

The Student Support Services Chronicle

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Special points of interest:

- Graduation
- Program Alumni
- Grants, Scholarships & Awards

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TRiO SSS Students Advance in Higher Education



The Students Support Services (SSS) Program was proud to celebrate the educational accomplishments of its current participants and recognition of SSS alumnus Maria Cardenas. For many of our students, they are the first in their families to graduate with a college degree. Every semester the SSS Program encourages its students to participate in commencement because it is an opportunity to mark an important milestone in their lives.

The class of 2012 is a special class because they are graduating during the 50th anniversary of Edison State College. The commencement ceremony took place in Germain Arena on Friday, May 4, 2012. The graduation address was presented by Commencement Speaker, Porter Goss, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Goss pre-

sented his address with slight humor by telling the graduates that he would be short in his address. He did make sure to tell the graduating class of 2012 that having a college education will help to make them the right candidates for the jobs in America. He reminded the graduates that many of them are getting ready for a world that is different from the one we know right now and because of this, it is their responsibility to be prepared.

The SSS Program helps prepare students to continue their education by going into a baccalaureate program and beyond. The focus of the SSS program is to help encourage and support the first year college student. Students that get accepted into the SSS Program must participate in a number of required activities throughout their time in

SSS. We strongly encourage SSS Participants to attend college full time, including summer, so that they may graduate with their Associate's Degree within 2 to 3 years.

We assist the SSS participants with pertinent information about college courses, resources and information needed to succeed in college. By the time they are ready to graduate, SSS participants have a formal understanding of what is needed to succeed in higher education. With all of the hard work the students and the SSS Program put into succeeding, we feel very much like a family and commencement is an opportunity to celebrate their success in education! Everyone at SSS wishes the class of 2012 the best! We look forward to hearing about all of your future success. ■

Congratulations!



Alumni Corner: Myekia Sharp

Myekia Sharp is a TRiO Student Support Services Alumnus who graduated from Edison State College (ESC) and transferred to Florida State University (FSU). She is currently a junior and feels that FSU is awesome because it is a really big school. Myekia explains the importance of staying connected within campus life. Since FSU is a large university, one can become overwhelmed and feel lonely.

She currently lives off campus, but plans on moving on campus soon. The transition from a small college to a larger institution was not as hard as she imagined it, but it does come with some challenges. Mykia shares that she is really thankful to SSS for the support and services she received from the program. She explained that it is because of her experience at SSS that the transition to a university was easier.

She had to learn to get really close and acquainted with her teachers because there are about 200 students per class. Mykia says that *“you really need to talk to your professors and know their office hours”* and credits SSS for helping her gain this skill. Every Semester, SSS ask participants to speak with their professors during Midterms Check-ins. This allows them to learn about their progress in the course and at the same time build a rapport with their professors.

Myekia says that there is always something to do on campus. She explains that FSU has something called *“Union Wednesdays”* where all of the campus clubs, fraternities and sororities are out and about engaging the students. Her face lights up as she talks about how the fraternities and sororities interact with one another and step dance to music all throughout the FSU campus.

With the experience she has gained, Mykia’s advice to current SSS participants who plan on making the move to a larger university is to *“be physically and mentally prepared to make the transition to another place where the environment is totally different because you will get homesick. Stay involved in campus activities so you don’t feel lonely. Don’t get caught up in partying because it will have a negative impact on your grades. Stay as focused as possible, talk with your professors often and always know your professor’s office hours.”* She also recommends that you visit the school before making the big move, once with parents or in a group and then again by yourself.

As she reflects on her time as a participant of SSS, Myekia says that she was better prepared for her transition to FSU because she was a participant of the SSS Program. She appreciates the hard work and dedication of the SSS Staff to push students like her, always having open arms and being their to guide. Myekia ended her interview by stating that *“it means a lot to know that you have people standing by you even when you don’t feel like you want to go further. The SSS Program at ESC is so special to me because of the lessons learned and the bond that has been built. SSS is like a family atmosphere, a place you can always go back to, like home and there is no place like home.”* ■



“Combining traditional strength in the arts and humanities with recognized leadership in the sciences, Florida State University provides opportunities for students and faculty through challenging academics, cultural discovery and community interaction.”

~FSU

Is Florida State University for you? For more information please visit:

www.fsu.edu



Myekia Sharp with the famous FSU Garnet and Gold Glitter Guys



Alumni Corner: A Blast from the past

Ms. Maria Cardenas attended Edison State College from 1994 to 1999 and was a participant of the TRiO Student Support Services (SSS) Program. She decided to join the SSS program because she needed tutoring and guidance on her endeavors. When she first started the SSS program she felt that she had found a place where she belonged. She had a home away from home in which she made life-long friends.

Maria explains that the SSS program did not change her perspective on academics, rather it confirmed her aspirations for education. She realized that her dream of attaining a college career was a possibility. Maria is now a third grade teacher at Orange River Elementary School and teaches her students that they can achieve their dreams. She also makes them aware that there are many generous programs, such as SSS, that will guide their dreams to reality.

Maria explains that since her first meeting with the SSS Program at Edison State College, her life has been blessed numerous times. She started her first college class at the age of thirty; therefore she was not your traditional college student. Even as an elementary student, Maria did not attend school on a regular basis. She basically began her formal education as a college student.

She feels that she would have been lost without the SSS Program. Every semester, the SSS program helped to guide her. SSS helped Maria in her success because she, *“felt the staff was honestly cheering for my success in every class.”* If she had another opportunity to participate in the SSS Program, Maria says she would say *“thank you”* more often, *“thank you for the pep talks, thank you for all the words of encouragement, thank you for making me feel that I belonged.”*

Maria was recently honored with the Leroy Collins Distinguished Alumni Award by the Association of Florida Colleges. This prestigious award in the category of “Against All Odds” is an indicator that those who seek to better their lives through education can succeed and make a difference in our society.

As Maria reflects on her time with the SSS program, she leaves this advice to the current students that are active participants in the program, *“with honesty and hard work you will succeed, you are blessed.”* Maria explained that if she had the opportunity to speak with a high ranking official, such as President Obama or a famous influential person, like Oprah, she would tell them that programs such as TRiO Student Support Services Program and HOPE Scholars Program are crucial for the success of college students, especially for students who need the extra support. ■



Maria Cardenas
Honorary
Alumni Marshall
Edison State College
May 2nd 2012
Graduation Ceremony



Maria Cardenas was recently honored with Leroy Collins Distinguished Alumni Award

Changes to the Federal PELL Grant Program

The U.S. Department of Education has made recent changes to the Federal PELL Grant Program. Beginning with the 2012-2013 award year, students who are eligible to receive funding under the PELL Grant Program will only be funded for 12 semesters or the equivalent of that.

Most student who are eligible and qualify for

PELL Grant may be funded up through the bachelor’s level. If you are a recipient of financial aid through federal funding or plan on applying for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), please be sure to be in the know!

For more information on PELL Grant or to complete your FAFSA please visit the websites provided.

FAFSA:
www.fafsa.gov

Federal Pell Grant:
<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/PellGrants.jsp>

U.S Department of Education:
www2.ed.gov/programs/fpg/index.html

SSS Students
Remember to schedule your summer CHECK-IN
June 27th–29th





A Special Thank You

Edison State College Foundation, Inc.

StudentLingo
Focused On Student Success

Student Lingo is a supplemental resource for "Learning to Learn."

For access and more information please log into your Edison Portal and click on the "Student Lingo: Learning to Learn" link located in the SSS Group Page.

Learning to Learn modules include:

- Discover Your Learning Style
- Study Tips & Note-Taking Strategies
- Test Anxiety-Strategies to Help You Succeed
- Understanding & Avoiding Plagiarism.

All the modules are designed to help you succeed in college.



A special thank you to the Edison State College Foundation, Inc. for providing the participants of the Student Support Services Program at Edison State College a magical night at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall. Experiences such as this help to culturally develop our students and teach them to appreciate the arts. The SSS students enjoyed the musical *Wicked* and were able to appreciate parallel connections between the musical and the real world.



Edison State College Office of Student Life

Thanks to The Edison State College Office of Student Life, every semester, the Student Support Services Program is able to provide healthy snacks and drinks to its participants during finals. Students who come into the SSS office during finals can snack on cheese, yogurt, peanuts and health bars to help them focus during their exams. Students who eat healthy and sustainable foods perform better on the cognitive level.

THANK YOU STUDENT LIFE!



Some SSS Participants getting energized before the Spring 2012 finals



STAR Corps Students Together Achieving Results

The Student Support Services Program would like to congratulate the SSS participants who achieved the status of SSS STAR Corps Member. We are proud of your academic accomplishments thus far and encourage you to continue on your journey of success in education.

The Student Support Services Program will have 25 STAR Corps Members for

the summer semester. The STARs volunteer with United Way Partner Agencies, mentor their peers and provide examples of leadership throughout the college community and beyond.

Any SSS student interested in joining the SSS STAR Corps must be enrolled in 12 college credits, have a minimum 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.

★SSS STAR CORPS ★



The leaders of today for a brighter tomorrow



For information on scholarships offered through the Edison State College Foundation, Inc.

Please visit:

www.edison.edu/foundation

Mina Edison Society Scholarship

The Mina Edison Society scholarship was created to help make a difference in the lives of Edison State College students. The Student Support Services Program is very proud to announce that two program participants have been selected to receive this honorable scholarship. On April 25, 2012, current SSS Participant Sinetia Jean and TRiO Alumnus Tiffany Clayton were both awarded the Mina Edison Society Scholarship which will cov-

er the cost of two college semesters. Sinetia, who is also a HOPE Scholar, is currently working on her AA degree and is studying to enter the medical field. Tiffany, a wife and mother of three boys, graduated with her AA in December of 2011 with a 4.0 grade point average. Tiffany is currently attending Edison State College for her Bachelors in Education. Congratulations to the Mina Edison Society Scholarship Recipients. SSS is very proud of you!



Sinetia Jean and Tiffany Clayton



We always welcome anyone who wishes to share their knowledge.

To donate textbooks to the SSS Program, please contact us at 239-489-9112

SSS STAR Corps Sighting: Raymond Ackerman



SSS STAR Corps Member
Raymond Ackerman

Raymond Ackerman is a Student Support Services Program participant who has been with the program since the summer of 2010 and has participated in the SSS STAR Corps for several semesters. Raymond is a shining STAR because after attaining his GED and being out of school for several years, he decided to attend college and has always maintained a GPA of 3.2 or better. Raymond is always ready and willing to help his peers and is a positive role model for SSS students and Edison state college students alike.

We salute you Raymond Ackerman for all that you do!



Student Support Services 2nd Annual Graduation Gala

Do you know someone who may be eligible to participate in the Edison State College TRiO Student Support Services Program?

Are they:

- First Generation
- Low income (and/or)
- Disabled

Is this their:

- First time in college

Do they need:

- Academic Support
- Career guidance

If so, have them contact the SSS Program:

239-489-9112
sssp@edison.edu



On May 2, 2012, the Student Support Services Program celebrated their Second Annual Graduation Gala at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The SSS participants were recognized for graduating with honors, being STAR Corps members who go above and beyond and for their overall participation in

the SSS Program. The SSS students had the honor and privilege of celebrating their success with Edison State College's Associate Dean, Ms. Cindy Lewis and the Interim Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. L. Russell Watjen. After the award ceremony, dinner was served followed by a night full of danc-

ing with entertainment provided by Julio E. Osegueda a.k.a. DJ Julz. Everyone had a wonderful time. We would like to thank everyone for making it out and celebrating the success of the SSS spring and summer graduates. A special thank you to Ms. Laura Cornwall and the staff of Crowne Plaza. ■



Congratulations Graduates

E. Cindy Yau

Kyler S. Johnson

Luis F. Arias

Stephanie F. Schulz

Crystal Perez

JC Perez

Hayley J. Pletcher

Rose M. Badeau

Whienet Dorsainvil

Jacqueline E. Aguilar

Melanie Reed

Rachel Carranza

Ludenie Remy

Timothy D. Powell



Lourdes B. Joseph

Marie Vo

(1st row from left to right)

(2nd row from left to right)

(3rd row from left to right)



2012



Remember

Remember to make an appointment for your Summer Check-in

Wednesday June 27th
Thursday June 28th
Friday June 29th

Challenge

IX

Draw a line to make this into a 6

Joke of the Day

Who was the fattest knight at King Arthur's round table?

It was Sir Cumference because he acquired his size from eating too much pi.

There have been recent changes to the Federal Pell Grant that may affect your financial aid. For more information contact SSS.

Have questions?
We are here to help!



Announcements & Reminders

Summer 2012

Attend Summer Check-in

Starting May 24th
Register for Fall Classes

Summer A ends on
June 21st

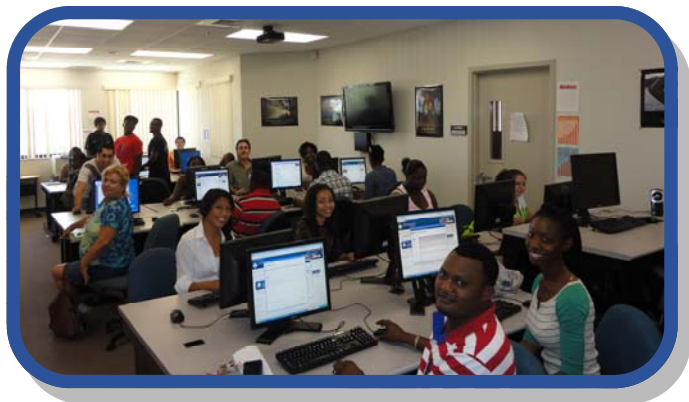
Summer B ends on
August 14th

Fall Classes begin on
August 23rd

Do you have a story you would like to share?
Contact Ms. Jeniffer Herrera-Andújar
jeniffer.herrera@edison.edu



sssp@edison.edu



TRiO
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

 **EDISON STATE
COLLEGE**

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