



College Update
March 6, 2017

Happy Monday!

Draft three-year loan default rates for 2014 student cohorts were published last week by the Department of Education. The rate reported for Trinidad State was 14.4%, down from the 20.1% recorded last year. This is such good news, especially given that our rates were dangerously close to the 30.0% mark several years ago. Thank you Misti Stelljes, Wilma Atencio, and Kerry Gabrielson for your diligence, perseverance, and advocacy with our students. We could not have received better news!

The results of the recent climate surveys have been shared with us and the data is now available for your review ([TSJC Climate Surveys](#)). Thank you to everyone who participated in this process. While we recognize that there is still work to be done, I hope you would agree that Trinidad State remains a very special place. With your feedback and support, we will continue to build on our history, culture and traditions.

Our search for an athletic trainer has reached a successful conclusion. Desiree Moreno has agreed to join us in this role with a start date of July 1st. Desi brings a strong background to the position, with an MS in Health and Human Performance from Fort Hays State University and a BS in Athletic Training from CSU – Pueblo. Prior to earning these degrees, she finished an AS in Liberal Arts at Trinidad State and was a softball player with us. Since December 2015, Desi has been working as a certified athletic trainer on a part-time, hourly basis for us, so we're pleased to have her onboard full-time.

Over the weekend, Trinidad State competed in the National Championships for Indoor Track and Field, with our two-man team placing twelfth overall. Both Daniel Haymes and Elias Gedyon performed well **and Elias was crowned the 2017 National Champion in the 1000 meter race.** Not to be outdone, the Women's Basketball team won their first playoff game in team history on Friday evening, beating McCook Community College and advancing to the Elite 8 of Region IX. Congratulations to Coach Martin, to Coach Holden, and to each of these student-athletes!

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