Trinidad State Junior College
Report of Activities
June-July 2015
Carmen M. Simone, Ph.D., President

Transform the student experience.

- Eight students from the Valley Campus took the national examination for Administrative Medical Assisting with all eight passing the test.

- As one of the first students to earn their Associate of Science degree in biology on the Valley campus, Matthew Harris set the bar high for everyone else. He excelled in all of his biology courses and completed two independent study research projects while attending TSJC. In his first semester he completed a microbiology related project where he tested the bathrooms on campus in an attempt to identify the bacteria present. His second research project was a bioinformatics and genomics based project, which means he spent long hours in front of a computer looking a fruit fly DNA sequence. This research project is part of the Genomics Education Partnership (GEP). GEP is a consortium of faculty members and their students from over 50 undergraduate institutions across the country. Most of the GEP research is currently be completed at 4-year institutions by upper-level students. Students that complete a GEP project have the opportunity to be co-authors when the paper including their research is written. Matt is one of the few community college students that have met this requirement. In addition, Matt presented his research at the Community College Undergraduate Research Initiative symposium in Portland. Matthew will attend Adams State University in the fall.

- Three students on the Trinidad Campus earned their GED in June.

- By mid-July, the GED program on the Trinidad Campus had already enrolled 36 students for the 2016 academic year.

Transform our own workforce experience.

- Sarah Sloane, Criminal Justice and Human Performance and Exercise faculty member, submitted a research paper through the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs “Mountain Lion Research Day”. Ms. Sloane’s paper covers the negative health consequences associated with intimate partner violence (IPV) including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and substance abuse.
• Keith Gipson, Associate Dean of Career and Technical Education and Gunsmithing faculty, was recognized for his 25 years of instruction in the Summer NRA Gunsmithing Program.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

• Occupational Safety and Health Technology program chair/faculty Jocelyn King attended the American Society of Safety Engineers’ Safety 2015 professional development conference in Dallas, TX. Jocelyn participated in an interactive poster session, where her presentation topic was “Project-Based Learning in Online OSH Courses to Meet ABET Criteria.” In addition to attending conference sessions, she also manned a Trinidad State table in the exhibition hall, where she met with current program students, prospective students, prospective employers, and faculty from other safety programs with which the Trinidad State OSHT program has transfer agreements or provides pre-requisite requirements for Master’s degree programs.

• Using his GI Bill benefits, Casey Schmidgall from Springfield, IL will be the first student to graduate with the NRA Firearms Instructor Safety Certificate. This certificate is offered through TSJC’s NRA Certified Training Center. The first NRA Certified Training Center in the United States has been made possible through a partnership with the National Rifle Association.

• STEM staff hosted a teacher/mentor institute in preparation for the upcoming SoCo BEST Robotics program. Seventeen teachers from eleven middle and high schools in the Trinidad and Alamosa area attended in hopes of mentoring a robotics team at their school in the fall.

• The STEM team, in conjunction with Trinidad Police Department, Trinidad Ambulance District and several School District #1 employees hosted seven events for Trinidad Friday Night Live. The mission of this group is to provide free, fun and educational activities and experiences to encourage healthy teen choices. The events have been successful with attendance ranging from 15 to 40 students at the various events.

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

• Lynette Bates, Dean of Career and Technical Education, has been promoted to the position of Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs.

• As a member of the Needs Assessment Committee, Dr. Simone is assisting Mt. San Rafael Hospital in Trinidad as they develop their new strategic plan.