Welcome to the debut issue of The Success Express—a newsletter dedicated to publishing information and news about Student Success Services (S.S.S.), and highlighting issues relevant to the academic success of our students.

Over the past year, the mantra of “change” has spread across the nation and become synonymous with hope and progress. The entire team at Student Success Services, located in the Fairchild Building, has embraced the concept, using it to create a “student-centered learning” community for incoming freshmen, and providing them with “access to resources” as described by President Rudley in his inaugural address. The village concept centralizes all the services that are specifically designed, and strategically placed, to provide easy access for the freshman student.

All our programs are aimed at helping freshmen make a comfortable and successful transition from high school to college. Academic advisement, strategic intervention programs, motivation, learning labs and developmental instruction work together in synergy to provide the type of needs-based environment that can improve retention and increase success.

The National Association of Developmental Education (NADE) Certification Council has granted Texas Southern University Certification of its Developmental Coursework Component (English, Reading, and Mathematics.)

TSU joins 37 other institutions of higher education nationwide, and is one of only 13 institutions that have earned the certification in all its Developmental courses at one time.

Attaining this certification attests to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, our campus colleagues and other stakeholders, that our program adheres to best practices recognized by professional research in the field and by the NADE, the national governing association for developmental education programs.

Top:
Dr. Nellie Boyd, Executive Director

Top Row (L-R)
Dr. Jacqueline Fleming, Associate Director
Dr. Sannie Reagan, Assistant Director
Mr. Richard Johnson, Associate Director

Bottom Row (L-R)
Ms. Rhoda Richards, Associate Director
Mr. Ernie Murray, Acting Associate Director
Ms. Virginia Day, Associate Director
Student Success Services - One Vision! One Voice!

Getting Assistance

The SSS offices are open year-round, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Students who are not sure which office to call for help may contact any of our administrative assistants.

Ms. Stephanie Neven

Testing is the Key

The ASSET is used as a placement test and accepted by all Texas public institutions. It is a part of the Texas Success Initiative Program (TSI) 2003, which mandates that students must take one of the following state-approved assessment tests before enrolling in any college-level coursework: THEA, ASSET, ACCUPLACER, OR COMPASS.

Test results are not used for admission purposes, however, students must have test results prior to enrolling, unless they are exempt.

For everything they need to know about test scores, students should contact the TSI Coordinator, Ms. Stephanie Neven (713) 313-1248.

Developmental Education

The Developmental Education Program is designed to foster the academic potential of students that will facilitate their progress during their matriculation at Texas Southern University. Providing academic-based opportunities for the enhancement of their intellectual growth, the program engages faculty and students in the type of interactive learning that enables students to realize their capability.

The courses assist students in passing state required academic assessment tests. Courses offered: Math 130, Math 131, Reading 130, English 129, English 130.

Program Coordinators:
Top: Mr. Ernie Murray (Math)
Bottom: Mr. Rufus Foster (English)

Ms. Mimi Warren
Ms. Helene Liu
Mr. Michael Davis
Ms. Wilfreda Oalby
Mr. Jin Guo

Learning Center Labs

The SSS Learning Labs allow students to work independently with math, writing and reading software. Facilitating the individualized learning, SSS staff help the students identify and address their areas of academic need.

The Many Faces of Academic Support

Left: Mrs. Shannon Thomas, Program Coordinator, Community Outreach
Mrs. Tina Edlogb, Program Coordinator, Publicity and Promotion

TUTORING CENTER
Students provide one on one tutoring in Math, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, English, Psychology, and History.
Sociology 211 Incorporates the Acclaimed Amer-I-Can

Sociology 211 is the Freshman orientation class designed to help our students successfully meet the challenges of a college career. The course covers identified topics of concern for the incoming student, which range from academic skill development to necessary social adjustments that need to take place. The course incorporates the acclaimed "Amer-I-Can" program to help students develop a "YES I Can" attitude towards education.

The Cohort Program
The Cohort Program was established in April 2008 with the mission of reclaiming former students who have left with unfinished degree plans. They are currently working with Enrollment Management on an innovative campaign designed to bring students who are close to graduation back to campus. Their focus is currently on undergraduates with at least 60 successful hours and a 2.0 cumulative GPA who are within the home stretch.

They are working closely with the schools and colleges to create individualized packets based on each student's degree audit. The students will be able to see, in an easy to read format, what they have already completed and what they have left to do. In almost all cases the "what's left" column, which pales in comparison to the "already done" column, is very encouraging. In addition, they are making every effort to empower these soon-to-be graduates by giving them information tailored to their individual needs. They will receive personalized service and dedication from the Cohort Program staff to ensure their success.

They are also working closely with students who were active just last semester but did not return for this current session. They feel that reaching out early will prove to be a key strategy in reducing the university's overall rate of non-return. They have embarked upon a massive campaign to reach out to these students, which utilizes the Robodial system, first class mail, and email.

Academic Advisement

Mrs. Pearson

SSS Advisors (Top to Bottom):
Mrs. Evangeline Pearson (Coordinator)
Ms. Joy Werner
Mrs. Caneatha Crawford
Ms. Ameesia Romeo
Mrs. Tameeka Meshak

Advisors are located in Fairchild Building Suite 114.
Office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

SSS is responsible for the academic advisement and enhancement of students defined as Freshman, Transfer, Undeclared Major, and/or Test Responsible. Advisors are dedicated to students and committed to the University. They are professionally trained and sensitive to the unique needs of Texas Southern University's student population. SSS Advisors monitor student progress, facilitate freshman orientation courses, oversee pre-registration, and make referrals to campus resources as needed. Advisors also coordinate special SSS programs which include: career selection, test preparation workshops, the Community Service Learning Project, Study Hall and the Mentoring Program.

Academic Enhancement Seminars

Schedule available in room FC. 114
SUMMER ACADEMY

Student Success Services - Summer Academy is an intensive academic boot camp designed to improve student skills in math, reading and writing, as well as providing the life-skills training outlined in the AmeriCorps ‘Responsibility of Self Determination’ manual. Summer Academy helps students obtain the skills, motivation and confidence necessary to succeed in college level coursework and beyond. Summer Academy also offers the THEA exam for FREE to all attendees. A student who falls below any of the minimum standards for admission into the university must attend the program.

In the 8 week academic program, the students:
- acquire the study skills necessary for academic excellence at TSU
- begin building friendships with other students
- benefit from low student/teacher ratio
- get a head-start on learning about the TSU campus, faculty and staff before the fall semester begins
- prepare for college level coursework
- take the THEA exam at no cost

Qualifying students may also participate in a work study program that will pay them to work on campus in the afternoons during the 8 week program.

For more information, students may download the brochure from the TSU web site or contact Mr. Jimar Proctor, Fairchild Building 114D
713-313-7958

TriO Talent Search

TriO Talent Search is a federally funded ‘TRIO’ program, which identifies disadvantaged, low-income, and first generation youth who have demonstrated potential for education at the post-secondary level, and encourages them to complete secondary school and undertake a program of post-secondary education. TriO Talent Search publicizes the availability of student financial assistance for persons who seek to pursue post-secondary education. In addition, TriO Talent Search encourages persons who have not completed an educational program at the secondary or post-secondary level to re-enter and matriculate through these programs. Participants must be between the ages of 11 and 27 and have completed the sixth grade.

Student Support Services Program (SSSSP)

Texas Southern University’s Student Support Services Program (SSSSP) is also a U.S. Department of Education funded program designed to provide academic assistance and counseling to “TRIO” eligible students who are pursuing a baccalaureate degree. Since 1972, Texas Southern University’s Student Support Services Program (SSSSP) has provided academic tutorials and seminars that enabled thousands of students to successfully matriculate and attain a baccalaureate degree. All services are provided free of cost so as to empower participants to realize their academic and career goals.

UPWARD BOUND

Texas Southern University’s Upward Bound Program is a federally funded educational outreach program designed to transition high school students into a postsecondary educational experience. The thrust of the program is to prepare “eligible” students to meet the academic and social challenges of postsecondary education. LB participants are potential first-generation college students and meet federal income guidelines. Specifically, the program provides an array of services inclusive of academic/instructional initiatives, cultural enrichment, individual/group counseling, and college tours/visits. Program participants are assisted with all aspects of the college admissions process during the project’s “Academic Year” and “Summer Residential” components. All recent LB high school graduates are enrolled in the University’s summer school session with fees and book costs absorbed by the project.

S.S.S

Urban Academic Village launches Second Mile Mentorship Program

Student Success Services

The Urban Academic Village is launching a campus wide “Go Green” campaign, which, in addition to the traditional “reuse, reduce and recycle” efforts, will involve all first year students in a number of specific activities designed to engage them in Community Outreach/Service Learning projects to help them become productive citizens of the world.

The Student Success Services staff and instructors will encourage students to participate in at least one service project (coordinated by Ms. Joy Wamuyi). Using “green” topics for prompts, reading selections, word problems, and discussions, the theme will be woven into the learning environment, thus making it relevant and pertinent to their lives.