The Community College Undergraduate Research Initiative (CCURI) has extended an invitation to TSJC to participate in the development of a new research component at our institution. This program is funded through a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant, which has been recently supplemented to encourage partnerships with Hispanic Serving Institutions. Debbie Ulibarri, Melissa Kleinschmit, and Deb Krumm will be traveling to Phoenix, AZ this week – courtesy of NSF funding – to learn more about this opportunity. Through this network, thousands of students have participated in undergraduate research at 31 partner community colleges over the past three years.

As briefly mentioned during the Open Forum sessions last week, we will have the opportunity to participate in Title IX training though Workplace Answers this year. The interactive, online sessions should be ready for use later this semester. Successful completion by all employees will result in our ability to document compliance with federal mandates, which impacts our accreditation. Many of the scenarios presented are based on actual court cases, making the materials highly relevant. Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this training.

We recently received emergency funding from the State of Colorado (over $135,000) to replace the library chiller on the Trinidad campus. This unit has been problematic for some time, requiring large amounts of refrigerant to be added on a regular basis due to leaks. Although replacement was requested in our five-year plan for controlled maintenance, funding was not forthcoming and the situation deteriorated. With this new-found support, the needed replacement should be completed by next summer, for which we are certainly grateful.

Our community connections will be on full display this week. The quarterly TSJC Advisory meeting takes place on Monday evening, followed by the monthly Educational Foundation meeting on Wednesday morning. Thursday will bring a focus on economic development, with our participation in the Alamosa County Economic Development Council (ACEDC) at noon and the Trinidad Las Animas County Economic Development Board (TLACED) later that same day.

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