College Update
April 27, 2015

Happy Last Week of Classes!

Please join me in congratulating six of our faculty members who were recently moved from provisional to non-provisional status. Nathan Cahoone (Biology), Amanda Clerkin (Nursing), Santina Frank (Nursing), Melissa Kleinschmit (Biology), Ann Marie Rigdon (Business) and Rhonda Schoenecker (English) have met the time requirements and have done an outstanding job with our students. We are fortunate they have each called TSJC “home” for the last few years.

On April 16th, the Valley campus held an initiation ceremony for Phi Theta Kappa (PTK). Four students participated, each being inducted into the honor society. A similar event will be held on the Trinidad campus this week on Thursday. These ceremonies mark an important occasion for the inductees, who have each worked hard to maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.50, earning an invitation to join the organization. In doing so, they now have access to a world-wide network of fellow members. Please join me in thanking Nancy Minnow and Alicia Massarotti for sponsoring PTK on our campuses.

As you may have heard by now, Shawn Cavalli has accepted a position to teach at an institution a little further north of Trinidad State. He plans to be with us through the summer prior to his transition, for which we are grateful. According to Shawn, this new opportunity will give him a chance to be closer to his family without such a long commute. Congratulations, Shawn!

As you know, we are attempting to come out of a budget-deficit situation. Two years ago (FY14), our financial condition was bleak, with more than $2,600,000 in over-commitments. We dramatically improved for FY15 (this year), with a deficit of only $600,000 budgeted. This year, we plan to submit a balanced budget. Within these parameters, we hope to grant average raises of 2% for classified staff, 2% for administrative / professional-technical employees, 4% for regular faculty, and 2.6% for adjunct faculty. The actual distribution of these raises will be dependent on equity, merit and College procedure. Please know that we deeply appreciate the commitment you showed during our darkest days and it is definitely our goal to provide financial consideration to you this year. Thank you for your hard work, patience and support.

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