



The First Year Experience Community Update

November 2013



Bryan Martinez
Peer Architect

Going through the Cornerstone class as a student taught me how to succeed in college. SLS 1515 taught skills and techniques for success that I never used before. Overall, I enjoyed my time in the course and recommend it to all first time in college students. Now, as a Peer Architect, I can assist in teaching the very same skills I learned for college success to other students. I have also improved my public speaking. Working for the First Year Experience department is an ongoing learning experience which I look forward to continuing next semester.

College is difficult, and I think it is important for our SLS1515 students to understand that reality. It is, however, just as important to let our students know that with hard work and dedication they can succeed. When I ask my students why they are here at Edison, they almost always say, "I want to be successful." Wanting to be successful and knowing how to implement a plan for success are two different things. My goal in facilitating the learning of my Cornerstone students is to help them discover an individual plan for success that demands goal setting. My experience with students who are excited about having the opportunity to attain the benefits of higher education, has included illustrations of great struggle and challenge. Shyness and lack of experience can be overcome in just one semester when students have the opportunity to interact with peers and instructors who really believe in the possibility of success. When a student voices the opinion that something is "too hard," I always quote Tom Hanks character in "A League of Their Own." As the coach of an all women's baseball team during WWII, he responds to one of his player's complaints regarding the difficulty of a situation by saying, "Of course it's hard; that's what makes it great. If it wasn't hard, everybody could do it." The reality is that everybody can't make it through college, but those in SLS1515 who dedicate themselves to the resources Edison makes available can. My students are a great bunch; I can't wait to attend their graduation ceremony. The Cornerstone Experience is a gift worth opening.



Mary E. Vaughan

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F Y E

First Year Experience



On October 26th, 47 Edison representatives from Lee campus volunteered 231 hours helping with Mad Scientist Day at the Imaginarium.



Service Saturdays

On October 6th, 16 Edison representatives from Charlotte campus volunteered 57 hours to help with a benefit for fallen Police Officer SGT. Michael Wilson.

Cookies & Conversation



Charlotte Campus

Lee Campus



Technology Tuesday

Collier Campus



Creating a Presentation