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

- Susan Sherman’s BIO 112 class is doing an herbarium project this semester in which they have cataloged 615 plant specimens on an excel spreadsheet from an historic herbarium located in the TSJC Biology department. This local/regional data will be converted into the SEInet website for others in the world to access and identify plants in our area. The TSJC Herbarium includes some brilliantly preserved plants including grasses and cacti from 1940 and the 1960’s. They have been working with the curator of the Denver Botanic Garden’s Herbarium-Melissa Islam and toured her facility earlier in the semester and the botany/agriculture professor at Fort Lewis College, Ross McCauley who has the FLC Herbarium on the same website. Another part of the project is to provide a cost estimate for supplies needed to add specimens to the TSJC herbarium, hopefully from future botany classes given at TSJC. Special thanks to Gillian Hart and Cindy Clements for helping to get this information uploaded on computers and accessible to others in the future.

- TSJC sponsored seven tables at the Trinidad-Las Animas County Chamber of Commerce Business Expo on November 14th. Nursing, Line Tech, EPIC (Welding, Heavy Equipment, Diesel Mechanics), Machining, Business, Girls in the Middle and Marketing programs showcased their programs. The new Director of Community and Workforce Development, Laurie Weber, was also on hand to discuss how TSJC can meet the needs of business and community members. Over two hundred community members attended the Expo.

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

- TSJC’s newest student-sponsored organization, the Big Bang Club, is off to a big start! The club is for all students interested in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). For STEM grant staff, the club is a way to mentor STEM students and promote STEM careers. For students, it is a way to connect with other students who share a passion for science and technology. In just over a month, the Big Bang Club has conducted fundraising, participated in community service and has planned an exciting
trip to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and the Botanic Gardens for the end of November.

On October 9, the club participated in TSJC’s Stress-Free Day. Members set up a booth showcasing geology, chemistry, anatomy, archeology, aerodynamics, and robotics. The club set out a number of small exhibits including two different demos run every half hour: Mentos and soda rockets, and a chemical reaction called the Fantastic Four. By far, the biggest hit with students and faculty was the paper airplanes (aerodynamics). Club members also provided flyers on different STEM science careers to help promote STEM programs on campus.

On Saturday, October 20, Big Bang Club members met at Noah’s Ark animal shelter to help with their Spay and Neuter Clinic and to provide some much needed attention to the furry residents. Big Bang Club members showed up throughout the day to help with cleaning and everyday maintenance of the facilities, to provide enrichment and exercise for adoption-ready animals, and to help with record keeping. (As a special bonus, members were allowed to sit in and watch as the veterinarian performed neuter and spay surgeries.)

Other activities planned include promoting recycling on the TSJC campus, continued service to Noah’s Ark, and trips to Adams State University in Alamosa and Space Foundation in Colorado Springs.

- Trinidad State Junior College softball coach Steve Swazo was one of three college coaches selected to speak at the 2012 Colorado Girls Softball Coaches Association meeting held November 17, 2012 at Metro State College. Swazo along with Scott Peterson, head coach at University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and Krista Lansford, head coach at Metro State College spoke to more than 135 coaches about the recruiting process and about their softball programs and educational institutions.

Swazo is in his seventh year as the women’s head softball coach at Trinidad State Junior College.

- The road to continue their softball and education career is still on course for four Trinidad State Junior College sophomores. Kaycee Prevedel, Alex Moore, Jourdan Ensign and Kelli Henry all received scholarship offers to play softball at the next level. Prevedel, Moore and Ensign received athletic scholarships to attend Adams State University in Alamosa, Colorado while Henry received her athletic scholarship to Colorado State University at Pueblo. “I am very proud of these four to be able to get their education paid for at the next level because of softball,” Trinidad State Junior College softball coach Steve Swazo said. “They have worked hard in the classroom and also on the softball field and happy that it did not go unnoticed by the schools and college coaches that recruited them.” Prevedel was 15-5 last year and a first-team all-region selection as a pitcher. Moore led the Trojans in homeruns last year with 8 and was a second team all-region selection. Ensign hit .366 with 41 hits and Henry was 11-5 as a pitcher last
season and hit 6 HR for the Lady Trojans. All four are expected to have a solid sophomore season this coming year for Trinidad State Junior College.

- Anna Mae Lindsay, Director of the ABE/GED program on the Valley Campus was appointed to the CAEPA (Colorado Adult Education Professional Association) board. CAEPA provides leadership to the field of adult education and family literacy by offering opportunities for professional development, advocacy, and resource sharing to improve the quality of life for every Coloradan. Ms. Lindsay will be on the legislative/advocacy committee and will assist with the annual conference in October, 2013. The ABE/GED program and certification testing center produced 20 imputed FTE’S for fall semester of 2011-12, 23 imputed FTE’S for Spring semester of 2011-12, and 6 imputed FTE’S for summer of 2011-12, for a total of 49 Imputed FTE’S for 2011-12. Serving over 400 students in Adult Basic Education, GED preparation, and Testing for certification in EMT, Comp-TIA, Medical Assistant, and Early Childhood Education. GED tests will be changing in 2014. Any student who does not complete and pass the 2002 test series will be required to start over completely on the new GED series to be released January 2, 2014. All GED tests will be computerized at that time.

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

- TSJC has been partnering with the University of Colorado at Boulder for several years now and the value of this relationship has been demonstrated again this fall with two exciting CU in the Community events. The University of Colorado CU in the Community program sponsors members of its faculty to travel to Trinidad to give lectures to the public and to visit local schools. Not only is TSJC not charged for these programs, but any revenue that TSJC can raise is given, in its entirety, to a local non-profit organization or facility. On October 23, Anthropology Professor Steve Lekson gave a presentation titled “The Southwest in the World” about southwestern U.S. archaeology. He also visited the local middle school MESA Program where he delighted 18 students with his tales of Chaco Canyon. The TSJC Louden Henritze Archaeology Museum, hosted an open house in his honor where college students and the public had a chance to visit with Dr. Lekson. On November 8, the college was privileged to welcome Biology Professor Tim Seastedt who spoke on “High Plains Perspectives: Local and Regional Implications of Environmental Change”, an eye-opening talk on changes in our own Colorado back yard and what can be done. The next morning, Dr. Seastedt delighted a lab full of twenty-two 2nd through 7th graders from the community with a workshop involving plants and live weevils. Along with the school children, the local chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Purgatory River Anglers and the Archaeology Museum received the proceeds from these presentations. Part of TSJC’s mission is to work with the community and this partnership is a shining example which would not be possible without the University of Colorado.
ENG 090, 121, and 122 students listened to a real-life horror story on Halloween. Science instructor and STEM grant director Debbie Krumm told a scary tale about pollution from plastics in the world’s oceans and the effects of plastic on the human body. The title of the presentation was “The Great Pacific Garbage Patch.” The idea to combine English assignments with scientific themes came from English instructor Teresa Compton who has educated students on environmental stewardship and health awareness in her courses for a long time. She took Dr. Krumm up on her offer to promote STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) issues around the TSJC campus. English instructors Judy Lee and Chelo Ludden joined the interdisciplinary partnership and brought their classes to the presentations. Some highlights (or lowlights!) included learning that 80% of the garbage in the oceans comes from the land, and millions of animals such as birds, sea turtles, and seals are killed each year by either eating plastic instead of food or becoming tangled in old fishing nets and other types of debris. Students also learned that plastic they come into contact with every day in water bottles and food containers can contain dangerous chemicals such as BPA which are suspected of causing cancer, reproductive problems, early puberty, and obesity and neurological issues. The presentations ended with a call to start recycling, using cloth bags for shopping, purchasing reusable water bottles and avoiding plastic packaging for the sake of the planet and for the sake of everyone’s own health. Chelo Ludden stated that her students showed a lot of interest in the topic and she hopes it will encourage them to recycle. Both the science and English instructors felt that this partnership was highly beneficial and will hopefully lead to additional interdisciplinary programs. The impacts of these presentations will be assessed and the results will be presented at TSJC’s next ALTITUDE assessment conference.

Miscellaneous

- The Women’s basketball team has started their season off at 6-0. Go Lady Trojans!

- It was a record-breaking season for many of the Lady Trojan Volleyball players as school records fell and national marks were reached. The Trojans finished the season at the Region IX tournament to close their season with a 19-21 mark. Capri Rino crushed the previous TSJC records for single season digs with a total of 972, the previous high was 632. She also claimed the career record with 1430 digs compared to the previous high of 979. Rino wasn’t the only Trojan to make their mark on the national scene this season, a pair of Trojan freshmen also set high marks. Shelby Walker was fourth in the nation with 146 blocks and Rachel Hendrick finished #8 in Kills, #12 in Total Points and #29 in Service Aces. Many team records fell besides Rino’s dig marks. Kaylee Johnson finished her career with 260 blocks which places her fourth all time. Walker’s 146 blocks will put her in fourth for a single season. Several Trojans broke the single season service points record. The old record was set last season by Sydney Wilson with 436, this
year Kylie Cornella put up 573 points for first all-time. Capri Rino (511) and Vanessa Gonzales (477) also climbed onto the board. Cornella now tops the Career Service Points category with 882 points and Rino moves into third with 777 points. Also announced this past week were the All-Region and All-Tournament Awards. TSJC had four girls named All-Region, freshmen Walker and Hendrick were joined by Rino and Jacinta Hoffpauir. Rino was named to the All-Tournament team along with fellow sophomore Lyndsi Necaise.