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Happy Monday!

Today, our College Council will meet for the first time in 2020. We will be reviewing recent actions taken by the Curriculum Council, including consideration of a manual and forms packet for internships. Modifications to the Surgical Technology program and three new courses are also under discussion. Finally, updates to seventeen courses and twenty-five syllabi are included on the docket.

This Thursday, my travels will take me to Sidney, where I will meet with the mayor, Roger Gallaway, and the economic development director, Melissa Norgard. A visit to the school district is also planned, as is a tour of NexGen Outfitters, LLC. Many thanks to Paula Abbott for arranging these meetings.

Last Wednesday, I had a chance to tour Scottsbluff High School with area superintendents, who were in town for the Educational Service Unit #13 (ESU 13) Administration Advisory Council meeting. We also connected with Dr. Matthew Blomstedt, Commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Education, during this meeting. It was great to see our CollegeNOW! Director Julia Newman in action during this gathering.

Prior to my arrival, we began advertising for a full-time Board secretary to work with my assistant, Susan Verbeck, in meeting the needs of our Board of Governors. This would have been a new position at the College. Many of you may know Cindy Dickinson, who recently retired from the City of Scottsbluff. Cindy has graciously agreed to assist us with Board minutes on a part-time, temporary basis. Now, rather than hiring a full-time Board secretary, which was under serious consideration, we are able to move forward more efficiently and in accordance with the recent work done by Dennis Jones. As positions are vacated at Western Nebraska Community College, we will take the same approach, only replacing those that are absolutely critical to operations.

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

Hope you have a great week!

Carmen M. Simone, Ph.D.  
President