



College Update
October 27, 2014

Happy Monday!

Earlier this month, a group of student leaders from both campuses attended the State Student Advisory Council (SSAC) Conference in Denver, accompanied by Ashlie Cogburn, Student Engagement Specialist. The breakout sessions and speakers focused on team building and leadership. Danielle Armstrong, a Valley campus student, was elected SSAC Legislative Liaison and will be attending Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) meetings this year as the student representative for community colleges. Merisa Armstrong, also a Valley campus student, was elected SSAC Secretary. Congratulations to both Merisa and Danielle!

As you know, phase one of the new Valley campus – a \$14M trades and industry building – was submitted for legislative consideration last summer. You may recall that the project was ranked #4 of 7 within the community college system earlier this semester. The combined rankings for higher education were recently released and our project is #13 out of 21 new proposals (or #18 overall when the five continuation projects are included). It will take nearly \$300 M to fund to our position on the list, without consideration of projects outside of higher education. Securing private funding has now become even more important than ever. To that end, we are starting to speak publicly about opportunities to invest in Trinidad State in the Valley, beginning with the San Luis Valley County Commissioners Association meeting this morning.

Dean of Students Robert Martinez is attending a National Alliance for Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) event this week. The conference, entitled *Elevating College Transition*, is taking place in Chicago. One of the activities in our current implementation plan (I.A.3.b) is to “address concurrent enrollment processes for consistency” and this experience dovetails nicely, as it will provide insights into best practices for concurrent enrollment. This project may potentially impact much of our coursework, so these expenses are eligible for Perkins funding.

As our volleyball and soccer seasons are coming to a close and our teams are entering post-season play, I'd like to take a moment to commend both Coach McGill and Coach Miller for their efforts. They exemplify the Trojan spirit, overcoming challenges while continually striving for excellence. Congratulations, and “Go Trojans”!

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