



College Update
April 21, 2014

Happy Monday!

Today is a special day – we are joined by Dee Dee Raap, who will engage us in a dialog focused on what we do at TSJC and why we do it. Sessions begin at 8:00 am for the Trinidad campus and 2:00 pm for the Valley campus. Our Foundation has agreed to cover the entire cost of our speaker (\$2,500 plus travel) through three separate, private funding sources. Please know that we are not spending any state or student dollars on this professional development activity. We are very fortunate to have such a caring, supportive Foundation at Trinidad State.

Last week, we connected with Dr. Sunil Ahuja, our Higher Learning Commission (HLC) liaison. It was great to meet him. He just happens to be the liaison assigned to work with our System on the Bachelors of Applied Science degree, too, which is very fortunate for us. He has already been invited by the System to come to Colorado this fall and he is willing to visit our institution as part of this journey. Our travel to the Annual Conference in Chicago was quite productive and it was reaffirming to know that we are making significant progress towards our accreditation goals.

Many of you took time last week to visit with Dr. McCallin and Dr. Bowman – thank you. For those of you who were unable to attend, they shared background information with us, collected our insights for future planning, and answered questions. They were both struck by the intensity of the drought and economic stress in southern Colorado and Dr. McCallin expressed a deep commitment to TSJC.

Speaking of commitment, I'd like you to be aware of the level of support we've received from the System office and the State Board. They have reassured me that the Nursing Home fund – which is about \$1.9M – *will* remain intact for future use. While it is accounted for as part of our reserves (and our reserves have been decimated), they know how important this source of funding is for our institution. In addition, they plan to keep us cash-funded as necessary for this year. Without this support, we would have been in serious financial jeopardy. I appreciate the faith they have placed in us, which is partially due to the difficult actions we've undertaken to address our deficit.

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