

# DSS NEWS

## Fall 2013



### Important Dates for Fall 2013

**December 13:** .....No Classes/ Flex Day  
**December 14-20:** .....Final Examination Week  
**December 20** .....Last Day of Classes- End of Semester  
**December 21 - January 05:** .....College Closed  
**January 20:** .....Holiday- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
**January 21:** .....Spring Instruction Begins

### Great News for Disability Support Services Counselor Allen Chu Joins DSS Team!

Let's give a warm welcome to our newest counselor Mr. Allen Chu. He comes to us with lots of experience and knowledge in rehabilitation counseling. Allen has worked for the San Diego Community College District since 1996 and now has joined SWC as a DSS fulltime counselor. He has been working diligently to adapt to his new college district and is a fast learner. Make sure you come by for a walk-in so he could help you in picking your classes for Spring 2014 semester.

### Not Too Late to Join the A.B.L.E. Club (Abilities Beyond Limitation through Education)

- Have a Great Time!
- Develop Leadership Skills.
- Discover the fun and rewarding school activities available to you.
- Make new friends.
- Participate on trips and local outings.
- Network with other students and community members
- Help raise funds for the club

Meetings are in room 432 every Tuesday at 11am  
For more information you can contact DSS

### DSS Mission Statement

The DSS Mission is to develop an inclusive, accessible, and sustainable educational environment at Southwestern College that promotes student success through innovative accommodations, programs, training and partnerships with students, educators, and the community.

### Office Hours

Monday	8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### High Tech Center Hours

Monday	8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Thursday	8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**\*Monday & Wednesdays closed  
from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00am**

### Location

Disability Support Services  
900 Otay Lakes Rd., Room S108  
Chula Vista, CA 91910  
Voice (619) 482-6512  
VP (619) 207-4480  
E -mail us at: [dss@swccd.edu](mailto:dss@swccd.edu)

To request this material in alternate format please call:  
voice (619) 482-6512 or VP (619) 207-4480

## DSS Celebrates Disability Awareness Month by Hosting 3 Events

### **The Annual Southwestern College Disability Awareness Celebration - 2013**

The annual Disability Awareness Month Celebration was held this year on Tuesday, October 1. We usually hold the event at the end of the month but this year we did not want to worry about the possibility of rain. Although holding the event on October 1 gave us a little less time to plan, everything turned out great! It was a very sunny and warm day. About 30 community agencies that provide disability related services attended. We also invited some different vendors to the event who sold food, records, clothing, art, and jewelry.

The SWC DSS Director, Dr. Malia Flood, opened up the event and then we were honored to have our Southwestern College Superintendent President, Dr. Melinda Nish, kick off the celebration! Our guest of honor this year was our good friend and SWC graduate David Bonafede. David Bonafede is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces and served in the Army.

In addition to being a United States veteran, David is also a member of the Southwestern College Class of 2013. During his enrollment at Southwestern College, David served as the President of the Student Veterans Association (SVO) and as President of the Abilities Beyond Limitations through Education (ABLE) Club. While serving in these positions, Mr. Bonafede worked tirelessly to improve and increase educational opportunities available to SWC veterans and students with disabilities. Mr. Bonafede is responsible for raising thousands of dollars in scholarship funds for veteran students and students with disabilities, and for empowering students to overcome extreme adversity in order to achieve life changing goals. Mr. Bonafede is also an extremely talented artist. While he now pursues his work as an artist, David remains in our hearts as one of our dearest and faithful friends.



David spoke about making the transition from military service back to civilian college life. His journey was challenging, courageous, and life changing. The core of David's message was that within the human spirit, a power exists that any one of us can call upon to transform the conditions of our lives if we will only recognize this and not let our perception or belief of limitation stop us.



There were many people at the event which was held outside between the Cesar Chavez Student Services Center and the Student Center. They were listening to our guest speakers, talking to service agencies, eating food, and having fun. Southwestern College is a great place! Where else can so many people find such great resources, listen to awesome guest speakers and enjoy a beautiful morning?

### **A workshop with Ralph Black, J.D.**

SWC hosted Mr. Black for this workshop in which he gave a comprehensive overview of federal and state legislative mandates that have impacted accessibility at all college campus. He included various scenarios in his presentation that might occur on a college campus regarding accessibility issues. Attendees discussed how these scenarios might be handled, given regulatory requirements for accessibility. This was a very interesting workshop that helped the attendees understand both sides of some of the legal issues that can affect students, faculty and colleges in general.

Some background on Mr. Black:

Ralph Black received his Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics with highest honors from California State University at Long Beach in 1977. In 1980 he received his J.D. from Loyola Law School of Los Angeles.



While at CSU Long Beach, Ralph became a leader in the successful effort by students with disabilities to secure funding for disabled student programs in California higher education. This led to his first professional position as a specialist with the California Postsecondary Education Commission where he advised the Commission and the Legislature on policy and funding of programs for students with disabilities at all three systems of higher education. Later, he served as a consultant for the Disabled Students Programs and Services in the Chancellor's Office for the California Community Colleges. Through these efforts, he helped to establish the foundations for programs for students with disabilities in California higher education.

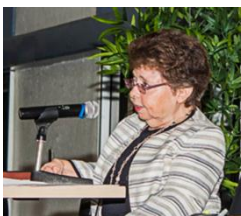
In 1988, Ralph joined the Legal Affairs Division of the Chancellor's Office for the California Community Colleges. Since that time he has served as both Assistant General Counsel and General Counsel for the Chancellor's Office. In this capacity he played a significant role in developing and interpreting the law which governs the California Community College system. This often involved working on issues related to students with disabilities. For example, he led the development of policies which have made the California Community Colleges a leader in providing access to print and electronic instructional materials for students with disabilities.

In April 2008, Ralph left the Chancellor's Office and accepted a position as Assistant Director for Legislation with the California Department of Rehabilitation. Since retiring in January 2011, he has served on a contractual basis as the Legislative Consultant for CAPEd.

### **The First Annual Access Awards Breakfast**

Southwestern College hosted its First Annual Access Awards Ceremony and Breakfast on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> in the Student Union East. The vision for this event began with the Director of SWC Disability Support Services, Dr. Malia Flood.

Dr. Flood recognized that, although legislative changes have improved opportunities for people with disabilities to obtain education and employment, without the strength, work and dedication of people with disabilities themselves, and those who are committed to advancing this cause, little progress might be made. Understanding that much more needs to be done, Dr. Flood's desire to recognize and honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of disability rights, awareness, and or empowerment materialized in the creation of this event.



The First Annual Access Awards Ceremony recognized two outstanding individuals and an invaluable community agency who have all positively impacted the lives of individuals with disabilities and have done so with distinction, pride and determination.

The ceremony also featured a very distinguished guest, Dr. Catherine Campisi. Dr. Campisi is a former DSS Director at the California State Chancellor's office and a pioneer in the early disability rights movement. Her presentation covered the history of the disability rights movement and provided examples of the extraordinary barriers that individuals with disabilities encountered and overcame in order for us to arrive at where we are now.

The Access Award recipients selected this year were:

Joe Chavez  
Brenda Rodriguez  
Partnerships With Industry (PWI)

## **DSS Test Proctoring Deadline for Final Exams!**

If you want to utilize DSS Test Proctoring for any of your Fall 2013 final exams, submit your Test Accommodation Request Form(s) (TARF) to the DSS Test Proctoring Office, Room 420 A, before:

FRIDAY

December 06, 2013

NO Test Accommodation Request Forms will be accepted after the deadline date for Fall 2013 final exams.

## **New Course Repetition and Withdrawal Policy**

Changes in state law have resulted in a New Course Repetition and Withdrawal Policy at SWC. Students will be able to repeat a course that they earned a poor grade (D, F, or NP) or Withdrawal three times. After a student has attempted a class three times, they cannot repeat the course. If there are special circumstances, a student can complete a petition to request a fourth attempt.

## **Success Tips for DSS Services**

1. Keep all your appointments at DSS.
2. Get an up to date Student Education Plan (SEP) and follow the SEP so you only take the courses you need.
3. Submit your DSS Accommodations requests for counselor approval early.
4. To request DSS Accommodations email your name, student ID# to [dss@swccd.edu](mailto:dss@swccd.edu) or visit the DSS office and turn in a request form. You may also request accommodations at the Higher Education Centers, Student Services Counter.

## **ATTENTION DSS STUDENTS! IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

### **Academic Accommodations Request Form:**

As soon as you register for Spring 2014 classes please complete an Academic Accommodation Request Form in the DSS Office or at the Higher Education Centers, Student Services Counter.

### **Test Accommodation Request Form (TARF):**

If your accommodations include Test Proctoring you must plan ahead for each test. Complete the TARF and submit it to Test Proctoring in Room 420A, or at the Higher Education Centers, Student Services Counter at least four (4) school days prior to each test. You can obtain the TARF at DSS or at the Higher Education Centers, Student Services Counter.

### **Learning Ally New Process:**

If you would like to be able to listen to your text books on your phone or computer, schedule a ½ hour appointment with your DSS Specialist in order to sign up for Learning Ally.

### **Sign Language Interpreting (ASL) and Real Time Captioning (RTC) Services**

To request ASL or RTC services, students must plan their classes with a DSS Counselor and complete the service policy and contract at least 4 weeks prior to the beginning of the semester.

## **Department of Rehabilitation**

The Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) assists Californian's with disabilities in job preparation and placement. DOR services can also include financial assistance with school tuition, fees, books and transportation. Apply for DOR services and attend an orientation meeting. If you qualify for services DOR will assign you a counselor who will write your job preparation plan and assist you each semester with your school costs.

For more information contact DSS or the local Department of Rehabilitation Office at:

678 3rd Avenue, Chula Vista  
Voice: 619 426 3671  
TTY: 426-8781

If you have any questions visit DSS in Room S108 or call us at (619) 482-6512 for voice or (619) 482-6470 for TTY and we will be happy to assist you.

## **Attention Southwestern College Students**

The state of California has mandated a new enrollment priority registration system which will be effective Fall 2014. Students who have completed 100 degree applicable units (excluding non-degree or basic skills classes) OR who are on academic/progress probation because they have less than a 2.0 overall grade point average or excessive withdrawals for two consecutive semesters will no longer be eligible for priority registration.

It is important to schedule an appointment with your DSS Counselor if:

- You have already completed at least 60 or more degree applicable units.
- You are on academic or progress probation

The DSS Counselor will work with you to make sure that you enroll in the classes you need and to complete a petition process, if necessary.

## **Associates Degree for Transfer**

If you have applied with an ADT (Associates Degree for Transfer) agreement to a CSU (California State University, for example, SDSU) for Fall 2014, you MUST also apply for graduation at SWC. The CSU will be checking to make sure that these students have applied to receive an AA here at SWC.

Here is the link for Graduation applications <http://www.swccd.edu/index.aspx?page=338>