



College Update  
January 18, 2016

Happy First Day of Classes!

We are closely monitoring enrollment for spring. As of last Friday, full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment was only down 8.4% year-to-year, which is a hopeful sign. If this number holds, we may be able to ease a portion of the reductions implemented last October. You may recall these measures were pursued to decrease the number of necessary lay-offs. We owe a debt of gratitude to the marketing and recruiting teams, who have creatively worked to grow enrollment.

Last Thursday, we received preliminary results from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) related to our accreditation status. The visit team is recommending we submit a progress report on needed improvements to our program review process – due in eighteen months – with an endorsement for a ten-year reaffirmation. We are thrilled with this outcome and have agreed with the recommendations. This information will be forwarded to the Institutional Actions Council of the HLC for a final decision later this spring. Stay tuned ...

One of the topics of the State of the College address last week was future construction projects. In the Valley, we plan to monitor facilities usage now that the expansion project is (finally) complete to determine what may need to happen next. In Trinidad, the need for an indoor shooting range to support the NRA Certified Training Center is paramount. In addition, an expanded weight room has also been suggested. It may be feasible to combine these two projects into a Student Recreation Center concept, with an indoor track to support fitness. While our sister institutions have decided to pursue residence hall projects, we believe recreational amenities will aid in the recruitment of future students more than new dorm rooms. As mentioned last fall, industry partners will be instrumental in financially supporting this project.

Several of us are attending the annual Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show in Las Vegas, NV this week. My goal is to continue building relationships with the supporters of our Gunsmithing program, many of whom will be in attendance. We plan to discuss our future faculty and facility needs with them while we are there.

As always, if you have questions, concerns or information to share, please let me know.

Enjoy the first week of classes!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Carmen M. Simone'.

Carmen M. Simone,  
President