



College Update  
March 14, 2016

Happy Monday!

Trinidad State plans to hold lockdown drills in cooperation with local law enforcement soon. The first of these drills will take place on Wednesday. The Berg building is scheduled for lockdown at 2:00, followed by the Davis building at 3:00. Drills for the Valley campus are being planned for March 30<sup>th</sup> and the remainder of the buildings in Trinidad should be scheduled before the end of the term. The Notify Me system will be used prior to and during these drills, with appropriate communications to the local media. We should learn much during these exercises, both institutionally and individually.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the new budgeting process. Forms are due this week; ironically, the March revenue forecast for Colorado happens this week, too. Over the next two months, our financial condition will become much more clear. Until then, we are proactively planning, which includes the recently announced review of classified staff positions. Sue Nesbitt and Julie Kotalik are continuing the *Positive College* work, reminding us to remain optimistic in the face of challenges. Please thank them for their efforts and consider wearing your "TSJC Think Positive" pin. Remember, monies for this initiative come from the President's Discretionary Fund through the Foundation.

Speaking of finances, there is an opportunity to advocate for enhanced higher education funding at the Capitol this week. The hospital provider fee conversations are intensifying, the results of which could have lasting impacts on us. My role is to represent the college perspective at every opportunity, including through legislative advocacy. Because of this, my plan is to be in Denver on Tuesday morning working with our lobbyists and legislators. As always, my goal is to do everything possible to secure funding for Trinidad State, not just to sustain us, but to support our growth and development.

Next week, several of us will be attending the Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institution Educators (AHSIE) Best Practices Conference in California. Shannon Shiveley, Krystalee Moreno, Linda Perry, Alicia Massarotti and Ron Martin (yes, he continues to work part-time for us) will be learning more about student support and the upcoming STEM grant competition. It's an honor for me to be participating in the President's Panel on March 21<sup>st</sup>, entitled "Promoting Diversity at HSIs: Best Practices for Hiring and Retaining Hispanic Faculty and Staff". Our attendance is funded through the current STEM grants and is partially offset by AHSIE.

Due to Spring Break and AHSIE, there will be no College Update next week. Publication will resume on Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Hope you have a great week – and enjoy Spring Break next week!

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

Carmen M. Simone,  
President