



College Update
February 13, 2017

Happy Monday!

Tuesday marks the beginning of an extensive three-day compliance audit for Trinidad State. We will be hosting two reviewers – one from Denver and the other from Chicago – who will scrutinize a number of items related to federal compliance. We have been gathering evidence for them for the past month or so and, as part of the process, a number of student files will be requested and reviewed for accuracy during the site visit. Most, but not all, of the review will center on the appropriate handling of federal financial aid information, which has far-reaching implications. The Student Services Management Team has been engaged in these preparations. Please join me in thanking VP Gabrielson for assuring we continue to meet expectations.

Late last month, the Rio Grande County Commissioners appointed me to the South Central Workforce Board, which serves the San Luis Valley. This role is similar to the one played by me in Southeastern Colorado, where the Workforce Board also includes representatives from Otero Junior College and Lamar Community College. As colleges, we appreciate the opportunity to hear regional needs, which is the first step in being responsive. It is an honor to have been chosen to serve on both of these Boards.

Last week, we submitted a grant proposal for the third round of the System Innovation Funds connected to the *Transforming the Student Experience* goal of the System Strategic Plan. Jocelyn King, Program Coordinator, partnered with CCCOnline in a joint initiative to strengthen the Occupational Safety and Health Technology program (which is offered online) through Quality Matters. We hope to hear positive feedback soon. Thank you, Jocelyn!

Last week, our Faculty Member of the Year – Adam Dunham – shared with me that he plans to leave Trinidad State at the conclusion of this current term. Apparently, he and Sara (Kirk) are planning to move to Thailand. Knowing that, there really wasn't much hope of convincing him to stay; the adventure of a lifetime awaits them! While we wish them well, we are *all* deeply saddened by their upcoming departure. Good luck, Adam and Sara – *Bon Voyage!*

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 black ink that reads 'Carmen M. Simone'.

Carmen M. Simone,
President