



College Update  
October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Happy Monday!

We made the “Top 150” eligibility list for the 2019 Aspen Prize! According to the Aspen Institute [website](#), the Aspen Prize recognizes community colleges “that achieve exceptional student outcomes.” As the *only* Colorado institution selected for participation, we should all be quite proud of our work for students. Vice President Kerry Gabrielson is taking the lead on submission of our materials for further consideration in this awards process.

Speaking of Kerry, please join me in congratulating her on her recent selection as a Peer Reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission. She will be in Oak Brook, IL this week for intensive, on-site training. Her new-found knowledge will be highly beneficial to us when we update our Assurance Argument for the four-year review that is required in the Open Pathway accreditation process. According to our timeline, this electronic review is tentatively scheduled for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Our third annual SoCo BEST game day was held on Saturday, much to the delight of teams from ten local secondary schools. Over fifty volunteers gave both time and talent to make this event possible, including four faculty members (Bob Philbin, Judy MacLaren, LiAnn Richardson and Santina Frank), several adjunct instructors (including both Earl Nesbitt and Tanya Salas), and a crew of nursing students. In addition, numerous Trinidad State staff members answered the call, including two from the Valley campus (Roberta Taylor-Hill and Yvette Lujan), along with some very dedicated community members. A special *thank you* goes out to Shannon Shiveley for her commitment, her leadership, her perseverance and her husband, Mel, who built the game field for the competition.

As you may have seen, we are currently advertising for two full-time faculty positions – Biology in Trinidad and Mathematics in Alamosa. These are critical general education areas of need for Trinidad State. If you know of any qualified individuals, please encourage them to apply!

Hope you have a great week!

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

Carmen M. Simone,  
President