

# The Student Support Services Chronicle

**Volume 23, Issue 1**

**Fall 2011**

*Special points of interest:*

- New SSS Participants
- Leadership Development
- Graduation

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## Exploration Trip to the University of Central Florida

In October of 2011, the Students Support Services (SSS) Program traveled to Orlando for an exploration trip to the University of Central Florida (UCF). Every semester the SSS Program takes students out to explore different colleges and universities in the state of Florida. In doing so, the SSS Students have an opportunity to learn about different colleges and also know whether a particular college is good for them.



*Edison State College SSS Students at UCF*

During their time at UCF, the SSS students learned about the different dorm styles available to students who attend UCF. Two student ambassadors provided a tour of the traditional dormitories as well as the apartment style dorms. The SSS students then explored the UCF campus. By exploring the campus on their own, SSS students were given the opportunity to learn the things that interest them the most about the university. They visited the UCF Student Government Association (SGA) to learn more about the student body leadership opportunities. Some students visited with academic advisors who provided useful information about the transfer process and majors.

The SSS students came together and enjoyed lunch at Knightro's Café. One of UCF's main dining locations. While at the café, the SSS Students were joined by Edison State College SSS Alumni and they had the opportunity to ask questions and see how former SSS students are living. Later in the day, the SSS students went to an information session provided by one of the UCF admission's counselors. She explained the admissions process, as well as the detailed information on majors and grade point averages needed to be accepted into some of the programs at UCF. She also talked about the different scholarships available to students that apply early. After the information session, a new set of student ambassadors gave the SSS students a campus tour. They took us to the classrooms and demonstrated the different type of classroom setting available to UCF students. SSS students were taken to the different academic buildings and departments.

The ambassadors also took the students to the UCF Fountain where the school hosts a grand pep rally event to kick off the semester. After the visit to the UCF Fountain the students were shown the Recreation and Wellness Center which is fully supported by the SGA of UCF. At the end of the campus tour, the SSS students returned to the charter bus and headed back home to Fort Myers. The trip to UCF was a great success. The SSS students exhibited an exceptional demeanor while away from home. It was great to meet up with alumni and learn how



## The New Faces of SSS



**BUILDING  
SUCCESS ONE  
STUDENT AT  
A TIME**



**The Edison State  
College Student  
Support Services  
Program  
welcomed over 80  
new students for the  
2011-2012 academic  
year.**

The Edison State college Student Support Services Program is proud to present the newest additions to our program. All new students submitted pre-applications during summer recruitment. Those who qualified

for the SSS Program completed their recruitment with an intake. All new students were accepted before the Fall 2011 semester started. If you or someone you know would like to apply to the SSS Program, please feel free to

visit our website or call 239-489-9112 for more information. Anyone interested in participating in the SSS Program must be an incoming college freshman starting in the fall.

[www.edison.edu/studentsupport/trio](http://www.edison.edu/studentsupport/trio)



## Student Together Achieving Results STAR Corps Meet & Greet Leadership Event

The Student Support Services Program held an all day Meet & Greet Leadership event for the SSS STAR Corps members and new SSS participants. In preparation for the Fall 2011 semester, the STAR Corps members attended a required information session, a leadership workshop, and a mentor/mentee role-playing session. The SSS STARS serve as the mentors to the new SSS students.

Later that day, the new SSS students joined the STARS

and everyone engaged in a meet and greet. The new SSS participants were matched to their perspective STAR Corps mentor and had their first official peer mentor meeting.

Ms. Kim Burghs, a United Way Volunteer provided all SSS students with important information about volunteering opportunities for The United Way Agency by Ms. Kim Berghs. Any SSS student interested in joining the SSS STAR Corps must be enrolled in 12 college

credits, have a 3.0 GPA, and have completed a full semester in the SSS Program. For more information about the SSS STAR Corps, please contact the Student Support Services Program at 239-489-9112, or by email at [sssp@edison.edu](mailto:sssp@edison.edu). ■

### ★SSS STAR CORPS ★



The leaders of today  
for a  
brighter tomorrow!

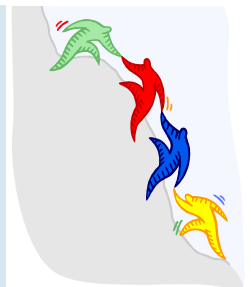
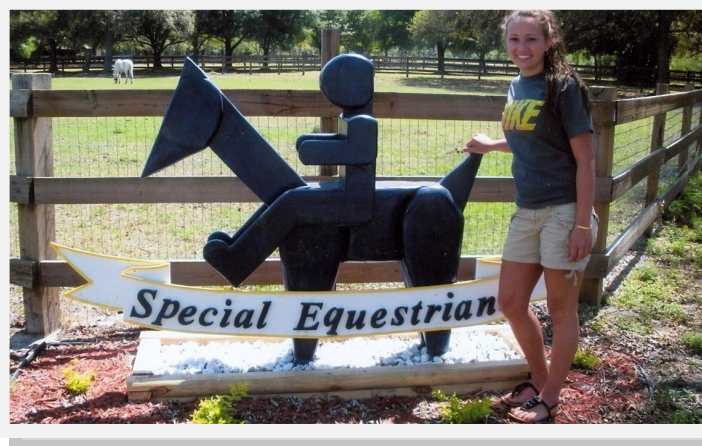
Are you an SSS participant interested in joining the SSS STAR Corps? Contact The Student Support Services Program



### STAR Sighting: Kyler Johnson

Special Equestrians is a place for individuals with disabilities. It is a program for therapeutic riding. The instructors teach the children or adults to ride, clean, feed and take care of the horses. I was a member of STAR Corps last semester and I volunteered at Special Equestrians of Fort Myers. The enjoyment I got out of seeing the happiness on the individual's faces when they were riding was priceless. I think it is a great place for individuals that have a disability to go and be free. Special Equestrians

also has a fundraiser for their program. It is called the Taste of the Town. This fund raiser was amazing too because people from all over the state would come and donate their money to the program Special Equestrians. This year there were thousands of dollars raised to help support the disabled. I still volunteer there and I enjoy being around the horses and the people are the nicest you will ever meet. ■



**S** TAR  
Corps  
Helping to make  
the world better



## SSS ROCKS! Back to School Event

The Student Support Services Program rocked out with the students at the “Back to School Event” which is held every semester. This semester the theme was “SSS Rocks!” and all of the students were rock stars. The SSS back to school event is an opportunity to kick-off the semester. During the back-to-school event, the SSS students get to know their staff and peers. The students also register for upcoming SSS workshops and co-curricular activities throughout Edison State College.

The SSS students learn how to use the Accutrack program which enables them to monitor their participation in the SSS program. This gives the students a peace of mind and ownership of their own success. The event was a big success and the students rocked on all semester long! ■

*“Rock & Roll to Success with SSS”*



Having difficulty in a class? SSS offers assistance with math, science and writing. Make an appointment to visit with an SSS preceptor.



## ALUMNI CORNER: JESSE MCCAMISH

Dear friends of SSS,

My name is Jesse McCamish and I am a proud former Student Support Service (S.S.S) mentor. I have to say that I faced some of the same challenges you may have already experienced in the daunting first years of college. As Michelle Tracy always put it, “they don’t call it getting your degree, they call it earning your degree.” The program gave me a positive attitude toward earning an associates degree in arts in 2008. I have been able to maintain that positive attitude as I progress toward earning my bachelor’s degree at the University of South Florida (USF).

As a first generation college student, I lacked the

experience that often comes within families. Attempting to go it alone would have been a school of hard knocks. The SSS staff was available when-



Jesse McCamish

ever I needed assistance navigating the college highway. The staff became like my extended family and was very helpful when I had questions concerning filling out FAFSA forms, choosing courses, and supply-

ing books. They didn’t shuffle me along through the system as if I were a faceless number. They were always welcoming and their experience and guidance is what made visiting the SSS office feel like a home away from home. Also, when I needed assistance in math, Paulo Leon-Silva really went the extra mile as a tutor to help me succeed. I felt that I was a part of a special arrangement within the walls of Edison State College; and it was special.

If you are new to the program, you are in the right place at Edison State College!

Best wishes to all,  
Jesse Andrew McCamish



*“Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.” ~ Anthony J. D’Angelo*

## SSS WELCOMES MARISOL GÓMEZ

SSS would like to welcome the newest member of the SSS team, Ms. Marisol Gómez. Marisol is an Edison State College and SSS alumnus who earned her Associate’s Degree in May of 2011.

She is originally from Mexico and came to the United States of America when she was just 8 years old. When she arrived to the USA, she worked hard to learn English and excel in her studies. Marisol is a first generation college graduate and continues to pursue lifelong learning.

In the past year, Marisol has graduated college, become a US citizen and started

a new job as the math and science preceptor at SSS. She has a passion for helping others and talks about the joy she gets from watching her students understand math and science concepts.

Marisol is kind and takes her time when tutoring the SSS students. She is in high demand and always has many eager students waiting to meet with her and learn.

Marisol is currently continuing her education at the Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) and plans to graduate in the Spring of 2013 with a bachelor’s in biology. Once she graduates from FGCU, Marisol

plans to continue reaching her educational aspirations at the University of Florida (UF). Her goal is to attend dental school there and then work in children’s dentistry.

Marisol often shares a quote from John Wooden which says that “*Success is peace of mind, which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best you are capable of becoming.*” Marisol is a living testament to this quote and is passing that knowledge along.

SSS is very proud to have her as a member of the team and wish Marisol continued success in all of her endeavors. Welcome aboard! ■



MARISOL GÓMEZ



# END OF SEMESTER POTLUCK CELEBRATION

New Term Check-ins are scheduled for January 5th and 6th



Several members from the Student Support Services Program got together in December to celebrate the graduating seniors, officially induct the new students of SSS and celebrate everyone's accomplishments for this semester!

There was a wonderful turn out and everyone brought

in delicious dishes and desserts to share. SSS held a food contest and SSS student Andrea Gearing's cupcakes won for best dessert! As everyone feasted, there was a picture slide running in the background put together by STAR Corps Member Jacqueline Aguilar.

By having freshmen

and sophomores together SSS provides an important opportunity to the students because new students get to mingle with the graduating students who serve as the model for success.

The potluck celebrations was a big hit! Everyone went home happy and ready to tackle another semester! ■



*"...I pledge to make a commitment to higher education and lifelong learning"*



*In Order top to bottom & Left to right:*

*Saul Pierre*

*Samuel Pierre*

*Darian Wright*

*Khristopher D. Edwards*

*Crystal Bullock*

*Pryntishaye*

*A. Rambarran*

*Mayra S. Garcia*

*Zabdy Constant*

*Jeff Princile*

*Marguerite Fillion-Demos*

*Allison Reiter*

*Kiera Peterson*

*Camaron W. Leask*

*Ashley VanGraafeiland*

*Araceli A. Santiago*

*David Bravo*

*Ronica J. Elmi*

*Lourdia Fannelus*

*Milous Saint-Louis*

*Juanita Martinez*

*Diana Luciano*

*Not in Photo: Jeanise Joseph*

## Sign Up

SSS will be going to the University of South Florida in February. If you are interested in attending, you must complete a "Code of the Road" meeting. Be sure to sign up for both in Accutrack.

## SSS College Humor

### **A bribe for your professor**

A professor was giving a big test one day to his students. He handed out all of the tests and went back to his desk to wait. Once the test was over, the students all handed the tests back in. The professor noticed that one of the students had attached a \$100 bill to his test with a note saying "A dollar per point."

The next class the professor handed the tests back out. This student got back his test and \$56 change.

Provided by Hayley Pletcher

Join us for our  
Back to School Event on  
Wednesday,  
January 11, 2011  
from  
10:00am—2:00pm  
In room S258



## **Announcements & Reminders**

### **Spring 2012**

Attend New-term Check-in  
Register for & attend workshops  
Fill out your FAFSA by 03/01/13  
Sign up for USF Trip  
Participate in Co-curricular Activities (CCA)

Do you have a story you would like to share?  
Contact Ms. Jeniffer Herrera-Andújar  
[jeniffer.herrera@edison.edu](mailto:jeniffer.herrera@edison.edu)



[sssp@edison.edu](mailto:sssp@edison.edu)



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