



College Update
March 3, 2014

Happy Monday!

With the retirement of Dr. Davis, we have reassigned several accreditation roles. Kerry Gabrielson has agreed to be our Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The ALO serves a key communication role with HLC. Jean Downs, Assessment Coordinator, will become our HLC Assurance System Coordinator. This person is responsible for entering criterion evidence into the online accreditation system. We will be sending three representatives – Kerry Gabrielson, Debbie Ulibarri and me – to the HLC Annual Meeting in April. Finally, we plan to send two people – Jean Downs and Bonnie Ortega – to the HLC Peer Reviewer training in July. In the meantime, our five assurance review committees will continue to gather information for our upcoming (2015-2016) site visit.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Strategic Planning committee will meet to continue shaping our strategic plan. Later that day, the Faculty Senate will gather to begin discussion of the organizational structure within Academic Affairs with me. Other agenda items include the review of a proposed revision to the Faculty Senate structure and a discussion of the Student Affairs committee proposal to establish a midterm grade policy. Thank you to Faculty Senate President Brian Reeves for assisting me in arranging this meeting so quickly. Shared governance is the hallmark of higher education; it is especially important during times of potential change.

We have about a month to prepare and submit our preliminary budget modifications to the System Office. My plan is to share any necessary adjustments with you in early April following that review. Data from Gary Ashida will be critical in our initial assessments, as will insights from you. Please know that many of you will be directly involved in this information-gathering process over the course of the next several weeks. In the meantime, please stay positive and continue to focus on our students. Remember, our institution is great because of you.

Red Carpet Day was recently held in Alamosa, with almost 150 potential new students touring the Valley campus for that event. This week, the Trinidad campus will host Spring Fest. So far, there are nearly 250 participants signed up. These events are essential to our recruiting efforts, so thank you to everyone who has offered assistance.

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