



College Update
July 16th, 2018

Happy Mid-July!

Last Thursday, the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education (SBCCOE) held a special Board meeting to consider requests from seven colleges to develop and offer an RN-to-BSN completion degree in Nursing. Trinidad State was one of the institutions granted permission to proceed by the Board. We are thrilled – this will be the first baccalaureate degree offered by us and with the nursing team we already have in place, we know it will be a good one.

As announced several weeks ago, Vice President Lorrie Velasquez will handle any items related to Human Resources due to the recent departure of Robert Martinez. Robert has held many roles at Trinidad State over the years in both Student Affairs and Administrative Services. Please join us in wishing him well as he pursues other opportunities in the Valley.

Last month, the System Council on Equity and Inclusion met in Colorado Springs. Dr. Brenda Allen, Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Colorado in Denver, facilitated the daylong retreat. Each System College has a representative on the Council and it is a privilege for me to serve. Early goals for us include the preparation of mission and vision statements to guide our work together, as supported by System President-Elect Joe Garcia.

The annual year-end close process is continuing for Trinidad State and the System. We are pleased to be working closely with both Aubrie Cleavinger, the current Controller at Lamar Community College, and Gary Ashida, the former Chief Financial Officer at Otero Junior College. They have each agreed to provide training, assistance and advice to our Budget Director, Shannon Shiveley, and our Assistant Controller, Amanda Vigil-Alcon. Shannon and Amanda continue to learn and grow in their new roles at Trinidad State and with the support of their supervisor, Lorrie Velasquez, we are strengthening our financial acumen. We are so very fortunate to have such a dedicated team in the Business Office.

The next issue of the *College Update* will shepherd in a new academic year at Trinidad State, with an anticipated release date sometime in early to mid-August. In the meantime, if you have questions, concerns or information to share, please let me know.

Hope you enjoy the last remaining days of summer!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carmen M. Simone'.

Carmen M. Simone,
President