



College Update
August 19, 2013

Happy First Day of Classes!

We are still celebrating the great news we received from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) late last week. As you know, the focus visit from last spring has been *officially* marked a success, allowing us to move forward. This was truly a team effort, but Paula Davis, VP for Academic Affairs, deserves special recognition for leading this project. Well done, all!

Last week, we received permission from the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education (SBCCOE) to expend up to \$850,000 in grant funding to complete our planned laboratory renovations in the Davis building on the Trinidad campus. In addition, the program plan for the construction of a new Valley campus was officially approved by the Board. Seven capital construction projects were recommended for funding consideration, including ours, which ranked number five on the priority list.

We had a close-out meeting on our Title V grant a few weeks ago with David Trujillo, who serves as our external evaluator. He was quite complementary of the work of Shannon Shiveley and Trudie Gilmore. We certainly recognize the tremendous impact of this grant on TSJC. Over the past five years, we established Student Success Centers on both campuses, which have now served nearly 5,000 students. In addition, we purchased state-of-the-art technology for our classrooms. By the end of the fourth grant year, we had completed major technology upgrades in 18 classrooms, along with minor upgrades in 22 others. The third grant activity focused on professional development, which reached 97 faculty and staff members through financial support of participation in workshops, seminars, continuing education courses and educational technology trainings. While the next Title V competition has not yet been officially announced, we are hopeful that this opportunity will materialize in the near future.

The orientation events for new students on our campuses were both well-organized and well-received. In the spirit of continuous improvement, please pass along your insights to us. Thank you for making our students and their families feel welcome at our institution.

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 black ink that reads 'Carmen M. Simone'.

Carmen M. Simone,
President