



College Update
September 29, 2014

Happy Monday!

We received *great* news last week from the US Department of Education (DOE). Official three-year cohort default rates for 2011 were released on Monday and TSJC has fallen to 27.1, based on 391 borrowers. This compares favorably to the rate reported for the previous cohort, which was 29.4 for us. Two-year institutions have, on average, a rate of 20.6 nationally. According to DOE, the mean default rate for all Colorado institutions is 15.3. Our System has an average rate of 23.9, with two of our sister institutions reporting rates higher than 30.0.

On Tuesday, Shari Schroeffer, Associate Dean for Arts and Sciences on the Trinidad Campus, is traveling with me to Chicago for Peer Reviewer Training with the Higher Learning Commission. This is a great opportunity for us to learn more about the evaluation process from the inside, which should be invaluable as we prepare for our site visit on ***December 7, 2015***.

During the College Council meeting last Monday, several questions were raised on the proposed 2015-2016 Academic Calendar. Most were related to the Spring 2016 term. It has been suggested that we move the traditional spring professional development day from Monday, March 28 to Friday, April 29. Doing so would allow us to define “**A Day**” – a day in **A**pril when we cancel classes to hold **A**dvising sessions for students and **A**ssessment activities for faculty and staff. In addition, we have three options for spring break: March 14-18, March 21-25 or March 28-April 1. Please note this discussion ***DOES NOT*** impact the Spring 2015 calendar, which has already been set. If you have strong preferences on these topics, please voice your opinions to any member of the College Council. The calendar is due to be finalized next week.

After some discussion, the Administrative Council has decided to move the utilization of Course Signals from a status of “mandatory at weeks 2,5 and 10” to “optional, at the discretion of individual faculty members”. This tool remains one of many options faculty members have to communicate progress to students, which is an important component of student success. Usage of the D2L gradebook remains compulsory, as our students have expressed a deep appreciation for this information. Thank you, faculty, for making our students your priority.

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