



College Update
August 4, 2014

Happy August!

Summer sure has flown by, hasn't it? We finished the summer 2014 term with a headcount of 468 students, compared to only 435 students last summer. Even though our headcount was up by 7.6%, the annualized FTE generated by these students was relatively flat (89.16 compared to 91.79, or down 2.9%). Please join me in thanking those who worked so hard over the summer to serve our students – we appreciate the effort!

We are now deep into preparations for the new academic year, focusing on our new and returning students. We are hiring adjunct instructors to cover several sections and, as you may have noted, we are also hiring two full-time faculty positions. Over the summer months we unexpectedly lost four faculty members for various reasons – John McLaughlin, Chelo Ludden, Sean McGinty, and Pat Wright. They will be missed and we wish them well. We owe Sean McGinty a special thank you for agreeing to serve as an adjunct instructor during his transition.

On July 23rd, Dr. Sunil Ahuja from the Higher Learning Commission joined us on the Trinidad campus for a discussion related to our accreditation site visit, which is scheduled for December 7, 2015. Participants included Kerry Gabrielson, Robert Martinez, Bryan Bryant, Lynette Bates, Jack Wiley, Keith Gipson, Debbie Ulibarri, Bonnie Ortega, Shari Schroepfer, Darci Duran, Donna Haddow and me. We shared institutional changes from last spring with him, discussed our new approach to the Quality Initiative and listened to his perspective on distance learning and concurrent enrollment. It was refreshing to hear words like “reasonable” and “streamlined approach” from Dr. Ahuja. It really could not have been a better meeting.

The primary reason Dr. Ahuja visited Colorado was to participate in the System Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) workshop. Several of us from TSJC also attended in Denver, including Kerry Gabrielson, Debbie Ulibarri, Lynette Bates, Jack Wiley, Keith Gipson and me. Honestly, the prospects of offering a BAS are daunting. The most important characteristics of a proposal are positive student outcomes, including strong industry demand and high wages, and uniqueness of programming. We have several potential ideas, but plan to tread slowly into this new territory.

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