feelings that we do.”

Trinidad State is grateful for the generosity of Dan and Marlene Wilson.



Marian Shannon – Happy 88th Birthday!

Trinidad State sent best wishes to Marian Shannon, who celebrated her 88th birthday on June 1st, 2022. A former employee of Trinidad State, she worked for the Dean of the College for most of her career.

In honor of Marian, her family donated \$500 to provide a scholarship in support of a single parent seeking to attend Trinidad State. The family enjoys a long history in Trinidad, as Marian raised her children in the same house that she lived in as a child. The scholarship recipient will be from Trinidad as well.

“We are so excited to make this gift,” said her grandson, Dylan. “I remember the College from when I was just a little boy. It’s a part of our family’s history.”

“This is such a sweet, heartwarming gift,” added Toni DeAngelis, Executive Director at the Trinidad State College Foundation. “She spent so much of her life and career with us! We’re honored to be a part of wishing Marian an ‘extended’ Happy Birthday.”

Trinidad State is grateful to the entire Shannon family.



Reunion Celebrations

The 2022 reunion festivities were unlike any other, as alumni from the 1970-73 graduating classes came together to share the fun. In addition, the Gunsmithing program was celebrating its 75th anniversary. When the two groups decided to combine their celebrations, the stage was set for an outstanding weekend.

And the weekend did not disappoint.

“It was amazing to see our campus alive with our alumni again,” said Trinidad State College Foundation Executive Director, Toni DeAngelis ’89. “The excitement was palpable. Even though we knew it would be fun, somehow, these reunions exceeded all expectations!”

“COVID-19 precautions and guidelines had limited these gatherings the past couple years,” Toni added. “We were thrilled to welcome everyone back.”

Throughout the weekend, people came together to share stories and memories, renew old connections, visit their favorite places, and make new friends. Smiles and hugs were everywhere.

“This year was special,” Toni said. “The echoes of laughter and celebration will be with us for a long time.”

Ronald Buckner, ’73, graciously served as the weekend’s official photographer, capturing the special moments on campus and around town. Please take a look at the good times shared by all.

Mark your calendars for 2025. We’re making plans for an epic event to celebrate Trinidad State College’s 100-year mark! And we’ll be counting on you to help make it great.



**In Case
You
Missed It**

Get your commemorative reunion t-shirt for \$25 each (including shipping). Limited quantities and sizes are available. Contact Toni DeAngelis for size options and to order:

**toni.deangelis@trinidadstate.edu
or 719-846-5520.**



Class of 70-73 Reunion T-Shirt



Gunsmithing 75th Reunion T-Shirt

**To see these photos
and more scan**



Photography by Ronald Buckner
www.bridigitalimages.com



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 TSC. 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 TSC family. Submit a class note at <http://trinidadstate.edu/alumni/>



Roger Cunniff, '52 was one of 7 children raised by a single mom. He credits her for instilling the value of education and hard work. Though he was not an athlete in high school, he was on the track team at TSJC, finishing 2nd in a regional meet. After Trinidad State, Roger attended University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. He went into the army after but would return to get his master's degree at UNC and then go on for his doctorate from the University of Texas. He recalled that his family lived on State Street near the college. One time, the gunsmithing students were doing test firing and it hit their home. They were never able to find the bullet as it got stuck in the wall.

Del Romero, '59 majored in electronics at TSJC. After he finished, he and his wife, Carol, moved to California where he was in the US Navy stationed in Long Beach. They returned to Denver in 1961 where they have remained since. His father, J.M. Romero, was a long-time member of the TSJC College Committee. Del shared, "My family has always been proud of his work on the Committee for many years leading up to the recognition by the College for his efforts. At the time, President Guy Davis, was the person leading the effort for that recognition." *Correction: In 2017, J.M Romero was inducted into the Trinidad State Foundation Hall of Fame which honor individuals, both living and deceased, who have made extraordinary contributions to the betterment of Trinidad State College. At the time of his induction, the Foundation mistakenly referred to J.M. as James M. His given name was Jose Maria Romero. We regret the error and appreciate Del's understanding.*

Donald "Andy" Parker, '59 recalled getting a football scholarship to TSJC, saying it was a blessing. He had no idea where Trinidad was, but he was dropped off and suited up for football. The scholarship was for tuition, but he had to make the team to get meals. Alas, after two weeks of doing two-a-days, the coach told him he did not make the team.

"Hunger for inclusion into the tribe is a powerful motivator as well is physical hunger", said Andy. Thus, he put forth more effort into practices, and he made the team playing defense. Andy was also back sitting at the Trek Inn happily chowing down with his teammates.

Leslie Smith, '62, shared fond memories of his instructors in the Gunsmithing program, the industrial arts programs, and the football coach. Les was very active on campus. After receiving his Bachelors, he went on to receive his Master's at Montana State University. Les was in the education fields for 37 years, where he taught in the vocational departments such as machining, auto mechanics, industrial arts and even sign language. He taught in Montana, Washington, and ended his career teaching in Alaska. As a retired teacher, Les continues to work with the counselor at the high school to help promote Trinidad State to their students.

Ronald Cordova, '69 shared that his professional success started with the class of '69. He is proud Trinidad State was the site of his launching pad to the University of Colorado and beyond.

Bill Crouse, '71 recently reconnected with Trinidad State. He attended TSC after serving in Vietnam. Bill had previously done a lot of jobs in Colorado and someone had suggested that he look at Trinidad State. He looked at a couple other colleges, but missed their deadlines and was able to get registered over the phone at TSC. Bill was in a stage band with TSC instructor, Tom Thomas. He recalled the good times he had on tour as they played different places in Colorado. After TSC, he went on to get his bachelor's degree at the University of Akron. Bill's career was spent in the insurance business.

Scott Keller, '71 has been in the gunsmithing industry full time ever since graduating from Trinidad State. He's retiring after 50 years of operating his own shop. Scott noted it's

hard to imagine what it would be like starting out in today's world as he is still using many of the things made from the old project manual (Bill Prator's project manual).

John McBee, '71, attended TSC on an athletic scholarship and was on the track team, he ran the ¼ mile and the 440. He helped Coach Wetzel create soccer in Trinidad. After Trinidad, John attended Southern Colorado State College and joined ROTC. John was part of the military for 30 years and ranked second lieutenant in the reserves and retired as a Sgt. Major. He then attended University of Arizona and received a Master of Science in Education & Technology. He now teaches some at Cochise College.

Michael Solomine '72, met **Bonnie Mason, '72** the first day of class. They've been married 51 years. He studied Archaeology. After TSC, Mike attended Arizona State University. He was two semesters short of completing as he was working full time and going to school was difficult. Later, Steve Ireland and Ruth Henritze contacted him to come back to take a Museum Technology course at Trinidad State. Mike would later put together the Abe Mason Arrowhead display for the Loudon-Henritze Museum. Shortly after, he and Bonnie moved to California. He was a behavioral based safety technician for the oil companies. They lived in California 30+ years before moving back to Trinidad. Bonnie's family was part of the Mason Candy company in Trinidad.

Sebu & Debbie Grigorian, '79, went to college in Pueblo after TSC, but only stayed a short time and left for California in 1982. Sebu finished his education at Cal State Los Angeles in electronics. He worked for HydroAir for about 6 years, then worked for Country Wide Home Loans for 20 years in the tech/financial reporting area. Debbie also worked for Country Wide. Both are now retired. They have a daughter and a son. Debbie's mom, **Pat Vigil, '85**, graduated from the TSC nursing program.



A tradition at Trinidad State has been to invite distinguished alumni from the past decades to participate in the graduation ceremony. This year's honored alumni were **Dennis Gallegos, '62; Michael Lujan, '72; Kimberly (Buckle) Ruscetti, '82; Brian Zappanti, '92; Sherri (Martinez) Bacharach, '02; Dr. Sara Bulson, '12.** Valley Campus honored alumni - **Austin "Rocky" Martin-Montoya, '02** and **Kayleigh (Westerman) Fuller, '12.**

To read about the wonderful accomplishments each of them achieved in their professional lives, please go to <https://trinidadstate.edu/foundation/> magazine for the August issue of the Foundation's quarterly e-newsletter, **Pillar & Post.**



Kim (Baudino) Lucero, '88 was recently named CEO of Mt. San Rafael Hospital (MSRH). Kim has been part of MSRH for 15 years. She served on the Senior Leadership Team and was formerly the Director of Development & Ancillary Operations. During her tenure, she acquired nearly \$4 million in grant funds for a variety of projects and implemented a capital campaign for the recent Facility Renovation Project.

Nicole (Jansen) Mauro, '07 and her husband, Brad welcomed their first son, Dominic Anthony Charles Mauro on March 7, 2022 at 4:11pm weighing in at 6.3lbs. *Congratulations!*

Michael (Mikey) Morgan, '09 started a new position as a Water System Controller at Colorado Springs Utilities. He previously spent 10 years at Pueblo Water, "I will always be grateful and humble of the opportunities given to me at Pueblo Water and will continue to be dedicated to the water utility industry."

Jeremy Begley, '10 got married on *TwosDay* 2/22/22 in his backyard. It was a very intimate and small ceremony that he and his bride, Annamarie, will cherish forever. *For more details about Jeremy's academic and professional journey, see his update under the Robotics Alumni on page 7.*

Janelle Lopez-Wright, '12 attended the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs completing her Bachelor's Degree in 2015 in Human Biology. During her summers, Janelle participated in internships such as the Health Professions Internship at Anschutz Medical Campus and a biotechnology research internship which focused on enhancing data collection techniques such as protein quantification. Afterward graduating, she obtained her clinical hours as a medical assistant at a private dermatology practice. During that time, she applied to various Physician Associate schools. After interviewing at Duke, Janelle chose to attend their PA program and graduated from Duke University School of Medicine's PA Program August 2021. She is now completing a Fellowship at Duke Primary Care.

Kaycee (Prevedel) Ott, '13 received her Bachelor's degree in Anthropology/Government/History from Adams State University and her Master's degree in American Studies with an emphasis on Indigenous

land rights from the University of Wyoming. Her professional experience includes working for Mesa Verde National Park as an Interpretive Park Ranger, the Great Basin Institute as an archaeological and plant technician, and the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests as an archaeologist. Kaycee currently works as an organizer and representative for the Sierra Club Wyoming where her work focuses on public lands and wildlife issues. She is currently working on the Red Desert protection campaign and the Healthy Wildlife Initiative, which includes protection of large carnivores. As a former softball player for Trinidad State, Kaycee also served previously as the team's pitching coach. She currently coaches the club softball team at the University of Wyoming. Kaycee was married July 17, 2021 and recently announced that she and her husband, Cory, will welcome "a new player to the team" with their little "MVP" coming February 2023.

Jennifer (Robinson/Baca) Bowie, '16 studied nursing at Trinidad State. She then went on to earn her BSN from Grand Canyon University while working full time in the Denver area. Jennifer completed ER Trauma Residency where her nursing specialty developed. She went back to school for medical aesthetics in March, 2022. Jennifer and her husband, Dr. Jim Bowie, moved back to Trinidad to be near family. She decided it was the perfect time to transition to aesthetics full-time. Jennifer is passionate about optimizing the quality of life for the residents of Trinidad by bringing home the training she received in Denver. Jennifer noted the change in career has allowed her to find balance in her work and personal life.

Gary Marriott coached at TSJC for 4 years before going on to Elsworth Junior College in Iowa. He was originally from Kansas and played at Kansas State. One of the coaches from Independence College knew President Guy Davis and got Gary connected with TSJC. He and his family liked it in Trinidad. His son was born in Pueblo. Besides his star player, Tim Harris, he mentioned Ben Goode from Hoehne/Kim area who later succumbed to leukemia. In 2001, Gary Marriott was inducted into the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Friends we will miss...

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Theodore Langowski, '47 | Martin Dosen, '75 |
| Elizabeth (Sandoval) Senia, '47 | Leland Ray, '75 |
| Alice (Sandoval) Baca, '48 | Jack Hamrick, '76 |
| Arthur Baca, '48 | Steve Blasi, '78 |
| Frances (Mehas) Evans, '50 | Rosalie "Penny" (Paiz) Tripp, '78 |
| F.N. Lutz, '51 | Richard Vecellio, '78 |
| Elizabeth (Antista) Massarotti, '51 | Alvin Vallejos, Sr., '79 |
| Robert Snapp, '51 | MaryAnn Trujillo, '80 |
| Robert Cappellucci, '53 | Byron Morgan, '81 |
| Oress DeHerrera, '53 | Laura Salazar, '81 |
| Mary Rose Martorano, '53 | Ernesto Campos, Sr., '82 |
| Janet (Fisher) Carlson, '54 | Vera (Trujillo) Ortiz, '82 |
| Joe Bassetti, Jr, '55 | Pauline (Samora) Parris, '82 |
| Alice Kelley, '55 | Mary (Iverson) Danielson, '84 |
| Lee Lehman, '55 | Teddie Hall, '85 |
| George Ortiz, '55 | Chuck Mason, '85 |
| Donald Shea, '55 | Harold Thomason, '85 |
| Patricia (Weeden) Sanders, '58 | Joseph Perea, '86 |
| Eugene Torres, '58 | Adam Abeyta, '89 |
| Elued Ortega, '62 | Carl Benham, '89 |
| Jim Ballard, '63 | James R. Henry, '89 |
| Gordon Schick, '63 | Victor Diaz, '90 |
| Cheryl (Dickinson) Monheiser, '65 | Robert Montano, Jr., '90 |
| Donna (Monteleone) Rombeck, '65 | Rhonda (Paulich) Morgan, '92 |
| Philip Cuccia, '66 | Patricia (Long) Banning, '95 |
| Martin Fernandez, '66 | Billison Washburn, '97 |
| Joseph Ribali, '66 | Michael Stookey, '01 |
| James Fernandez, '67 | Richard Baca, '03 |
| Daniel Trujillo, '67 | Bert Croll, '06 |
| Albert Cress, '68 | Melissa Binder, '12 |
| Paul Hernandez, '68 | Joshua A. Jones, '14 |
| James Lujan, Sr., '68 | Sean Moreland, '17 |
| Joe Vigil, '68 | |
| Steven Douglas, '69 | |
| Phil Early, '69 | |
| Louie Gettings, '69 | |
| Dave Orchard, '69 | |
| Lana (Clark) Tibljas, '69 | |
| Steve Herrera, '70 | |
| James Vigil, '70 | |
| Helen Armijo, '71 | |
| Beverly (Noga) Baudino, '71 | |
| Kenneth Martinet, '71 | |
| Herbert Long, '72 | |
| Charles Garlutzo, '73 | |
| Marie (Martinez) Gutierrez, '73 | |
| Larry Borrego, '74 | |
| Caroline (Riggio) Kokjohn, '74 | |
| Sandra (Monteleone) Gagliardi, '74 | |
| Juan Jaramillo, Sr., '74 | |
| Vernon Bloedow, '75 | |

Friends of TSC

- Joseph Arnone
- Pauline (Riggio) Bonfadini
- Charlotte (Scavarda) Kilpatrick
- Lily (Vigil) Lujan
- Marie (Shew) Massarotti
- John Tarabino

Memorial Gifts to the Trinidad State College Foundation are a meaningful way to honor the legacy of friends and loved ones while conveying your support to family. For more information, contact the Foundation Office.

If you'd like help to find a classmate, please contact us at tscolumnifoundation@trinidadstate.edu.

The College's policy is that the request is forwarded to the individual. Then if they would like, they can contact the requesting party.



Pictured: Trinidad Campus Honored Alumni and Valley Campus honored Alumni Austin "Rocky" Martin-Montoya, '02 and Kayleigh (Westerman) Fuller, '12.

DONOR REPORT

Trinidad State College Foundation

Gifts were received October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022

\$100,000+

Anonymous
 Colorado Opportunity Scholarship
 (COSI)

\$50,000+

Marlene Pratto
 Keith Stover (InKind)

\$25,000+

Dennis Grabowski
 San Luis Valley Federal Bank

\$20,000+

Mt. San Rafael Hospital
 TSC Booster Club

\$10,000+

Foundation for Colorado
 Community Colleges
 Jay & Beryl Jacobson
 Kane Family Foundation
 Las Animas County Board of
 Commissioners
 Jimmy Vigil, Jr & Mai Vigil (InKind)

\$5,000+

Vibeke Adkisson
 Alamosa State Bank
 BNSF Foundation
 City of Fountain
 Colorado Springs Utilities
 Charlotte Kilpatrick
 Susan LaVine
 James Luckett
 Palmer Foundation
 Tercio Foundation
 UMWA Local 9856, Women's
 Auxiliary

\$2,000+

Bar NI Community Service Fund
 Carl & Diane Baylor
 Michael Blackmore
 Phil & Sandy Byrd
 City of Fort Collins
 Pete Deluca
 GFWC Woman's Citizenship Club
 Purgatory River Car & Bike Show
 Robert Hoag Rawlings Foundation
 Roger & Judy Smith
 Shaun & Ellen Sullivan
 Wells Fargo

\$1,000+

Terri Allsup
 Anonymous
 Patti Bonner
 City of Trinidad

Roger Cuniff
 Raymond & Christina Duran
 Rhonda Epper & Myland Pride
 Jann Farnsworth
 Ed & Karen Griego - Griego
 Insurance
 Craig Hixson
 Domenic & Catherine Incitti
 Dr. Walter Krawiec
 George & Judy Latuda
 Robert Lehr
 Sharon Leone
 Jeffrey & Judy Mangino
 Mary Margaret & John Meyer
 Stan & Peggy Obrey
 Jerry Peters
 Frank & Mary Beth Pierz
 Rodney Reed
 Patrice Richardson
 Thomas Shearman, III

\$500+

Alamosa Rotary Club
 Alexander "Duke" Bell
 Cameron Blatnik Memorial Fund
 Mark & Gloria Bosley
 Paul & Judith Briggs
 Richard & Shirley Compton
 Paul Connell
 James Fidler
 First National Bank in Trinidad
 Leslie Gerbracht & Chuck Grace
 Allen Gray
 Dylan Harlan
 Richard & Katherine Holmes
 Molly & Robert King
 Tony & Aileen Marquez
 R. Michael McMillan
 David Newcomb
 Dan & Kathy Nuschy
 Cleave Simpson
 Walter & Paula Steige
 David & Karyl Vasquez
 McSherry & Don Weber
 Mary Williams
 Jan Yupcavage

\$200+

5 Star Bank
 Reza Ahrabli
 Joyce Anderson
 Martin & Betty Bania
 Robert "Mack" Bell
 Randy Beverly
 Carol Bolton
 Joe & June Bonacquista
 Stephen & Lynne Broadbent
 Daniel Cartledge
 Century Savings & Loan
 Gerald Cicilioni
 Gloria Coke

Ronald & Laura Cordova
 Shirley Cuniff
 John Daniel
 Joe & Toni DeAngelis
 Laura DeBella & Kerry Taube
 Michael & Eleanor Dippel
 Ken & Beth Dochter
 Patrick Gerhardt
 Laura Gifford
 Todd Gitchell
 Lawrence Giuliano
 Veronica Goodrich
 Edward Hall
 Ann Henchman
 Eric Houseman
 InBank Trinidad
 Joseph & Shirley Incitti
 Paul Jenkins
 John E. Johnson
 Michael & Maura Mansour
 Dr. & Mrs. Douglas McFarland
 Kevin & Suzette Megyeri
 Dr. Viki Montera-Heckman
 Bobbi Owens
 Plan De Salud Del Valle Inc
 Phil Qubain
 Diane Reliford
 Tony Rodriguez
 Kristen Rogers
 Timothy Sax
 Thomas & Karyl Scarlett
 Vickie & Mike Sekits
 William Story
 Marshall Swing
 Bernie & Lynda Sysko
 Charles Thomas
 Trinidad Community Foundation
 Trinidad Physical Therapy and
 Sports Medicine
 Glenn & Lisa Vallejo
 Thomas Zamborelli
 Miriam & James Zappanti

\$100+

Thomas Aden
 Marie Alfonso
 William "Andy" Anderson
 Kirby Anderson
 Virginia Anderson
 Anonymous
 Anne Aranda
 Antoinette Austin & Ken Harvey
 David & Olivia Bachicha
 Collin Bale
 Alfonso Barandiaran
 Elizabeth Beardsley
 Ed & Georgia Bell
 Kathleen Bell
 Abel & Judy Benavidez
 Richard & Melissa Bonacquista
 James Bonato

Richard Bright
 Raymond & Maureen Buckley
 Elizabeth Budd
 Camilla & Jerry Campbell
 James Cardinal
 Kenneth & Nancy Carver
 Anna Marie Cerame
 Jerome Chambers
 John Clark
 Glenn & Cheryl Clauser
 Ronald Cleaver
 Felix Coca
 Todd & Lynette Cotton
 John & Patricia Crichton
 Robert & Julie Cuccia
 Patrick Cummings
 Bruce Daley
 Joe & Gerri DeAngelis
 Ian & Jerene DeBono
 Louann & Joseph Dekleva
 Kenneth & Nancy Dimick
 Louis DiPaolo
 Madeline Duran
 Murray Ellison
 James & Nancy Federico
 Louis Fontanez
 Frank Images
 Chris Furia
 Anthony & Gerri Gardunio
 Mary Ann Ghella
 Donald Giacomo
 Keith & Jacquie Gipson
 Karen Glendye
 Ruben & Mona Gonzales

David & Mary Ellen Hadad
 Scott Hansen
 Michael Helmer
 Melvin Hoch
 Dean Holmstrom
 Ricardo James
 Irving & Cathy Jaquez
 Michael Jewell
 Michele Jones
 Dale Kerby
 Robert Kidder
 Barbara Knight
 Dan Lammers
 Donald & Diane Langum
 Bob Leid
 Walter & Mary Lempart
 Joseph & Phyllis Leyba
 Anthony Lopez
 Sam Luera
 Douglas MacLaren
 Gerald & Judith Maglia
 Rene Maher
 Carolyn Maio
 Tony & Karon Maniscalco
 Rosalie Marquez
 Florie Massarotti
 Emelio & Dorothy Mattorano
 Richard Mattson
 Gloria Maupin
 Desi Maxwell
 Rudolph Mazza
 John McBee
 John Micheliza
 Thaddeus Misiaszek

SLV Federal Bank 2022 Recipients:

In addition to the endowed scholarships awarded each year, San Luis Valley Federal Bank contributed an additional \$15,000 for immediate scholarship granting in the following areas - \$10,000 for Nursing, \$2,000 for Business, \$2,000 for Education, and \$1,000 for Computer Information Systems.



Pictured L to R: Front row – Angie Medina, TSC Nursing Faculty and Michael Abeyta
 Second row – Isabela Andres-Jacinto, Emily Crowder, Elycet Wilcox, Kallie Shawcroft, Joe Martinez, SLV Federal Bank President & Toni DeAngelis, TSC Foundation Director
 Third row – Mark Bechaver, SLV Federal Bank CEO, Dr. Jodi Garcia, TSC Nursing Faculty, Jim Kynor, TSC Valley Campus Vice President, Brent Place, and Jamilia Ruybal, SLV Federal Bank Marketing Associate

Mutiny Trinidad
 Richard & Debbie Nacewicz
 Viola Navrot
 Pamela Nelson
 Joseph & Julie Ontiveros
 Lenny Oss
 Amanda Palmer
 Tom & Sheri Potter
 Susan Pritchett
 Ron & Carol Rankin
 Cynthia Rhoads
 Ethel Rice
 Robert Richardson
 Louis Rino
 Joanne Romero
 Robert & Susan Romero
 Celestino Santistevan
 Charles Sarkisian
 Arnie Savio
 Thomas Schenker
 Robert & Judith Shew
 Kenneth Smith, M.D.
 Valerie Sorensen
 Denny Stangier
 Jolene Stathis
 Richard Stewart
 Terry Strahm
 Lesley Tapia
 Kim Taylor
 Temple Aaron
 Alan & Loujuana Terry
 Michael Thompson
 Leo Townsend
 Harry Trickey
 Ralph Trickey
 Polly Turner
 Kent Van Horn
 Louis Vardaman
 Sandra & George Veltri
 James & Patricia Veltri
 Toni & William Wallace
 Louis & Karen Witwer
 Edmeston Woodley
 Renee-Mae Yates-Ota
 Robert Zamborelli
 Mark & Sheila Zappanti

Angela Cesario
 Susan Chavez
 Bob & Belinda Christoffersen
 Kathleen Cole
 Colie's Cakes & Pastries
 Robert Compton
 Frank Conder
 William & Naomi Coprio
 Corral Pawn Trading Post
 Daniel Cowen
 Kristin Crawford
 William Creel
 Nathan Cruz
 Michael DeFelice
 Edward Dekleva
 Cherilynn Deluca
 Kathleen Delzell
 Bruce Dewey
 Robert & Mary Dixon
 Shirley Donachy
 Brian Drevs
 Felix & Jennifer Duplessis
 Fran Eigenberg
 Dennis Erhardt
 James Fletcher
 Gary Fresquez
 Vicki Gardner
 Get Blown Glassworks
 Antoinette Gilmore
 Dale Gregoritch
 Tony & Donna Haddow
 Frances Haugen
 Craig Hawkins
 Spencer Haywood
 Craig Henningfeld
 Jordan Henry
 Laura Herrmann
 Lynn Hinch
 Robert Hitchcock
 Nabil Hmeidi
 Bernard Holien
 Ernest Ibarra
 Tony Imbronone
 Khalid Kassir
 Venecia Kenah
 Donna Kouba
 Robert & Sharon Langowski
 Kathie Leighty
 George Lestina
 Ron Letterly
 John Leyba
 Erich Linkenauer
 Matthew & Bobbie Lucero
 Jacquelyn Maccagnan
 Paul & Frances Malano
 Sam & JoAnn Maniscalco
 Bernadette Mattorano
 Kimberly Mazza
 Stuart Miller & Carol Turner
 Jeffrey Monarco
 Janet Morris
 Thomas Murphy
 Terri Nave
 Vicki Nelson
 Kevin Oberman
 Earl Ogata
 George & Delia Ortiz

Connie Pallone
 Dolores Parker
 Jody Pedri
 Hector Peraza & Connie Rivale-Peraza
 Margaret Pfalmer
 Floyd Pierce
 Michael Popp
 Linda Prem
 Phillip & Bea Rico
 Vicki Rienks
 James Ritsch
 Victor Rolla
 Randolph Rubin
 Bob & Rebecca Salisbury
 Ed Samora
 Michael Schmidt
 Ronald Schug
 Aldo & Carole Sebben
 Edward & Freida Sempkowski
 Douglass Shanfelt
 Paul Sharp
 Bonnie Short
 Roy Sisneros
 Peter & Joelle Sissons
 Robert & Carmela Skalko
 Donald Smith
 Leslie Smith
 James Stark
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Starkovich
 Bennie Statham & Kathryn Town
 Elizabeth & Frank Tamburelli
 Peter Torres
 Janice Trantham
 Trinidad Abstract and Title Company
 Kristen & Ernie Trujillo
 Robert Twining
 Steven Ulman
 Jack & Georganne Vallejos
 Charles & Lynn Van Over
 Carmela Vanore
 John Wagner
 Mary Eleanor Weir
 Thomas White
 Nathaniel Wilson
 James & Agnes Wooster
 Steve & Ruth Woytek
 Thomas Wyscaver

The Society of 1925 honors and recognizes those who have remembered Trinidad State with a legacy gift.

Paul Connell
 Jenniffer Hudson Connors
 Joe & Gerri DeAngelis
 Laura DeBella
 Mark & Glee Hellenschmidt
 Tony Imbronone
 Ron & Shari Lopez
 Gloria Skufca Maupin
 Richard Peterson
 Antonio "Tony" Rodriguez
 Les & Carol Smith
 McSherry Weber
 Dan & Marlene Wilson

In Remembrance

Roy F. Boyd
 Gertrude Brunelli
 Bronwen Davies
 Dorothy DeMiller
 Alex Eccher
 Margaret Leone Eccher
 Charles "Chu Chu" Gladney
 Howard & Betty Holloway
 Charlotte Kilpatrick
 Charles Latuda
 Sylvia Mantelli
 Mary T. Torres
 Martha Jane Workman

**SOCIETY OF
 1925**

Up to \$99

Anthony Abeyta
 Paul Alfonso
 Lisa Amato
 AmazonSmile Foundation
 Paul Andreatta
 Anonymous
 LoRetta Archuleta
 Robert Arko
 Arthur Baca
 Raymond Barela
 Nellie & Paul Barros
 Elaine Baudino
 Joyce & Joe Beakley
 Nicholas & Joan Blanton
 Ellen Caparosa-Hanson
 Richelle Carlstrom
 Emma Carnevale
 Phillip Castle
 Certified Fit Co

*Thank you for your investment
 in Trinidad State!*



**Annual Fund Donors
 for 15+ Years**

Reza Ahrabli	Glenn & Cheryl Clauser	Dr. Walter Krawiec
Virginia Anderson	Gloria Coke	Kathie Leighty
William "Andy" Anderson	Kathleen Cole	Emelio & Dorothy Mattorano
Anne Aranda	Daniel Cowen	Kevin & Suzette Megyeri
Martin & Betty Bania	Ian & Jerene DeBono	Robert & Susan Romero
Robert "Mack" Bell	Pete Deluca	Anahid "Arnie" Savio
James Bonato	Karen Glendye	Walter & Paula Steige
Paul & Judith Briggs	Veronica Goodrich	Charles Thomas
Raymond & Maureen Buckley	Ricardo James	Glenn & Lisa Vallejo



Foundation Office
600 Prospect Street
Trinidad, CO 81082

NON-PRORIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PUEBLO, CO
PERMIT NO. 43

Change Service Requested

