

### SSS reaches membership goal, other updates below

By Andrea Keller

Happy November, HCC! The semester is flying by and finals will be here before you know it! I am so pleased to report that the SSS program is full! We are funded to serve 140 students and we hit that goal a few weeks ago. We have to thank the entire HCC community for encouraging students to apply for our program. This was a group effort and we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the efforts of others to help us make this happen! To our 140 students: we have truly enjoyed getting to know you and we look forward to serving you in the future!

On October 22nd, SSS hosted a fall social at the Klinefelter Barn. Wendell Gan-

strom and staff prepared a delicious meal with all the fixings and Doc Arnett provided fresh apple cider using his antique apple press. It was a wonderful evening filled with a hayrack ride, bingo and socializing. Many thanks to our staff for planning and our students for attending!

Interested in reducing those burdensome student loans? Grant aid applications will be available soon with a deadline of Friday, December 6th. We have scholarship funds available to our members that currently receive a pell grant AND are active members of SSS. Remember: this DOES stack on top of athletic,

academic or other scholarships. In order to be considered, students will need to complete the Focus 2 program with Kim, the LASSI inventory with Audrey and 2 Student Lingo workshops. Stop by Irvin Hall for more details.

Back by popular demand, SSS will host an etiquette dinner the evening of November 21st. Invitations have been delivered and the planning is well underway. This is an event our members will not want to miss! Show off your etiquette skills during your upcoming holiday meals and impress your parents, grandparents, family and friends! RSVP soon as spots are limited!

#### Extra, Extra!

Be sure to "Like" us on Facebook (Highland SSS), follow us on Twitter (sss@highlandcc.edu), and follow us on Pinterest (Highland Community College) for updates and birthday announcements!

#### November Events

- November 5-Kansas State University Admissions Rep, 10am-1pm, CT Lobby
- November 6-Focus II Workshop, 1:15pm and 2:30pm, Irvin Hall, 2nd Floor
- November 6-University of Kansas Admissions Rep, 9am-12pm, CT lobby
- November 12-Missouri Western State University Admissions Rep, 9am-12pm, CT Lobby
- November 12-University of St. Mary Admissions Rep, 9am-1pm, CT Lobby
- November 20-Holiday Shopping & Your Math Skills Workshop, 1:15pm and 2:30pm, Irvin Hall, 2nd Floor
- November 21-2nd Annual SSS Etiquette Dinner, 7pm, Klinefelter Farm
- November 27-29-Thanksgiving Break-No classes, offices closed

### Paper writing advice from SSS English specialist

By Randa Arnett

If you have questions about writing your next class paper or assignment, you may want to consult the following website: owl.english.purdue.edu. The site is easy to navigate and

gives specific examples on each topic listed. This site addresses all steps of the writing process, from writer's block to proper works cited documentation. It is free and one does not

have to become a "member" in order to use it. AND remember, I am available to assist you in your writing endeavors as well. Come to Irvin Hall and let's get your next paper going!

#### November Birthdays

- November 2-Joshua Olsen
- November 4-Payton Doramus & Dustin Lara
- November 5-Dalton Ricketts & Nikki Scheid
- November 7-Kooper Winterscheidt & Randa Arnett
- November 9-Megan Vega
- November 10-Erin Underwood
- November 11-Kayla Bales
- November 15-Hannah Olson
- November 17-Kristi Kelley
- November 19-Kraeton Kelso
- November 23-Ciara Stirton
- November 29-Alysha White
- November 30-Taylor Hendrick

### SSS Staff Contact Information

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- Randa Arnett, English Specialist: 785-442-6151, rarnett@highlandcc.edu
- Michelle Hurn, Math Specialist: 785-442-6075, mhurn@highlandcc.edu
- Shelley Smith, Math Specialist: 785-442-6063, srsmith@highlandcc.edu
- Kristi Kelley, Office Assistant: 785-442-6058, kkelley@highlandcc.edu



## Study tips, math test preparation advice from math specialist

By Shelley Smith

Math tests can be challenging for many students, for various reasons. You may go into the test thinking that you know how to do everything, but when you look at the test you can't remember anything. Or worse, you don't know how to prepare yourself for taking the test to begin with. Here are five tips to help you when taking a math test.

Work problems from each section of the chapter to refresh your memory. It could have been 2 to 3 weeks ago that you covered some of the material. You learn how to solve problems by doing them repeatedly. This means practice! Most math books will have one or more of the following in each chapter: pre-test, post-test or chapter review. Some instructors will even give you a practice test to help prepare you. You need to be comfortable doing problems from these before you take the test.

Memorize all the formulas you need to know that will not be given to you on the test. When you get to the test write down all of these formulas on the test first, so you don't forget them after you have already started working problems.

Have a strategy for the test. Do the easier problems first and then go back and work on ones that are a little harder. It is okay to skip around when working your way through the test, especially if you come across one you don't know how to answer right away. Skip it and move on. You can come back to it later. Progressively work towards ones that are the hardest for you. If you start on a hard problem, you will get frustrated and will not perform to the best of your ability. You can also use the strategy of working on problems that are worth the

most points first, leaving the ones worth the least amount of points to the end. Then if you run out of time, you may have only left a problem worth 5 points not done instead of one worth 10 points.

Show all your work, especially if an instructor gives partial credit. Even if you know your final answer is wrong, don't erase the work. There may be something in there that the instructor will give you partial credit for.

Double-check your work, if you have time when you are finished with the test. It is very easy to make small errors that can completely throw off your answer. It may seem like it takes a lot of time, but it could be well worth your effort when you find an error that could have cost you several points.



## Top five study tips for students according to SSS retention coordinator

By Audrey Caudle

5. **Location, Location, Location-** it matters where you study so choose a place that will help you, not hamper you. What works best, library, your dorm, Irvin Hall? Be honest; don't just choose where you would like to be, choose the best learning environment.

4. **Stay Awake-** chose a time to study when you are the most alert. Don't get too much sleep, don't miss out on sleep either, find the happy medium. Use the timer on your

phone or get yourself a timer that will buzz every 30 minutes and take a break to keep yourself focused and alert.

3. **Be organized-** School is your job right now, you have to keep yourself organized. Know where things are, label your notebooks and folders. Use your planner to write things down. Break projects down into smaller tasks to make them more manageable.

2. **Repetition-** there is no easy answer, school is hard. Find a system and stick to it. Don't give up, if it doesn't work perfectly the

first time. As you continue to fine-tune and perfect the system you will see results. Repetition is key, there is no way you can learn everything at the last minute, cramming doesn't work.

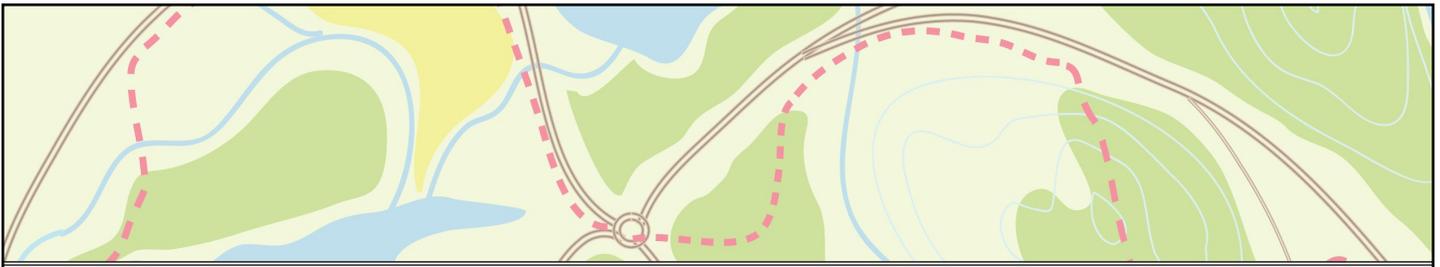
1. **Get the support you need.** SSS is here to help you, we have fantastic tutors, specialists, assistants, and staff who want you to succeed. Please come see us if you are stuck on a problem, need help studying for a test, need help with study skill, or just need to chat. We are here for you, just come to Irvin Hall!



Congrats to fall sports athletes!  
Good luck to winter sports athletes!  
**Fall vocal concert, 10/17/1/13 & 10/19/13**

**Fall theater production, 11/14-11/16**  
**Thanksgiving Break, 11/27-11/29**

**Holiday Vocal Concert, 11/5 & 11/7**  
**Winter Break, 12/23-1/14**



## Information for preparing to transfer from SSS transfer coordinator

By Kimberly Bechtold

**1. Complete your associate's degree.** National research shows that community college students who finish their degree program complete the baccalaureate at a much higher rate.

**2. Shop around.** Look at several schools and see what each has to offer, don't settle!

**3. Plan ahead.** The earlier you begin to prepare for transfer, the better. Visit your top choices, collect transfer materials, and find out if there are any transfer agreements between where you are and where you want to go.

**4. Know what actually transfers.** Look at transfer guides (available on most school websites) and keep your advisor informed of where you'd like to go.

**5. Don't be shy.** Get in contact with an advisor at the 4 year school to ask specific questions.

**6. Choose a major.** Pick your major early and seek advice about the best courses to take to meet requirements.

**7. Get admitted.** Make sure that you apply to both the institution as well as the program that you want to attend at that institu-

tion. If you get admitted to the university, it often does not mean that you are admitted to the specific program that you want to study, like engineering or nursing.

**8. Make them show you the money.** Call the university admissions office to see if it has scholarships set aside for transfer students—many institutions do.

**9. Attend orientation.** You might think that you do not need this because you already are a college student but navigating a new university is different.

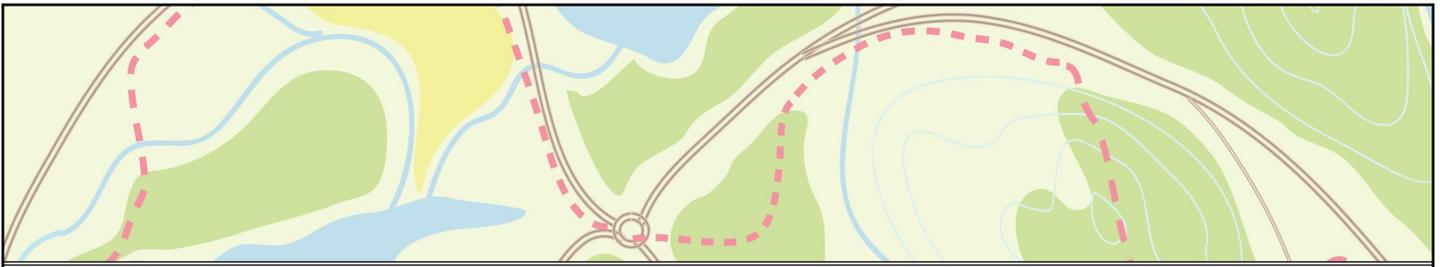
**10. Stay FOCUSED!**



Left: SSS members, sponsors, and guests enjoying dinner at HCC's Klinefelter Barn at the annual fall social. Wendell Ganstrom, Director of the Klinefelter Barn, provided the meal.

Right: SSS members at the fall social at HCC's Klinefelter Barn. Various activities were offered from a hayrack ride, a campfire, and several games of bingo where students won prizes.





## Services Offered by Student Support Services

### ADVISING/COUNSELING

SSS staff are dedicated to ensuring each participant reaches their educational and career goals. Participants will have:

Personal SSS Counselor  
Personalized Education Action Plans  
Regular Meetings Each Semester with SSS Counselor

Students will also benefit from advising/counseling in the following areas:

Academic  
Financial  
Personal  
Career

### ACADEMICS

Participants in the SSS program have a wide variety of academic tools at their disposal. These include:

Peer Tutors  
English and Math Specialists  
Developmental Instruction in English and Math

Study Groups  
Study Skills Assistance

### CAREER

SSS participants will enjoy having the benefit of several career exploration tools including:

Career Counseling with a SSS Counselor  
Career & Life Planning Course  
Professional Mentoring  
Job Shadowing  
Internship Opportunities

### FINANCIAL AID ASSISTANCE

Financial Aid Tools include:  
Financial Aid Assistance  
Scholarship Search Assistance  
Financial Literacy Workshops  
Grant Aid

### TRANSFER/ADMISSIONS ASSISTANCE

SSS employs a full time Transfer Advisor to assist participants when they are ready to make the step to the next level of education.

Transfer Visit Days  
Recruitment Days  
College Resource Library  
Transfer Workshops  
Transfer Advising

### PERSONAL GROWTH

SSS will give its participants the opportunity for:

Peer Mentoring  
Leadership Training  
Personal Counseling  
Community Projects

### SOCIAL EVENTS

SSS participants will also enjoy the benefit of attending a variety of activities each semester including:

Social Events  
Cultural Activities  
Community Learning Groups

## Tutor and Study Group Information

### Fall 2013 Study Groups

#### MONDAYS

Human Anatomy: 6-7pm, Erin Clary  
Intermediate Algebra: 7-8pm, Carl Leahy  
General Chemistry: 8-9pm, Erin Clary  
Human Growth & Development: 8-9pm, Marlyse L'Ecuyer

#### TUESDAYS

Nutrition: 4-5pm, Kayla Bales  
College Physical Science: 6-7pm, TBD  
General Psychology: 7-8pm, Keshana Cook  
General Sociology: 8-9pm, Hannah Olson

#### WEDNESDAYS

College Chemistry I: 4-5pm, Tyler Tryon  
College Algebra: 6-7pm, Diana Pratt

Beginning Algebra: 7-8pm, Kayla Bales  
College Biology: 8-9pm, Brittany Gerety

#### THURSDAYS

College Algebra: 6-7pm, Matt Hastings  
Calculus I: 7-8pm, Jake Burnett  
U.S. History I: 8-9pm, Jake Burnett

### ACADEMIC SPECIALISTS

Specialists are instructors that can provide one-to-one instruction in the areas of Mathematics, Writing, and English. Schedules for English and math specialists available in Irvin Hall.

### STUDENT TUTORS

Students provide a free, walk-in peer tutoring center available 59 hours per week, days and evenings. Peer tutors are trained to assist in a variety of study strategies. Peer tutors also provide study groups for a selection of current classes each semester. The tutor office hours are Monday-Thursday 9am-9pm, Friday 9am-4pm, and Sunday 5pm-9pm.

**Be sure to stop by Irvin Hall for your November events calendar!**

