Happy Monday!

The votes have been tallied and it is official. **Judy MacLaren** is the TSJC faculty member of the year. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Judy also directs the Upward Bound Math-Science program. The administrator / professional-technical employee of the year is **Darci Duran**. Darci has championed our transition to Quality Matters with much success. Finally, the classified staff member of the year is **Josh Jones**. Josh serves the Valley campus with a positive attitude and a caring smile; our facilities are in great hands. Please join me in congratulating Judy, Darci, Josh and all of our nominees, each of whom is more than deserving of this recognition.

This week, we will host an important visitor on our Valley campus. Dr. Karan Powell, Executive Vice President and Provost of the American Public University System in Charles Town, West Virginia will join us as a representative of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Her role is to assure compliance with the required off-site standards for the Valley Automotive Technology program, which is housed at Ortega Middle School in Alamosa. She plans to visit with students, faculty and staff during her time with us on Wednesday and Thursday, in addition to touring the facilities and reviewing student and faculty records.

As you know, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Peer Reviewer training was held last week in Chicago. In the Open Pathways sessions, the new Assurance System was demonstrated and examples of evidence were presented. By my account, it was an excellent training. For TSJC, Debbie Ulibarri (Assurance System Coordinator) and Darci Duran (Assurance System Contributor) have already begun working with teams to prepare our assurance argument. With their leadership and guidance, I have no doubt we will be successful in our reaffirmation visit, which begins on **December 7, 2015**.

We are holding two open forum sessions this Thursday. The first meeting will be at noon on the Valley campus, with a potluck lunch. Thank you, Diamond Mobbley, for organizing the festivities. The Trinidad campus meeting will be at 4:00 pm in the Pioneer Room, with coffee and cookies. Everybody is invited to join us at one of these forums.

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

Hope you have a great week!

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Carmen M. Simone,
President