



Trinidad State Junior College

Report of Activities January 2012

Felix M. Lopez, President

Student Access- All Coloradans shall have access to comprehensive community college educational programs.

- Women's Softball Coach, Steve Swazo, has received letters of intent from 13 student athletes to play softball this fall. Coach Swazo expects several more students to sign in the coming weeks.
- TSJC has recently updated the Gunsmithing, Nursing and Music pages of the website to provide easier access to information for students.

Student Success - The demands of Colorado businesses and communities shall be met through the development of a highly skilled workforce.

- **Student Spotlight** - Chris Dickerson, Jeff Jackson and Christine Strawn, members of the Valley Campus' Phi Beta Lambda chapter recently attended the National Fall Leadership Conference "Gateway to Greatness" in Little Rock, Arkansas. The students attended workshops on topics such as dressing for success, how to use social media to find employment, becoming a leader and setting both personal and career goals. The highlights of the conference included keynote speakers Derek Clark and Jerry Ackerman who encouraged participants to never give up. Students also toured some of the historical sites including the Clinton Library, Arkansas Capital and the Old State House Museum.
- TSJC's Summer NRA Gunsmithing Program has already received pre-registration forms from 60 students for the courses, which will take place in June and July 2012.

Student Success - Colorado students shall have seamless opportunities to transition from high school into college and from two-year institutions into four-year institutions.

- Valley Campus staff have made a concerted effort to engage area high schools with successful results. Their efforts are paying off with expanded dual enrollment programs.

- **Student Spotlight** -- TSJC sophomore, Onorio Franco, is on the fast track to success. A graduate of Falcon High School near Colorado Springs, Mr. Franco currently serves as a Residence Hall Advisor and Vice President of the Trinidad Campus' Phi Theta Kappa honor society. As a member of the Colorado Space Grant Consortium Robotics program in Trinidad he, has served as the project manager and programming co-manager for the Trinidad Robotics Challenge team. He has written a paper called "CASPER – Clear Autonomous Sensory Perceiving – Environment Robot", which was chosen to be presented in front of industry and university faculty at the Colorado Space Grant Research Consortium. He attended the Scalable Game Design Summer Institute at CU Boulder where he learned how to design and build video games. He was a National Community College Aerospace Scholar for the summer/fall of 2011 and was selected to participate in the NASA-NCAS Summer Program. He has the opportunity to work with NASA Experts on several aspects of the project. He also attended the Maximizing Engineering Potential-Quest Summer Program at California State University-Polytechnic at Pomona where he gained experience in engineering concepts, ideas, and approaches and was able to present in front of industry and faculty on the research during the weeks of the program.

Student Success - Colorado students shall have the opportunity to succeed through high quality, cutting-edge instruction and educational services.

- TSJC's Robotics team attended the Colorado Space Grant Consortium's Robotic Workshop in Pueblo on January 14th. Team members worked on soldering, learning a new programming language, and constructed and programmed an autonomous robot that COSGC provided.
- TSJC Art Professor, Doug Holdread, was invited to exhibit his artwork in the Creative Capitol Exhibit Highlighting Faculty in Higher Education. His work is being displayed in the office of the Lt. Governor from December 5, 2011 through May 14, 2012. Professor Holdread also has artwork on display in Representative Wes McKinley's "Cowboy Art" show in the Capitol.
- TSJC's Math Lab implemented two new 1-credit-hour courses the week prior to the beginning of the semester. Guided Math Prep I covered Math 030/060 content and Guided Prep Math II covered 090/099 content. Both courses were designed for students that needed to brush up on their math skills either because they took the Accuplacer and were not happy with their placement or they had been away from math for a while and needed a refresher course. Both courses were well attended and the majority of students that completed the courses were able to improve their Accuplacer scores.

Operational Excellence - The financial stability of the system's institutions and the physical safety of its students shall be ensured.

- Faculty and staff from the Trinidad and Alamosa campuses came together for a joint in-service session focusing on assessment and the strategic planning at TSJC. The out-going Assessment Coordinator, Robert Philbin, received special recognition for 10 years of leadership in assessment. Philbin and future Coordinator Jean Sumner walked the 155 faculty and staff through a series of group discussions geared toward the creation of program self-assessments and improvement plans. The faculty revised and enhanced existing program level outcomes, including what students should be able to do when they graduate, how to measure if the students are meeting those objectives, what weak areas are in their programs, and what can be done to improve the programs offered at TSJC. Staff constructed plans focusing on improving decision making affecting their departments, ways to improve communication, and how to improve overall knowledge of what is going on at the college.
- With a visit from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) scheduled for April, TSJC spring in-service included a presentation by Dr. Sue Darby concerning the Higher Learning Commissions Pathways Model, Proposed Criteria for Accreditation and what they may expect the HLC to review during the visit.
- A huge thanks goes out to CCCS staff Angie Gramse, Cynthia Hier and Dr. Geri Anderson who provided workshops on Harassment Prevention, Workplace Violence and Degrees with Designation during spring in-service.