Happy Monday!

With most of our students and faculty members already on break, this could potentially be a very quiet week. While many of us are taking some vacation time, not everyone will do so. On Friday, several employees plan to work, including Robert Martinez, Associate Dean for Students on the Valley campus and Lorrie Velasquez, Director of Human Resources on the Trinidad campus. Thank you to those of you who are keeping TSJC open and operational this Friday!

Last week, we held retirement receptions for Sadie Burns (Valley campus) and Carol Mincic (Trinidad campus). Between the two of them, they have logged over 50 years of service to TSJC. They take an incredible amount of institutional memory with them, and we will miss them both tremendously.

On Wednesday, December 4th, VP Jolly will present our plans for the new Valley campus to the Capital Development Committee in Denver. My goal is to attend, too, if my travel plans from Virginia go smoothly. Ours is one of seven System projects being requested; you may recall that we were ranked #5 (of 7) by the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education (SBCCOE) earlier this fall. Further ranking put us at #21 (of 33) on the higher education list, with a total of 67 projects being requested state-wide.

The next College Update will be posted on December 9th. As alluded to above, December will begin for me with a trip to Alexandria, VA to attend the second session of the American Council on Education (ACE) Institute for New Presidents. Topics include working with legislators and lawyers, institutional branding, and leading capital campaigns. It will be great to reconnect with my new colleagues from around the country.

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

Hope you have a great Thanksgiving!

Carmen M. Simone,
President