

DSS NEWS

Spring 2014



Important Dates for Summer & Fall 2014

June 05: Last day to register in classes/get placed on waitlist
June 09: Summer instruction begins 9-week session
June 16: Summer instruction begins 8-week session
June 30: **Fall 2014 Priority Registration Begins**
July 03: Campus Closed/District Holiday

DSS Welcomes 3 New Team Members!



Jenny Nomini- WorkAbility III Coordinator

Jenny completed her B.S. degree from San Diego State University, majoring in Communicative Disorders with an emphasis in Deaf Education. She continued on at SDSU and graduated in 2011 with her M.S. degree in Rehabilitation Counseling with a specialization in Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Late Deafened Adults. Jenny has also received her Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification and completed extensive coursework in the American Sign Language/Interpreting Program. She has experience working in both educational settings and rehabilitation counseling settings. Since moving to San Diego in 2002 Jenny has been well connected with the Deaf Community and currently is a member of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Committee with the Department of Rehabilitation, and on the board for the Parsons Buchanan Trust Committee.

Kim Letendre- WorkAbility III Graduate Intern

Kim is completing her first year in the Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling program at SDSU. She began her own virtual services business in 2008 and has been serving small businesses for the past 6 years. Her primary goal was to create and implement marketing strategies for a multitude of clients. She assessed and developed current marketing tactics, and then built strategies to effectively incorporate social media and reputation management into the bigger picture. She has extensive knowledge of marketing and SEO strategies and incorporating those into Facebook, LinkedIn, and Google+. Her background in business and marketing is an amazing asset that we are thrilled to have as we began to spread the word and promote the new Southwestern College WAIH Program. She built her business through networking in her local community, Rotary International, Chamber of Commerce and BNI (Business Networking International). She spent eight years at a medical device start-up company, learning business management and growth skills, and was a California Real Estate Agent in Northern California for 10 years. Kim prides herself on her customer service skills and ability to build rapport with individuals.

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.

***Closed on Fridays during
summer session.**

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

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

Esther Sahki- Student Services Assistant

Please visit the DSS Office to welcome and congratulate our newest staff member, Esther Sakhi, who has just been hired as a DSS Student Services Assistant! You may recognize Esther because she has been working in our office for the past four years as a student worker and an hourly employee. Esther has degrees in Paralegal Studies, Legal Interpretation and Translation, and Spanish Proficiency. Esther loves helping Southwestern College students and, as an SWC graduate, she can really identify with the challenges and rewards of working towards a Southwestern College degree.

The 9th Annual DSS Graduate Reception



Class of 2014 DSS Graduate Reception

On Tuesday evening, May 6th, the ninth annual DSS Graduation Reception was held in Southwestern College's Cafeteria East. DSS holds this reception for students in our program who are due to graduate from Southwestern College. On this evening, DSS honored the students who had achieved the distinction of becoming a member of the Class of 2014 through their hard work and complete dedication towards their educational goals.

To show their support for our graduates, SWC President/Superintendent Melinda Nish and SWC Governing Board members Tim Nader and Terri Valladolid attended.

Dr. Nish recognized the accomplishments of the graduates and spoke about their achievements. The event also included three student guest speakers who gave inspirational presentations about the challenges they have overcome in order to achieve their educational goals at Southwestern College and develop their future plans for educational and career success. SWC Class of 2014 member Edgar Perdomo spoke about how he has set and defined occupational goals that he is passionately determined to achieve. SWC Class of 2014 member Grisel Ramires spoke about achieving academic success at SWC by accessing services and developing awareness of her own real potential to succeed. SWC Class of 2014 member Maria Shabbir spoke about her amazing determination to learn and succeed. SWC adjunct faculty member Michelle Gealy sang a powerful rendition of "Hero".

Approximately seventy-five students in the DSS program are in the SWC Class of 2014. Graduates who came to the reception brought loved ones and invited Southwestern College faculty and staff members to share in the celebration. Student graduates at the event represented numerous academic majors, including nursing, dental hygiene, and child development.



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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

Priority Registration Is Coming For Fall 2014

FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

1. Look for the Fall 2014 Schedule on-line
2. Look for possible classes
3. Make an appointment with your DSS specialist for help to plan classes for Fall 2014
4. Priority Registration dates:
Fall 2014: June 30th
5. You will receive your Priority Registration date by e-mail from the SWC Admissions office. Let us know if you do not receive an appointment!
6. If there is an error in your date, call 482-6512.

ATTENTION DSS STUDENTS! **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

Academic Accommodations Request Form:

As soon as you register for Summer 2014 or Fall 2014 please complete an Academic Accommodation Request Form in the DSS Office. You may also request accommodations at the Higher Education Centers, Student Services Counter. You can also request DSS Accommodations online by emailing your name, student ID# to dss@swccd.edu

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.

WorkAbility III

WorkAbility III (WAIII) is a collaborative program between Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and Southwestern College (SWC). This program provides comprehensive career counseling services for students with disabilities with the goal of obtaining and retaining employment. In order to participate in WAIII, you must be a current client of the California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and be enrolled in at least one SWC course.

Services provided include Career exploration, Employment Preparation, Vocational Counseling, Vocational Training Support, Worksite Monitoring, and Accommodations.

If interested in finding out more, please visit the WAIII office in the Cesar Chavez Building, second floor in room S207A.

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.

A.B.L.E. Club - Abilities Beyond Limitation through Education

- Have a Great Time!
- Develop Leadership Skills and Team Building
- 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



For more information please contact Robert Valerio in DSS at (619) 482-6512