College Update
November 3, 2014

It’s November!

And, yes, October was a very long month. We don’t need a climate survey to know that our faculty, staff and students are tired. Please remember that strength comes from a shared vision for the future. Our work may seem daunting at times, but it is worth the effort and we simply must continue to support one another. Thank you for the role you play on our team.

Two great events are happening at Trinidad State this week. The Trinidad campus is hosting a college fair on Tuesday as part of the Colorado day / night circuit. Robert Martinez, Mike Sisneros and Mark Van Dreason have done a terrific job, not only preparing for this specific event, but in developing an overall recruiting strategy for our institution. At the other end of the student experience, the Valley campus TRiO program is sponsoring our first “College Showcase” in Alamosa on Monday. Participants will have an opportunity to visit with representatives from four-year institutions to discuss further educational opportunities. Please support these events and your colleagues who have made this all possible.

About a month ago, Bernadette Marquez resigned her seat on the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education (SBCCOE). Last week, Dr. Byron McClenney was appointed by the Governor to serve the remainder of her term, which expires in December 2015. Dr. McClenney has a distinguished career as a national leader in community colleges, having recently retired from the University of Texas at Austin, where he was involved with the Community College Leadership Program. He now resides in Evergreen, CO.

The Valley campus expansion project is moving closer and closer to ground breaking. We are in the final stages of code review and should have a signed contract soon. As you may have seen in the Valley Courier, a local contractor – Alcon Construction – is working with us to make this project a reality. Funding through the State of Colorado during the Spring 2013 legislative session (nearly $2M) supports this expansion, which will include two science labs and two classrooms.

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