



College Update
October 7, 2013

It's Midterm Time!

Our official Fiscal Year 2010 3-year cohort default rate was recently reported by the United States Department of Education. Unfortunately, the TSJC rate for this group was listed as 30.3%, compared to a rate of 29.8% for the 2009 cohort. We are appealing three entries (which were identified earlier this summer) and we should receive a final decision soon. While we are concerned about this report, we are hopeful that the finalized version will place us at less than the 30.0% threshold. Many thanks to Misti Martin (Financial Aid) for her work on this issue.

Last week, we declared a failed search in the Director for Institutional Effectiveness position. We have identified an ongoing need to address our data collection, analysis and dissemination issues, but it seems there will be no quick solution for us. We are fortunate that Annette Lujan, Institutional Research Coordinator, continues to help us meet our basic data reporting requirements and we will continue to spend time filling in our data gaps, as necessary.

Construction continues on both our campuses. In the Valley, we recently completed parking lot improvements and we are preparing to begin a state-funded expansion of the main building. Our federally-funded STEM projects are in full swing on both campuses, with anticipated completion in the near future. On the Trinidad campus, we finished window installation in the Banta building and reconstruction work has just begun on the deck at the president's home. The "Please Excuse our Noise and Dust" signs seem to be everywhere!

Losing a student is never easy, but dealing with the death of a residence hall student is especially challenging. Under difficult circumstances, several people rose to the occasion during this most recent tragedy. Special thanks go out to Bernadine DeGarbo, who handled the incoming call last week, and to Paula Davis, who responded quickly on our behalf. Kerry Gabrielson, Michelle Black and Andrew Orta worked endlessly last week, both in the initial hours and subsequent days following the news. It was especially meaningful to the Callicut family to see several of us, including a handful of students, in Alamosa at the funeral last Friday.

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