



<u>The Student Support Services</u> <u>Chronicle</u>

<u>A Night at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall</u>



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Special points of interest:

- Fort Myers Community Concerts
- Back to School
- STAR Corps
- Support Services

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On Monday, January 23rd, some of the participants of the Student Support Services Program enjoyed a wonderful evening of classical music at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall. During their visit, along with everyone present that evening, the students had a rare opportunity to sing happy birthday to Ms. Barbara B. Mann who made an appearance that night.

The SSS students experienced the majestic sounds of the Tschaikowski St. Petersburg State Orchestra, which included a piano solo by Alexandre Piroenko, winner of many international competitions. Under the direction of Roman Leontiev, the Tschaikowski St. Petersburg State Orchestra performed Prelude and Lienestode from the opera "Tristen and Isolde" by Richard Wagner, Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-flat major, Op. 19 by Ludwig Van Beethoven and Symphony No. 5 by Gustav Mahler.

SSS Student Lourdes Joseph, a music major, was truly excited to experience such talent. She exclaimed how much she loves to listen to live music and how she finds it uplifting. Andrea Gearing, a freshman at the college, expressed that she found the performance inspiring and is now interested in learning to play the violin. Attendance to events such as these help open the minds and hearts of our students and encourage

them to seek culturally enriching experiences.

As the music echoed through the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, one could see how delighted the SSS students were to be there. We would like to thank Ms. Mary L. Mann and the Fort Myers Community Concerts for helping SSS fulfill it's mission to promote the academic success of its students.





TRiO SSS Program Partnering with students to help achieve higher education!



gram. This semester, the event theme was "Partner with SSS to Round-up Suc-

Partner with SSS to Round-up Success

cess." The SSS Program strongly believes that students are partners in their educational attainment. As a program, our mission is to promote the academic success of our participants by providing support in academic skills, counseling, and tutoring. The specialists in SSS help create a positive envi-

ronment of active participation. Experience has taught us that students who are engaged in their learning and participation are more likely to be successful during their years in college and beyond. Hosting the back-to-school events every semester helps foster an environment in which students feel welcomed and experience a sense of belonging. Best wishes for a successful semester! Welcome back.



The Student Support Services Chronicle





Student Together Achieving Results STAR Corps

The Student Support Services Program has 13 STARs participating in the SSS STAR Corps this semester. The STAR Corps members are excited to participate and have already devoted volunteer time to the Harry Chapin Food Bank, Cape Coral Hospital, Childcare Center of Fort Myers, Edison Daycare Center, Harlem Heights and tutoring services to the H.O.P.E. Program at Edison State College.

The STARs do an excellent job of representing the SSS Program, as well as Edison State College. This year we have the privilege of having Edison's Student Government Association's President participate in the SSS STAR Corps Program. SSS students who participate in STAR Corps understand that it is a privilege to be a STAR and with that privilege also comes responsibility. We recommend all SSS students to reach for the STARs.

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.

 \star SSS STAR CORPS \star



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: Ketia Michel

Ketia Michel started at Edison State College with an interest in nursing. After a few classes, Ketia quickly realized that her calling was in teaching. She changed her major and has enjoyed

learning about the world of teaching. As a STAR Corps member, Ketia always makes sure to go above and beyond to help her peers. She leads by example and strives to be the best in both her school and family environments.

Ketia serves as a model of success for SSS and Edison State College students alike. She is involved in the African American Student Association and is a Senator in Edison's Student Government Association. Ketia volunteers for The Childcare Center of Ft. Myers, a United Way Agency, where she is not only giving her time, but also developing her skills as a future educator. SSS would like to congratulate Ketia on all of her accomplishments thus far and looks forward to seeing her succeed in her future endeavors. You go girl!!!



Strive for Excellence





SSS Workshops help to supplement a student's college education Throughout the semester students in the SSS Program participate in a series of workshops lead by SSS Staff and different Edison State College personnel. The workshops include topics on study skills, time management, goal setting, technology, career, and financial literacy, among many others. The workshops help students develop strategies and skills to navigate through their college career and beyond. One of our guest presenters included Dr. Kevin Kennedy, Director of Career Services. Dr. Kennedy's workshops provide information on career options and how those

SSS WORKSHOPS

careers fit individual personalities. He also teaches students how to navigate through Edison's Career Service webpage. Another guest presenter is Ms. Kathie Morris, Edison State College's Ombudsman and Director of Counseling Services. Ms. Morris provided the students with two workshops, one on Surviving Guilt and Shame and the other on Relationship Rescue. Students are often impressed with the information they receive and find ways to implement what they have learned in their everyday lives. The SSS Program thanks all of the guest presenters for providing our students with important information that will have an impact in the college success.



University of South Florida College Exploration Trip



College Exploration trips help students decide if a college is a good match for them.

The SSSP went on their annual college exploration trip to the University of South Florida. Picking the right college can be an overwhelming process for any college student, but by attending the exploration trips, SSS students are better prepared to make that choice. Visiting different college campuses provides the students with opportunities to discover how the culture of each college can significantly vary. The SSS students also meet with program alumni who have continued their education in the colleges and universities that are visited. Making the connection with program alumni helps current SSS students get an inside perspective of what it is really like on that campus. SSS strongly encourages student to make sure you are on the next college exploration trip!!!



The Student Support Services Chronicle

ALUMNI CORNER: CAMERON LEASK

Hello, my name is Cameron W. Leask and I am a graduate of the Student Support Services Program (SSSP) at Edison State College (ESC). I acquired my Associate in Arts degree, concentrating my elective classes in the field of education. I currently attend Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) where I am also a member of the SSSP there.

The SSS staff have become significant influences in my life because they have helped me grow in education and into a well-rounded individual. The ESC SSSP has helped me in my areas of academic struggle, such as writing and mathematics.

During my two years at ESC, I also volunteered in

the TRiO Upward Bound Program, which helps high school students persist and transition to higher education. It was there that I found a love for



Cameron W. Leask

teaching and as a result, I plan to become a teacher. I am currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Secondary Social Sciences and plan to get my Master's degree in history.

While in college, one of the first lessons I learned was to be a good leader. During my first year at ESC I joined the Student Government Association (S.G.A.) becoming an active part in campus life. Despite the challenges I may face, I am motivated to work hard at school so that I can have a brighter future. With the help from the SSSP at ESC, I was able to excel in my academic career. The Student Support Services program has become like a family to me because they are my personal academic cheerleaders. I want to enjoy the satisfaction of giving back to future generations just like Edison State College and Student Support Services has given to me.



Creating a foundation for education one step at a time.

Never let anyone tell you something is impossible!

ALUMNI CORNER: MARIA GÓMEZ

Maria Gómez graduated from Edison State College in May 2011 with an Associates in Arts Degree and is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Supervision and Management from the Baccalaureate program at Edison State College.

Maria began her journey from Mexico to the U.S. in the summer of 2000. With no possessions and lots of hope, Maria looked towards America as a place where her dreams could come true. Although she was saddened to leave her country and family behind, she understood that with hard work and dedication, there were more possibilities of success for her future.

When Maria arrived to the states, she realized that attaining her dreams was going to be harder than anticipated, but she was still determined and would not give up. Maria was 19 years old and high schools did not want to admit her. She did not give up and contacted all the high schools in Collier County until she was accepted and in 2003 graduated from Lely High School in Naples, FL. Later, after several attempts at higher education in different institutions, Maria followed her younger siblings and in the Summer of 2009 enrolled at Edison State College.

Maria currently works with the Student Support Services Program as a Student Assistant and is scheduled to graduate with her bachelor's degree in the fall of 2012. Maria and her family serve as an example of success in which anything is possible through education.

Maria says that the SSS Program has been like a second family that she can rely on. Maria credits SSS for supporting her dreams during her years at Edison State College. Maria's advice to current SSS students would be to participate as much as you can because everything SSS has in place is to help you achieve your dreams.



Maria C. Gómez







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Spring 2012

Register for Summer Classes

All Participation Requirements

due by

Friday, March 30, 2012

Do you have a story you would like to share?

Contact Ms. Jeniffer Herrera-Andújar jeniffer.herrera@edison.edu

> Find us on Facebook

sssp@edison.edu

National TRiO Day February 25th 2012

zens of the country."

TRiO Day has been proclaimed a National Day of Service.

Attend Mid-term Check-in

03/21/2012

The Student Support Services Program (SSSP) at Edison State College is currently funded 100% through the U. S. Department of Education in the amount of \$285,305 annually and is offered to eligible students at no cost to participant. The SSSP provides services to aualified participants desianed to enhance their colleae experience and assist them in completing an Associate's Degree and transferring into a Bachelor's Degree program. Eligibility for the Program is based on documented criteria, which includes certification of low-income/first generation/disability, and citizenship status.