



College Update
September 25th, 2017

Happy Monday!

As you may recall, two representatives from the United States Department of Education visited Trinidad State in mid-February as part of a routine Program Review. They inspected processes, written procedures and compliance documentation related to the issuance of federal financial aid. Several weeks ago, we received our official report. Findings included delayed enrollment reporting, minor discrepancies in crime logs, and questionable notification processes. We corrected most of these items on-site during the visit, with the remainder addressed over the summer during the response period. According to the final determination letter, these findings were adequately resolved and, better yet, there are *no financial liabilities* associated with them.

We received notification last week that the Institution Actions Committee (IAC) of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) concurred with their evaluation findings and approved our request to offer an *Associate of Applied Science in Human Services*. Congratulations to Sue Nesbitt for her efforts to see this project through to completion. The last step in this process is Department of Education approval for federal financial aid eligibility, which is well underway as part of our recertification process.

Friday will be the last day on campus for Doug Talley (Electrical Trades II). Doug has been an asset to the College for many years and he is looking forward to his upcoming retirement. The review process for this soon-to-be-vacated position has begun, with Lorrie Velasquez and Al Malespini considering several possible scenarios. Good luck, Doug – enjoy retirement!

On Tuesday, we will hold an Advisory Council meeting at the Blanca / Fort Garland Community Center. With the recent departure of Tom Acre, our membership has shifted and the State Board filled our final position during their September meeting. Please join me in thanking Jim Blecha, Heather Brooks, Rich Compton, Kerry Hart, Chris Lopez, Rosalie Martinez, and Jennifer Sanchez-McDonald for their commitment to Trinidad State and for their willingness to serve.

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