



College Update
April 11, 2014

Happy Friday!

Travel takes me away for a few days, so this edition of the *College Update* is arriving a bit early. Debbie Ulibarri, Kerry Gabrielson and I will be in Chicago through early next week for the Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference. There are over 4,200 participants registered for this event, so we should be in great company!

On Thursday, April 17th, we will host visitors from the System office at the Trinidad campus. Dr. Linda Bowman and Dr. Nancy McCallin (System President) will be collecting input to assist in the crafting of the new Colorado Community College System Strategic Plan. The following day, they will both travel to the Valley campus to conduct a similar assessment. If you have time and interest, please feel free to share your insights with them. This plan, which is due to be completed over the next few months, will be better with your participation.

Yesterday, HB 14-1154 was narrowly defeated in the House Appropriations committee. This bill, entitled "Employment of Community College Faculty", was formally opposed by the System due to its financial costs and over-reaching policy implications. Perhaps with further conversation and careful planning, we could better support our adjunct faculty in the future. The role they play in the education of our students is critical to all of us.

We heard disappointing news related to our Valley expansion project this week. The construction bids we received were *all* significantly over budget. We are working with the architects and the state buildings office to determine next steps, but unfortunately, it seems clear that this project will not be completed prior to Fall 2014. Please stay tuned for further developments.

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

Hope you have a great weekend!

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

Carmen M. Simone,
President