

Student Feature



Josie Haas
First-Year Student

My experience when I had the Cornerstone class last semester was absolutely amazing! I was shy and found it hard to open up and let people in, but this class and my professor, Whitney Rhyne, and the sweet Jessica Sanchez let me see that being you and having fun was okay. I learned a lot about myself that I didn't know. The class helped ease my fear of talking and interacting within a group. The class is friendly and near the end of the class, there are a couple of projects that helped with speaking in front of a class. I found this very helpful. This is a great class full of things to offer. I would recommend it to all freshman. They treat you like family and it's the best feeling!



The First Year Experience Community Update

January 2014

Last semester, I had the opportunity (and pleasure) of teaching the Cornerstone course, SLS 1515. It was an exciting challenge, and it proved to be an absolute benefit to both myself and the students. The overall objective of the course is to equip students with the tools to be successful academically, professionally, and personally. However, my students (and I) came away with much more insight and appreciation for the importance and value of the Cornerstone course. Many of the topics parallel with the General Psychology course that I currently teach, so I was delighted to share current research and data to expand and enhance concepts. As the course progressed, students became more confident once they identified their learning styles, discovered their personality traits, and explored their interests and values, all acquired through the various assessments students are given. The fundamental or core topics, such as learning how to take notes, effective writing and speaking tips, and presentation techniques were expected and proved beneficial. However, students were also exposed to “life-long” strategies designed to help them make good decisions, manage time and money, improve memory, and build constructive relationships, all with the intent of helping students create a “happy” and productive life. Finally, the most valuable content of the course, in my opinion, is its emphasis on critical thinking and the opportunity for students to learn and practice critical thinking skills that will help develop our future leaders.



Jacquelyn Davis
Professor of Psychology
& Cornerstone Experience
Collier Campus

F Y E

First Year Experience

Service Saturday



Heart Walk

Peer Architects

Here at Edison State College, Peer Architects are student leaders both inside and outside of the classroom. Peer Architect accompany a section of the Cornerstone Experience course, assist students outside of class, and facilitate workshops and events on campus.

Last semester, 98.48% of SLS students judged Peer Architects as “exceptional” or “commendable” in regards to being a positive role model.

Before the start of each semester Peer Architects from every campus are invited to attend college-wide training.

Service Saturdays

- During the Fall 2013 semester, FYE students volunteered 624 hours during 6 different Service Saturday events.
- 100% of surveyed students “agree” or “strongly agree” that they would volunteer again.
- 97% of surveyed students “agree” or “strongly agree” that they made a new connection with fellow students, faculty, or staff members.

Peer Architects



January 3rd, 2014 College-wide Training