

WEEKLY UPDATE



May 25, 2020

Happy Memorial Day!

Believe it or not, our Summer 2020 term begins this Tuesday. Nearly all of our offerings are online, with the exception of a few face-to-face courses in the powerline and allied health fields. As of last Friday, we had 450 total enrollees registered, with 229 receiving scholarships under the Summer Free program. This compares to 465 total summer students last year, with 192 Summer Free awards given. Many thanks to Rosa Rosario (Financial Aid) and Andy Pittman (Institutional Effectiveness) for providing this data to us. We are grateful that our summer semester appears to have weathered the recent pandemic pressures nicely.

Last week, we began our transition to a model with three vice presidents. As shared in the Open Forum last Thursday, this realignment will bring instruction and student services together, while focusing on enrollment management. Susan Verbeck worked quickly this week to update the organizational chart for you. Please know that decisions like these are never easy, but that future outcomes for our institution and the Panhandle we serve are critical considerations. Thank you for always supporting one another through change.

During the May Board meeting last week, we publicly reviewed my list of presidential priorities and goals for the coming academic year. Discussions held during an informal Board retreat in early March with Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) consultant Pam Fisher, along with my own observations, have informed this set of statements, which is closely aligned with our 2017-2022 strategic plan. The goals address three areas – policy, planning, personnel – and are designed to support the six overarching priorities. Board goals are under development and should be forthcoming later this summer.

Please join me in wishing Harishchandra Subedi well as he transitions to a new faculty position in Virginia. Our students have benefited from his expertise in chemistry for several years and we will miss his contributions. We will be analyzing past enrollment data and assessing future plans to determine how to best proceed with this new and somewhat unanticipated vacancy. As is our common practice, we are only filling crucial positions as we strategically move into the future. This thoughtful process promotes intentional action and institutional sustainability.

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

Hope you have a great week!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carmen M. Simone'.

Carmen M. Simone, Ph.D.
President