



College Update  
November 23, 2015

It's Thanksgiving Week!

**Only 14 days to go** until our Higher Learning Commission site visit! We have learned that the five team members plan to arrive on Sunday (12/6) and spend Monday (12/7) together on the Trinidad campus. On Tuesday (12/8), one or two of the team members anticipate traveling to the Valley campus, while the rest will continue work in Trinidad. As you know, their assignment is to verify, clarify and amplify the information provided in our Assurance Argument for the Commission. They will determine an appropriate meeting structure based on their initial analysis of our written materials. We are working with them now to finalize that schedule.

As you may have seen last week, the search for a cross country coach has begun. We hope to identify an individual to serve in this capacity sometime during the spring term, so recruiting can take place and teams can be assembled for fall. As described in the vacancy notice, the coach will be assigned additional duties at the Valley campus, which will depend on the background and qualifications of the successful candidate. An assistant coach will be identified to work with cross country student-athletes at the Trinidad campus, under the direction of the head coach.

Last Friday, we mailed information for the *Friends of TSJC Gunsmithing* initiative to a total of 680 program alumni. The addresses of these individuals truly supported the national appeal of our program. As announced last week, monies collected through this effort will support a much-anticipated new endowed faculty chair position. A separate mailing was prepared for the national advisory committee members, who generally meet in January during the Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show. Several fundraising activities are being contemplated to support this effort, which is meant to strengthen this signature program.

As we prepare for the Higher Learning Commission site visit, please pause for a few moments to consider how you impact students. After all, at Trinidad State it is all about the people – both those we serve and those with whom we work. Thank you for assisting our students in their educational journeys. Thank you for caring about your colleagues. Thank you for everything you do; you make Trinidad State a special place with a very bright future.

As always, if you have questions, concerns or information to share, please let me know.

Hope you have an enjoyable Thanksgiving break!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Carmen M. Simone'.

Carmen M. Simone,  
President