



College Update
May 16, 2016

Happy Monday!

The TSJC commencement exercises in both Trinidad and Alamosa were *absolutely beautiful*. Thank you to everyone who made the day perfect for our graduates and for the family and friends who were there to support them. As of late last week, we anticipated awarding 776 degrees and certificates to 405 graduates, 198 of whom planned to walk in the ceremonies. While these numbers may shift slightly due to late decisions and the recording of final grades, there is no doubt that great memories were made on Friday. **Thank you, all, for putting *Students First!***

Last week, System President McCallin visited with the College Presidents about her desire to promote innovative approaches to implementing goal one of the System strategic plan: Transform the Student Experience. On Thursday, she announced a supporting grant process to all System employees. Institutional projects qualify for up to \$100,000 in support to “move the needle” on one of seven key performance metrics. If you have ideas, please share them. It would be fantastic to have some additional one-time funding to positively impact student learning at Trinidad State.

As we put the finishing touches on our budget for the next fiscal year, we have determined that across-the-board salary increases are just not possible. Late last week, we learned that the State has approved upward adjustments for several classified pay ranges, which will provide small salary increases to three TSJC classified staff members. Much effort was also undertaken this spring to determine which administrative / professional-technical (APT) staff members were deserving of salary adjustments based on the minimum pay guidelines issued by the System Human Resources Office last year. The salaries for about a dozen people will be adjusted due to this study, which is similar to the institutional study completed last spring for full-time faculty.

As many of you may have heard by now, we have decided to reinstate Bob Philbin, who spent more than twenty-five years teaching for us here at Trinidad State. Bob will return to Trinidad to instruct physics and astronomy, with the potential of additional classroom assignments. Bob left TSJC during the summer of 2013 to pursue further education in statistics. His experience in data analysis could be highly beneficial to the College, but his enthusiasm for teaching and commitment to student engagement are the primary drivers for this action. *Welcome home, Bob!*

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