



College Update  
January 16, 2017

Happy First Day of Class!

As you heard on Wednesday, we are working with the City of Alamosa to secure a Campus Resource Officer (CRO) for the Valley campus. If we are successful, this person would be employed by the Alamosa Police Department through a partnership with us and assigned to cover the campus. Our experiences with the Trinidad Police Department and CRO Andrew Saracino have been extremely positive – we hope to replicate this model in Alamosa.

We received word a few weeks ago that Trinidad State has been selected for a random financial aid compliance audit by the Department of Education. This audit will occur in mid-February. We are extremely fortunate that Karla Nash, Financial Aid Director for the System, will be assisting us with the process. Last week, Front Range Community College endured a similar audit, so we have a good base of information. If you see Wilma Atencio, TSJC Financial Aid Director, over the next few weeks, please know that she is both under pressure and well supported.

As you heard last week, Lorrie Velasquez has agreed to take on a permanent role as Vice President of Campus Operations. She will be leading Human Resources, Physical Plant and Information Technology, three vastly different and critical areas of the College. Please join me in thanking Lorrie for her commitment and for sharing her communication skills with us all.

Last fall, we recorded our first enrollment increase in many years. We are watching enrollment figures right now and we remain hopeful that we will be able to maintain student numbers. Unfortunately, it will be several weeks until we know for sure. In the meantime, please rest assured that our budget is fine. ***As promised last August, there will be no lay-offs.*** We have diligently built a stable financial base for the College, which we will continue to grow. We are adding programs and we have plans to build enrollment. We are investing in our people and our infrastructure. Thank you for your perseverance and your belief in the mission of Trinidad State.

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