



College Update  
March 2, 2015

Happy Monday!

Draft Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12) three-year cohort default rates were announced last week by the United States Department of Education. Our rate has decreased to 20.7% from an official rate of 27.1% for FY11. This is great news and a testimonial to the hard work being done by our Financial Aid office and our partner, ECMC.

On Friday, Marilyn Smith from the System office will join us for a discussion related to the new placement test being implemented this year. As you've heard by now, the Accuplacer test is being replaced by an instrument developed specifically for the Colorado Community College System by McCann Associates. If you have any questions, concerns, insights or comments, please share those with us soon. We are providing access to this meeting through technology; anyone with an interest is more than welcome to participate (March 6 from 11-4).

At the request of the Trinidad School District, we recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide technology support to them on a limited basis for the remainder of this fiscal year. In exchange for these services, we will be receiving a small monthly stipend, but more importantly, we will be solidifying an important community relationship. Unfortunately, shortly after signing this agreement, we were notified of complicating circumstances on the Valley campus (aka the departure of Darci Duran). Either scenario on its own would have been challenging, so without a doubt, we are stretching Doug, Ira, Michael and Ron. Please take a minute to thank them for their perseverance as we implement some short-term solutions on the Valley campus and finalize a long-term strategy.

Over the weekend, the Foundation hosted a fundraising dinner to benefit Trinidad State. The guest of honor, Todd Helton, delivered a touching address to over 275 guests. Afterwards, he remained to sign autographs for many of his fans. Although a final tally is not yet available, ticket sales were great and the silent auction table seemed very busy. Thank you, Toni DeAngelis and Linda Perry, for all the effort you put into planning and implementing this event.

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