College Update
March 30, 2015

Happy Saturday!? 

This edition of the College Update is arriving a bit early due to my upcoming travel plans. Debbie Ulibarri, Shari Schroepfer, Kerry Gabrielson and I are in Chicago until Wednesday of this week at the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Annual Meeting. This is an important year for Trinidad State Junior College; as you know, our accreditation visit is December 7, 2015.

As you may have heard by now, Toni DeAngelis has taken a new position at the College within our Financial Aid office. She will be working with our veteran students on both campuses, which is especially important given the launch of our new NRA Certified Training Center in Trinidad. In addition to this responsibility, she will also be providing Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) support to our new and continuing students throughout our service region. Her prior experience with student scholarships will be a great asset as she makes this transition. Please join me in welcoming Toni to this new role!

We have decided to officially suspend the search for a Library Director. As you will remember, this is an important position for the College and much work remains to be done. To mitigate this situation, we plan to hire an outside consultant to assess our current library offerings and provide a plan for long-term sustainability. Debbie Ulibarri will be working with the consultant to chart a course for the future. Stay tuned for more information as this project develops.

Several days ago, Dr. Nancy McCallin – System President and my boss – paid us a visit. Thank you to everyone who stopped by to welcome her to Trinidad. Dr. McCallin answered questions for nearly an hour and she shared several observations with me afterwards. First, she noted that the campus was beautiful. Thank you, Louie Mantelli and crew – your hard work was (and is) appreciated. Next, she was impressed by the turnout. We had nearly forty faculty, staff and student participants, which was the most she had seen in her campus visits throughout Colorado. The caliber and range of questions you asked also impressed her. Finally, your positive attitude was palpable. Dr. McCallin noticed; so did I. Thank you!

As always, if you have questions, concerns or information to share, please let me know.

Hope you have a great week!

Carmen M. Simone,
President