Hello, Scotties!

Welcome back to campus. I hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well after break, and I hope you are ready to get started on a successful semester.

In my new role this year as the Student Support Services Director, I have been busy with the day to day management of the program and learning the many new responsibilities involved with SSS. It’s past time for me to share with you all of the good things that have been going on with our program...

For starters, Highland Community College was pleased to learn that our Student Support Services program was one of the selected applicants that was awarded a grant for the upcoming cycle. This means that our college will have the opportunity to provide our Student Support Services program through 2020! It was with the help and dedication of many and the proven success in our project that this service continues on.

September found us hosting program orientations for students. This gave students an opportunity to learn about the program and hear about the valuable services we provide. Those students that qualified and were interested, have met with an SSS advisor to set goals and develop an education plan. This is a great opportunity for us to get to know students and help develop their plan of success while at HCC.

Other events that students participated in this fall included our weekly Workshop Wednesdays, the traditional Fall Social at Klinefelter Barn, and an Etiquette Dinner held at Elizabeth’s in Atchison. All of these opportunities are great experiences for students and we are pleased that we can provide these experiences.

What does the spring hold for SSS? We will continue our Workshop Wednesday’s including topics, such as information regarding transfer scholarships, budgeting tips, becoming an entrepreneur, and craft making skills. We would love to see more attendance at these events, so please take advantage of these valuable learning and social opportunities. We are also in the process of planning two transfer visit days and a couple of cultural activities. Be watching your email for more information regarding these events.

The last great thing I would like to promote is our tutoring services that we provide. We currently have nine students that are available for tutoring in various subjects. We also have a Math and English Specialist on staff during certain days/hours of the week. This is something that is very beneficial for students, and I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity and use our resources.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone that we are funded to serve 140 students in our program. We have several new and returning students that are currently in the program, but we still have a few spots open. If you are interested in being a part of our program, be sure to stop by Irvin Hall to learn more and see if you qualify to join SSS.

On behalf of the SSS staff, we would like to wish everyone a successful semester!

Lisa Parsons
Students gathered for informational workshops and stress relieving fun.

**FUTURE WORKSHOP WEDNESDAY’S**

- **KU Workshop**
  - January 20th at 11:00
- **Transfer/Scholarship**
  - January 27th at 2:00
- **Valentine Making**
  - February 10th, 10-3
- **Becoming an Entrepreneur**
  - February 3rd at 2:00
- **Money Tips with Ben Gilmore**
  - February 17th
- **LASSI/FOCUS2**
  - February 24th

**STAFF INFORMATION**

- **Lisa Parsons**, Director of Student Support Services  785-442-6147 lparsons@highlandcc.edu
- **Audrey Denton**, Retention Coordinator  785-442-6017, adenton@highlandcc.edu
- **Kimberly Bechtold**, Transfer Advisor  785-442-6052, kbechtold@highlandcc.edu
- **Lexy Clark**, Administrative Assistant,  785-442-6058, lclark@highlandcc.edu
- **Dr. Carol Andersen**, Math Specialist, candersen@highlandcc.edu
- **Joy Meyer**, English Specialist, jmeyer@highlandcc.edu
Writing “Right”  
By Joy Meyer, SSS English Specialist

Happy New Year! It’s hard to believe we are already beginning the spring semester. How about starting off by taking advantage of any tutoring assistance you may need in writing that essay or paper? It’s human nature to procrastinate, so let’s get those assignments done early! I invite you to utilize my services in the upcoming weeks; however, for those late night questions, or when I’m not available, a great online tool is https://owl.english.purdue.edu. This website addresses questions you may have about a writing assignment, including writer’s block, proper works cited documentation, and the writing process in general. The site does not require a membership, and is extremely easy to navigate. Once again, I hope to see you soon when you are in need of assistance. My location is on the second floor of Irvin Hall and my hours are Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Study & Test-taking Tips  
by Carol M. Andersen, Ph.D., SSS Math Specialist

Start the semester off right! Do you have a study plan? Do you know what works best for you when taking a test? The following are study and test-taking strategies that many find useful for mathematics courses:

- Study in an area or location where there are few distractions. Perhaps you prefer the quiet of the library or the SSS area.
- Have all your study materials at hand. Do you have scratch paper, pencil, and calculator?
- Work several problems of each type that will be on the test/exam. (The answers for the odd-numbered problems are often in the back of your math textbook.)
- Before a test/exam, get plenty of rest and eat a good breakfast that includes protein. “Brain food” is important!
- Memorize the formulas you will need for the test. Write the formulas on the test first so that they will be there if/when you need to use them.
- Make sure that you read the instructions carefully and understand what you are expected to do. If you are confused about the expectations, ask for clarification.
- Take a deep breath and relax before you begin. 😊
- During the test/exam, work the problems that are easiest for you to do first, followed by the problems that are more challenging. After completing the easiest and more challenging problems, attempt the problems you think you can’t complete. Leave no problem untried!
- Show your work. (The instructor may award partial credit!)
- Check your work. (Plug in the solution you found and/or work backwards.)
- Do not rush through your work. Do try to allot enough time to work every problem. If there is time left over, you can recheck your work and make sure you have completed all problems. (I missed a whole page on a test once because I accidentally skipped over it!!)

Remember: Study well, rest well, eat well, and breathe!
Reintroducing the SSS Transfer Advisor

My name is Kim Bechtold and I am an advisor with the SSS program. One of my main duties is helping students work through the transfer process. I have been on maternity leave most of last semester but am excited to get back into the swing of things and meet all of our new members, as well as visit with our returning students. If you have questions about transferring or need help applying to schools, please don’t hesitate to email me at kbechtold@highlandcc.edu or stop by my office in Irvin Hall. I hope this semester will treat you all well, and I look forward to assisting you all!

Meet the new SSS Administrative Assistant

Hello SSS! I’m Alexy Clark, the new Administrative Assistant for SSS and SSC. I am sure by now you have received numerous emails from me about social workshops and financial workshops. It is my job to make sure that you are informed of the upcoming events and opportunities associated with SSS. I look forward to meeting all of you at future events, if I have not already met you at the Etiquette Dinner or other workshops. I graduated from HCC in 2012 and continued my education in business at Wichita State. I am currently working on an MBA from West Texas A&M University. I hope to see you all in the spring for various wonderful activities!

January Birthdays

Riley Gill, 1/05  
Jazzmin Padilla, 1/09  
Kaylee Hawk, 1/16  
Troy Grant, 1/25  
Josephine Kiefer, 1/31

February Birthdays

Nicholas Falk, 2/01  
Shea Crum, 2/09  
Jade, Waldrup, 2/19  
LeOndra Wilson, 2/25  
Caleb Winkel, 2/25  
Saydee Cochran-Rice, 2/26

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