



College Update
July 7, 2014

Happy July!

With July comes the beginning of a new fiscal year (FY15), which is bound to be better than the last one. Much work has been done to bring us into financial balance and, although we are not quite there yet, this goal is within reach. Careful monitoring of the new budget will be essential and wise decision-making will make this goal a reality. To assist in this endeavor, the budget document will be shared with you soon. When it is, you will note that many FOAP (Fund, Organization, Account, Program) categories have been collapsed to minimize complexity and emphasize accountability.

A final report on the 2013-2014 Abbreviated Strategic Plan is included with this update. Items highlighted in green are complete, while those in yellow are either partially complete or remain ongoing items. Several entries are highlighted in red, indicating they are either incomplete or are no longer being pursued. A new implementation plan for the coming academic year will be assembled later this month. If you have suggestions for items to be considered, please forward them to us.

July is shaping up to be a busy month. Representatives from *Emergency Response Crisis Management* will join us later this week to review our preparedness plans and protocols. The System Office is arranging and supporting this work. Next week, leaders from the National Rifle Association will be in Trinidad to explore future growth options for the Gunsmithing program. The following week, teams representing all of the System colleges will be attending Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) development meetings in Denver.

Finally, we will be joined by Dr. Sunil Ahuja, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) liaison assigned to us, on the 23rd of July. Discussions with him will include the current state of budgetary affairs at the institution, a review of the Quality Initiative on integrated planning, and an overview of the Assurance System. This visit will cost us virtually nothing, as Dr. Ahuja had been previously scheduled to attend the aforementioned BAS meetings in Denver later that week. He graciously accepted our invitation for an early arrival and the System Office agreed to cover most of his travel expenses. This is a great opportunity to evaluate our readiness for the next HLC accreditation visit at TSJC, which is scheduled for December 7, 2015!

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

Hope you have a great month!

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

Carmen M. Simone,
President