

# The Student Support Services Chronicle

**Volume 22, Issue 3**  
**February 2011**

*Special points of interest:*

- ESC TRiO Legacy
- Journeys in SSS
- TRiO Works

*Inside this issue:*

Our Student Support Services Legacy 2

SSS Star Corps: Spring Training 3

The Race of Life 4

West Side Story 4

An Open Letter of Support 5

Contact Info & Announcements 6

## THE LEGACY OF EDISON STATE COLLEGE'S TRiO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM

The Student Support Services (SSS) Program at Edison State College (ESC) has been assisting first generation college students achieve the dream of higher education and career goals for over 30 years. The SSS Program began its legacy at ESC in 1977 under the leadership of Dr. Ronald McFadden. So much has happened since then and both the SSS Program, as well as ESC continue to expand today. Since the beginning, The SSS Pro-



Dr. Ronald McFadden

gram has been fortunate to have several successful leaders and hundreds of college graduates.

The current Director of the SSS Program at ESC is Ms. Paula Dailey. After earning her Master's Degree, Ms. Dailey started her career as a Counselor in the Upward Bound (UB) Program at Morehead State University in Kentucky. She later became

the Director of Academic Advising and General Studies at the university where she retired and moved to Florida. In 1999, Ms. Dailey became the Director for the brand new UB Program at ESC, where she remained until 2008. She then hired Ms. Sylvia Carter as the new Director of the ESC UB Program and moved next door as the director of the SSS Program.

Under Ms. Dailey's leadership, the students' good academic standing, persistence and participation rates have all increased. Statistics show that the SSS Program at ESC is making a difference in first generation, disabled and low-income students. The success of the program has been made possible through the numerous services that are provided. Some of the services SSS participants receive include peer mentoring, educational workshops, free professional English and math tutoring, academic and transfer advisement, assistance with clarifying Career Goals, access to a computer lab, cultural enrichment, study groups, and financial incentives for students with a 2.0 cumulative GPA or higher.

Ms. Dailey has also implemented a special component to the SSS Program called the SSS STAR Corps, *Student Together Achieving Results*. Using the "First Year



Ms. Paula Dailey

*Experience*," findings by John N. Gardner, the STAR Corps members function as mentors to the new participants of the SSS Program and help to integrate SSS students into the ESC community, hoping to make their first year of college a successful one.

As the Director of the SSS Program, Ms. Dailey has helped to make the ESC SSS Program a successful one by bringing together a dynamic team of specialists and students that are partners in their own education. In doing so, the SSS Program at ESC has truly become a "student centered" learning experience. ■



## OUR STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES LEGACY



WELCOME  
TO YOUR  
FUTURE

As part of retention and persistence efforts, the Student Support Services (SSS) Program requires students to check in with a program Specialist three times throughout the semester. The first check-in was during the first week of January. The SSS students arrived to the office eager to start the semester prepared. During the New Term Check-ins, SSS participants made sure to have all of their classes in order, as well as all of their books. SSS team members provided an overview of what to expect for the spring semester of 2011. The overview allows SSS students to create a plan of action for the current semester.

To welcome and encourage students to sign up for their workshops and attend all of their classes the staff holds a back to school event. After New Term Check-ins, SSS had

a semester kick-off event titled "Our Student Support Services Legacy: Welcome to Your Future." During the semester kick-off event, SSS students learned about the history of TRiO and famous TRiO alumni, such as the music producers Terry Lewis and Jimmy Jam, who are known for writing songs made famous by artists such as Janet Jackson, Trey Songz, Usher, and Mary J. Blige. The SSS students also learned that the first Black American and Hispanic astronauts were both TRiO alumni.

One of the many goals of the the SSS Program at Edison State College (ESC) is to help its participants with retention, graduation and transfers to four year universities. Each year, the SSS Program is required to submit a report to the Department of Education outlining many aspects of the pro-

gram's progress. One of the most important objectives of our grant is the graduation/transfer rate. SSS participants are expected to finish their associate's degree and transfer to a 4 year university bachelor program within three years of their enrollment into the program. On average, 40 percent of the programs' participants transfer to a four year university.

SSS participants rarely have a model of success to help them envision themselves as college graduates. By providing a system of support and models of success, the SSS Program assists students that otherwise would find it difficult to achieve higher education. ■

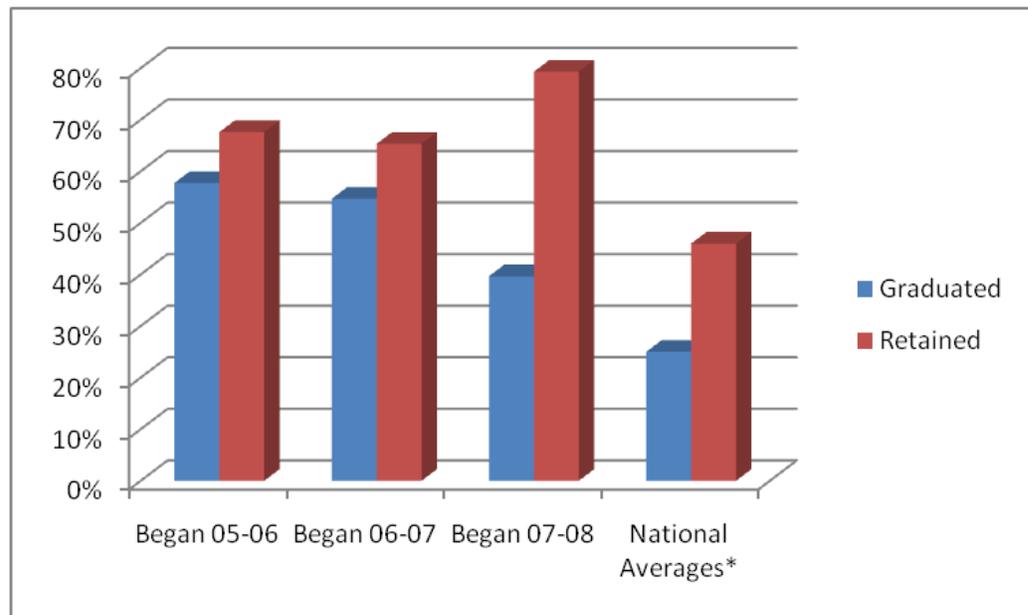
TRiO Works!

For more information on TRiO Programs please visit: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio>

Remember to attend  
your MIDTERM  
CHECK-IN this  
semester



### ESC Student Support Services retention and graduation statistics compared to the National Average for students in Title IV Public Postsecondary Institutions.



\*National Retention rate was extrapolated by averaging full time and part time statistics from Knapp, L.G., Kelly-Reid, J.E., and Ginder, S.A. (2011). *Enrollment in Postsecondary Institutions, Fall 2009; Graduation Rates, 2003 & 2006 Cohorts; and Financial Statistics, Fiscal Year 2009* (NCES 2011-230). U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics. Retrieved [date] from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch>.

"In God we trust...  
all others bring  
data."  
Michael Bloomberg  
NYC Mayor



## SSS STAR Corps: SPRING TRAINING

Early this spring the STAR Corps participants gathered for their Peer Mentor training. This semester we have fourteen returning and five new members in the SSS STAR Corps. The peer mentor training is designed to give STAR members the skills necessary to work as a peer mentor. As peer mentors, the STARS form one-on-one relationships with new SSS participants. The goal of the peer mentor program then is to provide these incoming freshmen with a role model that can answer their questions, offer support and encouragement throughout the semester and essentially help them with their transition to college life.

The training session covered topics such as the importance of confidentiality and upholding the ethical principles of peer mentoring. The role and responsibilities of a peer mentor were outlined and top-

ics such as common mentee adjustment issues, the skills required for effective mentoring, how to set boundaries appropriately and the use of proper peer etiquette were also discussed. Returning STAR Corps members completed a brief self-assessment and reviewed mentee evaluations from the previous semester. This information allowed the STARS to compare and share notes about what worked well for them as peer mentors in the past and which areas they felt needed improvement.

The SSS STAR Corps also learned about exciting community service opportunities. Aaron Haack, coordinator of Upward Bound (UB), provided information pertaining to the UB after school tutoring program. He explained how interested STARS could work one on one tutoring UB students. Essentially, STARS meet

with the UB students a couple times each month to help with subject areas they may be struggling in. Inevitably strong bonds form over the course of a semester providing a rewarding experience for both the STAR participant and their UB student. Next Jeniffer Herrera, Student Support Services' newest member, presented the STARS with an opportunity to help launch the SSS Study Group program. STAR Corps members will help coordinate and run study groups in subject areas that our students indicated they need the most help with. Finally, the STARS were given information regarding United Way community service projects and TRiO service hours. In the end the students left the training session eager to start their STAR Corps duties and meet their new mentees. ■



Having difficulty in a class? Remember SSS has SSS study groups available and with the help of others you will succeed.



*"The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others."*  
~Mahatma Ghandi  
Indian Philosopher  
1869-1948



## THE RACE OF LIFE

At 19 years old, I have lived many experiences that have improved my outlook and perception of life. I immigrated from México at the age of 8, and since then I have had to fight to stay afloat in this tumultuous life. Living in a foreign country put me and my family at a disadvantage. However, having these experiences has made me the capable, competent and resilient person I am today.

Adapting to a different culture, a new language, and a different way of life has not been an easy task. Nonetheless, I found a safe haven when I came to Edison State College and was accepted into Student Support Services (SSS); I just wish I had found it earlier. Through SSS, I have been introduced to cultural events like plays and art expositions. As a

result I have been exposed to the American culture. Additionally, the workshops and Co-Curricular Activities SSS offer have impacted almost every

ers.

In the workshops, I learned about the importance of getting to know myself, budgeting, personal finance, being punctual, learning styles, and having a positive attitude towards life. This knowledge has enhanced, not only my college experience, but has also given me information that is practical for everyday life. In addition, the trips I have attended have introduced me to people from all walks of life.

I would have probably given up a long time ago if I didn't have the support that SSS has provided. I appreciate my higher education and it's only thanks to SSS that I have been able to continue. I hope programs like these keep on helping students academically, but most importantly in the race of life. ■

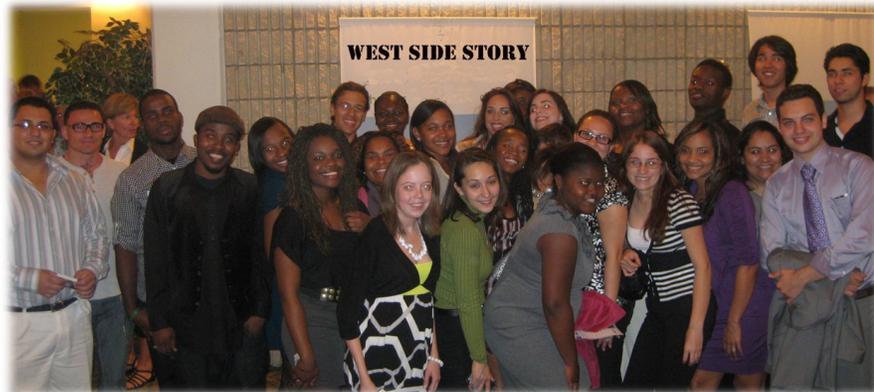


Marisol Gómez

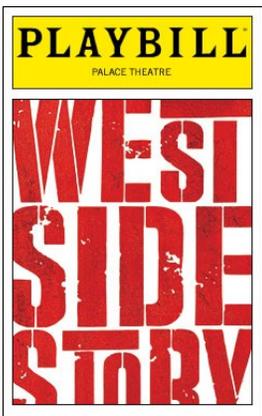
aspect of my life. By attending monthly workshops, I have grown academically, emotionally and learned to express myself and communicate with oth-

*"I would have probably given up a long time ago if I didn't have the support that SSS has provided."*

## WEST SIDE STORY



The Student Support Services Program would like to extend a special thanks to the Edison State College Foundation, Inc. for providing tickets so that students could attend the West Side Story musical. Everyone met an hour before show time for some refreshments and background information on the musical. Students learned about theatre etiquette and the importance of attending cultural events such as this one. Student Cindy Souverin said, *"I had never gone to something like that, I enjoyed it!"* Having the opportunity to attend a theatre production can be a life changing experience for many people. It was evident from the excitement in our students' faces that this experience would open many doors for them. Student Joane Grispain exclaimed *"I loved and enjoyed it! I saved the ticket and the playbill for memories"* and Lourdes Joseph thought that the musical was *"well rounded because everyone was in synch with the singing and the dancing."* The students talked about the musical for days and on occasion it was wonderful to hear them walk by singing the tunes from the West Side Story. ■





## AN OPEN LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Reader,

My name is Luis Ospina and I would like to share the personal experience I have had as a member of the Student Support Services (SSS) Program at Edison State College (ESC). In general, I feel extremely fortunate to be apart of the SSS family. With out the direct and indirect guidance I have received from SSS, I would not be who I am today. It is hard to say what SSS hasn't offered me. From paying my tuition to enlightening me with the arts and dance this program has done it all. At first glance most people might only acknowledge that SSS offers academic and financial assistance. Which is true; the program offers workshops, tutors, computer lab benefits, tuition exemption and so much more. Yet this only skims the surface of what SSS is truly about. Beyond the surface there is a living and breathing entity that not only offers love but also wisdom and guidance.

After opening myself up and connecting with this entity, I soon noticed that each SSS staff member is willing to feed any hungry mind that is willing to receive. To elaborate here is a quick detailed synopsis of what I have personally experienced. I would like to begin with Salima Silverman, the mentor who was assigned to me when I first became an SSS member. Salima and I are now very good friends and she has influenced me personally with her individuality. She helped bring to my attention the opportunity of studying yoga. Now I am in the process of becoming a yoga instructor. Paulo Leon-Silva, the SSS math preceptor and a spiritual

brother, with his insightful workshops and personal contact, has brought me to discover my passion for the environment and ecology.

Ms. Paula Daily, Director of SSS, with her perspective



Luis E. Ospina is a Sophomore at Edison State College majoring in Biology & Respiratory Therapy.

on life, brought to my attention the teaching of the Tao and the direct affect my intentions have on my reality. She also brought to my attention an amazing movie titled "*What the Bleep Do We Know!?*" Which in my opinion, should be shared with the world. Ms. Amy Hickey, a former SSS Specialist, opened my eyes to the beauty of poetry through her personal contact and workshops. Jeniffer Herrera, a current SSS Specialist with her workshops and innovative ideas, has influenced me to accept my role as leader. This only names a few of the many individuals that have inspired me.

SSS has also given me the opportunity to attend several plays and musicals including the West Side Story, Carmen, and Beauty and the Beast. If not for SSS I would not have experienced the beauty and art of musicals. SSS also informs students and members of academic and cultural events at

Edison State College. As a member, SSS has made me aware of these wonderful opportunities, such as the Rush Library Film Series. This spring, one of the first films in the film series was "*For the Bible Tells Me So*," a film by Daniel Karlake, which was presented by the Multicultural Task Force of Edison State College. This film series presented an amazing documentary on the evolution and repercussion of religion. The film highlighted the influence religion has had on the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GLBT) Community, emphasizing some of the damage that the GLBT community has had to endure. Through these cultural experiences, I know that I have truly expanded my horizons.

The reason why SSS is such an amazing program is the fact that each SSS staff member has already embarked in the quest for academic gratification. This means they have the ability to inform a student, such as myself, on not only academic issues, but also life topics. All their advice comes from direct and personal experience they have accumulated in their lifetime. Through their own experiences they also understand the importance of stimulating students with different cultural activities. All of these qualities, I believe, make SSS a unique program and I hope my personal story has helped support this opinion. In summary, SSS has exposed me to so much that it has facilitated my growth as an individual and as a student. SSS was the key needed to help unlock my true being.

Peace & Love,  
Luis E. Ospina



*"each SSS staff member is willing to feed any hungry mind that is willing to receive."*



Needing assistance finding a career, college or degree?

Visit:  
**FACTS.org**

This site can be helpful in defining your goals.

## Sign Up

Tuesday  
March 25th 2011  
University Trip to  
**University of South Florida**



## Calculus Challenge

Do the following integral

$$\int_4^6 \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{x^2 - 9}} dx$$

## Joke of the Day

Why did the math text-  
book consult the Psychol-  
ogy textbook...  
Because it had too many  
problems.

There are no workshops in  
April, so be sure to com-  
plete your workshop re-  
quirements by March 31st

Have questions?  
We are here to help!



## Announcements & Reminders

### **Spring 2011**

Attend Mid-term Check-in

Register for & attend workshops

Fill out your FAFSA by 03/01/11

Sign up for trips to universities

Participate in Co-curricular Ac-  
tivities (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)



**TRiO**  
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES



8099 College Parkway  
Fort Myers, FL 33919  
Teani Hall S-258  
(239) 489-4112  
[sssp@edison.edu](mailto:sssp@edison.edu)