



College Update  
February 15, 2016

Happy Presidents' Day!

Well, last week was a good reminder of just how dependent we are on technology, right? From the original mishap on Wednesday morning through Sunday, the IT department at TSJC worked hard to return us to normal, with many colleagues at both Otero Junior College and the System Office offering remote assistance. Please join me in thanking Doug Bak and his team for their perseverance and please continue to be patient as any remaining items are addressed.

We sent a small team to Arizona for Higher Learning Commission (HLC) training last week. An assessment workshop was held on Tuesday and Wednesday, followed by a student persistence and completion workshop on Thursday and Friday. We are looking forward to hearing feedback from the team – Tori Eckes, Lori Rae Hamilton, Melissa Kleinschmit, and Bonnie Ortega. To learn more about this opportunity, which was partially funded through Perkins dollars, please visit the HLC website at <http://www.hlcommission.org/About-the-Commission/workshops.html>.

Trinidad State collaborated with the System Office to be the lead institution for a consortium grant through the US Department of Agriculture to support rural agricultural science programs. The focus of the work is intended to strengthen minority-serving institutions, such as TSJC, while developing best practices for partner colleges and universities that work with similar groups of underrepresented students. Please join me in recognizing the diligence of Kerry Gabrielson, who successfully submitted the grant electronically by the Friday deadline in spite of a myriad of technical difficulties. We hope to hear positive news regarding this grant soon.

As a reminder, the 2016 President Feedback Survey opened last week and it should be available for you through Friday afternoon. If you haven't done so already, please take a few minutes to provide comments to Dr. McCallin on my job performance. A link to the survey, which we hear may not work well with older versions of Internet Explorer, was sent to you by Christina Cecil, the Executive Director for Human Resources at the System Office. For your convenience, the link is also included here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016TSJCPresidentFeedback>. Your feedback, whether given through this instrument or by another means, is critically important to me and very much appreciated.

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