



College Update  
February 2, 2015

Happy Groundhog Day!

Last Friday, we successfully submitted two grants – one for each campus – into the federal TRiO Student Support Services (SSS) competition. With assistance from Teri Erickson, former grant writer from Otero Junior College, Nicholas Goodsell and Victor Salazar worked together to prepare *excellent* proposals. As you may know, these grants have been vital to our ability to serve students for many years; they are critical to our operations. We expect that the results of this competition will not be announced until late summer or early fall, so now the waiting begins.

Last spring, the System Office released findings from an internal audit on procurement cards. Several concerns were raised and we were instructed to review our practices. We have begun that process and to that end, we are reducing the number of cards issued at TSJC. Several individuals have already voluntarily surrendered cards that were rarely utilized, protecting both the institution and themselves from potential fraud. Chief Financial Officer Bryan Bryant will be contacting individuals soon for further discussions related to this and other purchasing processes.

Nancy Minow, one of our mathematics faculty members, has officially decided to retire at the conclusion of this term. Nancy has done an outstanding job for our students and, fortunately for us, she hopes to continue to teach a course or two for us in the future as an adjunct instructor. After a brief discussion at Administrative Council, it was determined that this position is critical for Trinidad State, as it is the only mathematics position at the Valley campus. Given that, we will be conducting a national search to fill this vacancy, which you should see advertised soon.

Debbie Ulibarri, Dean of Arts and Sciences, is currently in Washington, DC participating in a panel presentation at the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Summit on the Redesign of Developmental Education. She was invited by Jerry Migler, System Provost, along with Chip Nava (Math, Pueblo CC), Kim Moultny (Composition and Reading, Arapahoe CC), and Jana Schwartz (Dean of Student Services, Front Range CC). Thank you to everyone who gave Debbie feedback on our progress with the redesign project as she prepared for this presentation.

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

Hope you have a great week!

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

Carmen M. Simone,  
President