



College Update
June 18, 2017

Happy Mid-June!

Much has happened since the last *College Update* in May. In addition to the many campus activities we have hosted, we also sent a group of student services personnel to a two-day Southeastern Colorado Strategic Enrollment Management Summit held in La Junta. We joined colleagues from Lamar Community College and Otero Junior College for these sessions. Vice President Gabrielson has continued to meet with the team members from our two campuses so we can leverage this work and the ideas generated by it in our next implementation plan.

The June State Board meeting was held last week, which began with the unexpected announcement that System President Dr. Nancy McCallin intends to retire on July 31, 2018. This gives us just over thirteen months to prepare for a new chapter in leadership at the Colorado Community College System. As we all know, change is always inevitable and this one will be transformational for higher education in Colorado. Please join me in wishing Dr. McCallin well!

The State Board has determined that a consulting firm will be engaged to assist with the identification of the next System President. A national search will be conducted over the coming months and each of the nine voting Board members will participate on the search committee. To provide additional perspectives, two faculty members (Candace Garrod and Kelly O'Dell) and two students (Leah Porter and Rachel Bellinsky) have been invited to serve on the committee with the Board. Dr. John Trefney, who is a recent past chair of the State Board, has agreed to return and serve as the administrative chair of this team. The search has officially begun.

Budgets for FY18 were reviewed and approved last week during the State Board meeting. After months of discussion, a new position focused on concurrent enrollment has been identified, planned, and budgeted for Trinidad State. This past week, we asked Jack Wiley, who has invaluable experience as a former K12 superintendent, to take on this crucial leadership role. He has agreed. We are also asking Jack to become more involved with workforce training in the San Luis Valley to complement the work being done in Las Animas and Huerfano counties by Donna Haddow. Thank you, Jack, for being such a great team player for the College!

Until next time, if you have questions, concerns or information to share, please let me know.

Hope you are having a *great* summer!

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

Carmen M. Simone,
President