

Student Affairs Division

Monthly Report - September 2009

Vol. 1 – First Issue of the Academic Year 2009 - 2010

Each month the Student Affairs Division will provide you with updates, information and announcements. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with these updates. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask. Opening the channels of communication within Student Affairs and the campus community can only serve a greater good for all.

WARM WELCOME TO MR. JASON BENITEZ On August 10, the SCCC Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Mr. Jason Benitez as the Coordinator for Multicultural and Educational Opportunity Programs in the Student Services Office. Mr. Benitez brings to our campus a refreshing perspective and a wealth of experience. Please make the time to check in with Mr. Benitez, room 222 Elston Hall, to introduce yourself and welcome him to SCCC.

DR. BULLOCK MET WITH THE STUDENT AFFAIRS STAFF on Friday, September 18 to officially meet the entire team, discuss his vision for the Student Affairs Division as well as the College, and to thank all for “working above and beyond the call” during the summer months and opening weeks. The Division will be addressing the goals Dr. Bullock identified with regard to restructuring the organizational make-up of the Division, looking to better locate Admissions into a ‘prime’ spot, and making recommendations on how best to utilize space.

GRANTS RECENTLY CONFIRMED WITHIN STUDENT SERVICES Recently, the State Education Department notified Student Services of the acceptance of the grant proposal for a renewed SCCC Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP). The College has housed LPP for 20 years; however, this grant renewal came with a wonderful surprise – it was renewed for a five year period (vs. the previous one year period) and was renewed at a much higher level for more students (\$249,338 for this current year serving 225 youth in grades 5th – 12th)! In addition, the SUNY Educational Opportunity Program Office has confirmed that the SCCC Educational Opportunity Program will be renewed for the upcoming year; however, the grant amount and number of students we can serve has been decreased (127 students for \$80,900 this academic year). This is still wonderful news for SCCC for we are proud to be one of the few community colleges within the SUNY system to house an Educational Opportunity Program.

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS TAKES NEW STEPS. After a year of challenges, this year is starting off with things looking most promising for our intercollegiate athletic program. The YMCA’s new facility will house the SCCC Men’s and Women’s Basketball program and is expected to open its doors in January. Mr. David Gonzalez has made back-up arrangements with Union College for use of their facilities until the YMCA facility is ready for use. In addition, the Men’s Baseball will be using the beautiful ball fields located in Central Park for all fall and spring games this academic year. Mr. David Gonzalez is credited with establishing this new partnership. I am most confident these arrangements will make for a favorable experience for our student athletes.

CAMPUS SAFETY UPDATES Each month the Campus Safety Council will release reminders and updates on Emergency Procedures and Protocols. September's issue was sent electronically to all members of the college community. Hard copies are available in Student Services, 222 Elston. Emergency messages will be posted on the television monitors located around campus, via e-mail on campus, through SUNY NY-Alert, and through the new communication tool being initiated by the Student Government Association, ReGroup. Announcements about H1N1 will be posted continuously on the television monitors to remind all about how to take measures to stay healthy. Hand sanitizers are being added to various sites on campus. Flu shots will be made available to County Employees on October 1. Any questions about the Campus Safety Council, please see Martha Asselin, Associate Dean for Student Services.

MESSAGE SYSTEM ANNOUNCEMENTS are being updated weekly, at least. Any announcements to be posted on the system should be sent to Martha Asselin electronically as a PowerPoint slide. She will then format it for our SyMon system and then post it. Please remember that the slides need to have a font size of at least 28 to make it easier to view and read.

STUDENT E-MAIL ACCOUNTS All students have been assigned an e-mail account for the campus – please encourage all correspondence with students to go through this channel.

SCCC PHOTO ID CARDS are being issued through the College Store. All employees in Student Services, if you have not already done so, are encouraged to get their ID card prior to the first day of classes this term. Students are having ID card photos taken at our NSR programs, Orientation and during the first three weeks of the semester. Photos will be taken in the Activity Forum, Elston Hall. Over 3500 ID cards have been issued to date!

SCCC OPENS A NEW TESTING CENTER, located in room 430 Elston Hall, under the Department of Academic Affairs. The Testing Center will open its doors this fall semester to provide one consistent and centralized location for all testing needs (to include: CLEP exams, placement tests and special testing services). All scheduling and proctoring of examinations will now be done through this office which will be staffed through the Department of Developmental Studies. Dr. Ellen Wertlieb, Coordinator for ADA Transition Services, will remain in her office located in room 220 Elston Hall.

EVENING ADMINISTRATOR SCHEDULE Effective this semester, there will be a campus administrator assigned to cover up to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday evenings. Copies of this schedule were distributed to all members of the President's Council with intent that it would be shared with staff.

THE STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT addresses President Obama's vision to produce more successful college graduates by 2020 through affordable, quality education opportunities. This Act further strengthens and empowers community colleges as we design a highly skilled, innovative 21st century workforce best prepared for our global economy. Beginning July 1, 2010, if passed by US Senate, all new federal student loans will be originated through the Direct Loan program instead of through lenders subsidized by taxpayers in the federally-guaranteed student loan program. SCCC has participated with Direct Loans since 1995. If you would like to learn more about this landmark investment in our nation's economic future on the House Education and Labor Committee website: <http://edlabor.house.gov/>.

HIPAA CONFIDENTIALITY AND SEXUAL HARRASSMENT TRAINING GOES ON-LINE All employees will be required to complete this training by end of October. An announcement will be made within the next few weeks about how to access this training series through our website.

SCCC ADVISORY BOARDS FOR THE STUDENT AFFAIRS DIVISION will be flowing through the appropriate Associate Dean (for now) and then the VP for Student Affairs (in the future). As the Division Executive Secretary, Ms. Betsy Napier will be responsible for maintaining all files, preparing all correspondences and mailings, etc...

UNITED STATES CENSUS 2010 is planned to take place in April 2010. Martha Asselin is serving as the campus contact with the US Census Bureau and Schenectady County. Our role in Student Services is important to this process to ensure all individuals residing the United States are counted in the census. The Census Data is important because federal funds are allocated to states and communities based on this report; which determines funding for critical services in our academic community such as transportation, public safety, medical care and road repairs. This data also affects college tuition and grant loan programs. Our role in promoting the Census will begin on US Constitution Day, September 17. More information will be provided to you on this.

THE SUNY STUDENT OPINION SURVEY will be conducted this year. Coordination of this survey is done through the Planning and Development Office. Our help is needed to educate students about this survey and about its purpose. Obtaining feedback directly from the student (our customer) is the best way for informed decisions about further enhancing services.

ON SEPT. 17, THE HOUSE PASSED LEGISLATION ON AMERICAN GRADUATION INITIATIVE a historic federal investment in community colleges. H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, also contains guaranteed increases in the Pell Grant maximum and funding for HBCUs and Hispanic-Serving Institutions. The legislation derives funds for these initiatives by requiring that all institutions begin participating in the Direct Loan program by July 1, 2010. Several amendments sought by AACC were passed, including those that would limit the impact of benchmarks in the legislation and would allow facilities funds to go to colleges that had received similar funds through the stimulus bill. The action now moves to the Senate, where the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee must approve companion legislation by Oct. 15. Senate legislation is expected to be introduced soon, as early as next week, with a committee markup shortly thereafter.

STUDENTS ARE OUR PRIORITY. The Student Affairs Division mission is based on students...

STUDENTS ARE

- ... the most important persons on campus; and, without them there is no need for this institution.
- ... not cold enrollment statistics but persons with feelings and emotions like our own.
- ... not persons to be tolerated permitting us to do our thing; but the sole reason for our being.
 - ... not dependent upon us; rather, we are dependent upon them.
- ... doing us a favor by providing us opportunities to serve them. We do them no favors.
 - ... not interruptions of our work; but they are the sole purpose of it.