

Student Support Services

Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall Newsletter



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Reader Welcome

Welcome to the fall edition of the SSS newsletter. This newsletter will keep you abreast of SSS activities and milestones. Creighton students know the secret to strong academic performance is academic support. For over 25 years, SSS has provided quality assistance to approximately 4,000 students who are economically disadvantaged, first generation college students, and/or students with disabilities. SSS provides a supportive learning community to help ensure equal opportunity for success in higher education.

What is SSS?

SSS is one of the five federally funded TRIO programs at Creighton University under the Department of Educational Opportunity Programs. SSS is grant funded through the Department of Education to provide comprehensive services



to help students achieve a successful college experience by increasing academic performance, retention, and graduation rates. SSS also works to foster an institutional climate supportive of the success of low income, first generation students, and students with disabilities. The strength of the SSS program is providing comprehensive support to under-represented students at Creighton University who come from disadvantaged backgrounds and have the ability and desire to succeed but would benefit from additional advocacy, academic, personal, financial, and career support. SSS is a resource that provides personalized and comprehensive support services for eligible participants to help them achieve their full potential.

Support and Services



“SSS is genuinely concerned that I do well in college and they are prepared to help me succeed .”

SSS Student

According to our scanned daily logs and Access records for the 2005-2006 academic year, SSS staff had 3,605 individual contacts and provided 2,587 hours of service.

SSS offers a friendly place where students can enhance their academic development and successfully complete their post secondary education. Because of SSS services, many students were able to enroll, succeed, and graduate at Creighton. With SSS support, participants are more likely to reach their full potential.

Academic Support Services Provided		
Advising Type	hours	Contacts
Supplemental Instruction	578	510
Professional Tutoring	342	487
Indiv. Assess./Study Skills	227	300
Peer Tutoring	130	93
Disability Services	53	67
TOTAL	1,330	1,457



“SSS is like a Creighton family, and promotes strong community values - the people are the best!!!”

SSS student

Counseling and Mentoring Services Provided		
Advising Type	hours	Contacts
Academic Counseling	482	1234
Peer Counseling/Mentoring	93	119
Financial Aid Counseling	76	217
Personal Counseling	63	128
Career /Grad. Counseling	40	93
TOTAL	754	1791

SSS provides a structured first year experience and academic assessment each semester to help participants reach their academic goals. SSS provides family support, crisis intervention, retention counseling, academic support, financial assistance, problem solving, professional mentoring and cultural enrichment. These services help improve students’ skills, enhance learning ability, and, as appropriate, facilitate entrance into graduate and professional programs.

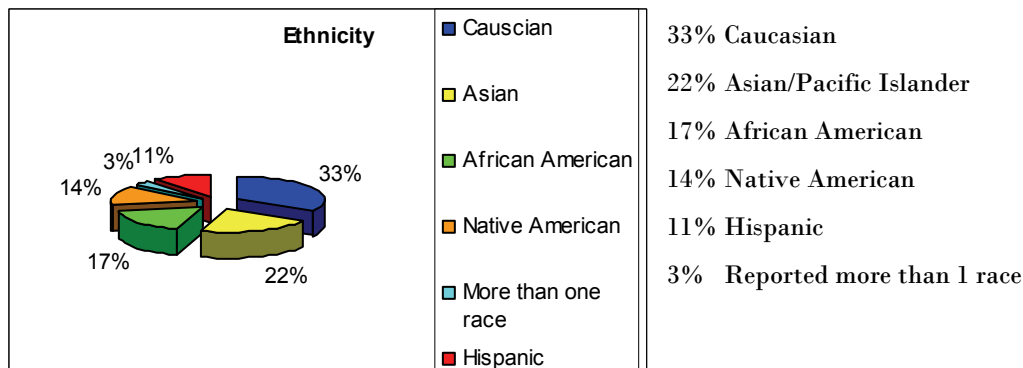
SSS also provides extended evening hours, giving students a safe and welcoming study environment that includes a computer lab, free printing, study rooms, and after hours tutorial support.

Cultural and Enrichment Services Provided		
Advising Type	hours	Contacts
Cultural Activities	360	195
Informational Workshops	143	162
TOTAL	503	357



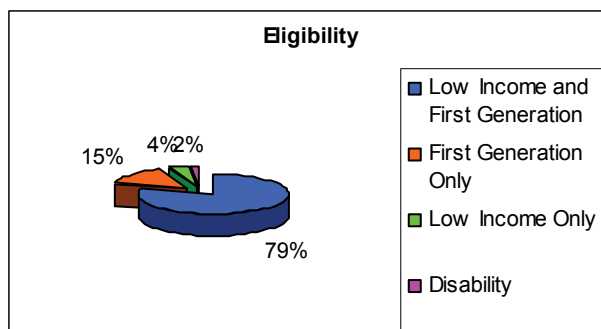
Who SSS Students Are

For the 2005-2006 academic year, SSS participant ethnic distribution was 67% ethnic minorities and 33% Caucasian.



An overwhelming majority (83%) of SSS participants are low-income (family taxable income below 150% of poverty level) and 94% are first generation (neither parent earned a four year college degree).

- 79% Low income and first generation
- 15% First generation only
- 4% Low income only
- 2% Documented disabilities



“SSS is a diverse community that allows me to learn about other’s cultures and customs and allows me to share my own!”
SSS student

During 2005-2006, participants were 71% females and 29% males. About 11% of our students are non-traditional students who are single parents or have been out of school for ten or more years prior to enrollment. SSS students are leaders—they are involved with student government, residence hall government (including as advisors), peer education, Greek organizations, service organizations, professional clubs, and multicultural organizations. In the SSS 2005 Involvement Survey, 85% (150 respondents) reported being involved with one or more organization on campus.



Several SSS students established the following official Creighton organizations: NAACP, Peer2Peer, Asian Student Association, and the Changing Women Interest Group for Gamma Delta Pi.



“I feel at home and accepted here. I get to know people of all different cultures here. I love it.”
SSS student

Student Success



“The people are really nice, which makes me feel real comfortable. I can just relax, or do homework.”

SSS student

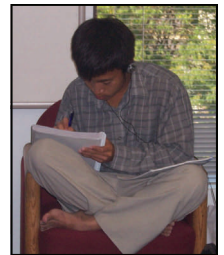
SSS is integral to the success of our students. The financial support is necessary, but the academic, personal, cultural, and career assistance allows them to excel. Many SSS students entered Creighton at the bottom 10% of their class based on standardized test scores. The average SSS participant ACT was 21. However, the average cumulative SSS participant GPA is 2.89. In the fall, seven students earned a 4.0 GPA and eight achieved a 4.0 in the spring. In 2005-2006, one-quarter of our students were on Dean’s List and half of our participants earned a GPA of 3.0 or above.



Academic Success		
Achievement	Fall	Spring
4.0 GPA	7	8
Dean’s List	25%	26%
3.0 or above GPA	52%	48%
Average GPA	2.949	2.869

The success of the services provided by SSS is validated by our students’ achievement and supported by their use and evaluation of SSS services. According to the Fall 2005 Student

Evaluation of Services (146 respondents), 80% of our students agreed or strongly agreed that SSS helped them achieve their academic goals and 80% felt the midterm evaluation meeting was helpful for keeping them on track academically. Most significant was the 87% who reported that SSS made a positive difference in their Creighton experience. 72% agreed or strongly agreed that SSS activities and workshops assisted them with their academic and personal development. 68% reported that SSS provided them with financial support through grants, advocacy, and outside scholarships.



“Everyone’s helpful. There is a friendly atmosphere as well, with a good study and social environment.”

SSS student

Peer 2 Peer

Peer 2 Peer is a mentoring program designed to support first year SSS participants with the transition to college life through the guidance and assistance of upper class SSS students. Peer 2 Peer combines weekly one on one meetings between mentors and protégés with group activities which are now open to all Creighton students.



Student Profile

Spotlight on Guillermo Guzman by Quang Nguyen



Guillermo Guzman, nicknamed Memo, is from Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico and is a graduate of South High School in Omaha. He is a sophomore in the College of Business and plans to major in Business Management. Guillermo is a recipient of the ODK Fr. Tom Schloemer, S.J. Outstanding Student Leader Award, Vice-President for the CU Latino Student Association, Peer2Peer protégé, and Phi Beta Lambda member. He is also a

member of “Conjunto” (Mexican music group), plays guitar in his church choir, a Gates Scholarship mentor, and member of indoor and outdoor soccer teams. Guillermo is also employed at Cassem, Tierney, Adams, Gotch, and Douglas Law Firm as a Runner and at Loveland Lawns as a Sales Representative/Assistant Warehouse Supervisor. The most exciting place he has ever been is the ocean in Mexico. The education he is receiving at Creighton is the most interesting and greatest achievement of Guillermo’s life. Guillermo is very talented—he is an excellent soccer player and musician. He is fluent in both English and Spanish. Guillermo’s most prized possession is his guitar. His favorite music is rock and Latin. Guillermo’s least favorite word is “work,” even though he spends much of his time doing it!

“The connection between the students. The interaction of the staff and students.”

SSS student



“I can get help on assignments when I need and I can go in and talk to someone about any problems I have in my life, no matter the circumstances.”

SSS student

Parenting Support Group



SSS provides a support group for students who are parents. This group allows parents to use each other as a support system and provides them with additional resources. The group meets monthly for planned

activities that allow both parents and children to relax and enjoy themselves. This group also provides opportunities for the parents to enhance their parenting skills and learn from each other.



“The caring attitude and willingness to help from all staff members.”

SSS student

Staff Profiles



“The support from all the specialists and the welcoming feeling after one enters the door of Markoe Hall.”

SSS student



“The academic meetings helped keep me focused on my goals .”

SSS student



“The staff, the resources, one just feels at home! I love it!”

SSS student

Tami Buffalohead-McGill—Director



Tami earned her Bachelor’s degree in Classical Civilization with a co-major in Political Science from Creighton University and a Master’s degree in Public Administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She specializes in financial aid and scholarship assistance, academic advising, and problem resolution. Tami has been married for thirteen years to her husband, Jim. Her interests include scrap booking, gardening, and getting to know her students.

Karen Thurber—Academic Counselor



Karen received her Bachelor’s degree in Business from Nebraska Wesleyan and a Master’s degree in Education and Counseling from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Karen was the Assistant Director at Creighton's Career Center for fifteen years and specializes in resume writing, job searches, and academic counseling. As the Academic Counselor, she assists students with academic planning and monitoring, personal assistance, career planning, and graduate/professional school preparation. Karen is married and has two children. Her interests are her children and gardening.

Denise Le Clair—Writing/Reading Specialist and Assistant Director of the Office of Disability Accommodations



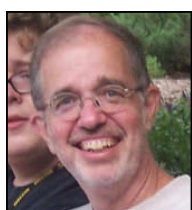
Denise has two degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana: a Bachelor's in English and a Master's in Library Sciences. She also has a Secondary Teaching endorsement. As the SSS Writing/Reading Specialist, Denise helps students develop study strategies for their college courses and assists student in all phases of writing a paper, from developing a thesis to final proofreading. In addition, Denise serves as liaison between faculty and students with disabilities to assure that students receive appropriate and reasonable accommodations, such as proctoring tests and coordinating note takers. Denise’s interests are reading, knitting, and spending time with family.

Staff Profiles Continued



Rich Jehlik—Science Specialist/Tutor Coordinator

Rich earned a Bachelor's of Science from Iowa State and a Master's in Biology and Physiology at the University of Missouri. Rich specializes in science and provides direct academic support through tutoring and supplemental instruction. He is also responsible for coordinating the student supplemental instructors, peer tutors, and cultural events. Rich's interests include plays, cultural events, and art.



Pat Al-Greene—Math Specialist

Pat received his Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Math from Villanova and Rutgers University. He earned his Master's degree in Public Administration and a Doctorate in Government. Pat provides academic support primarily in math, but his specialties also include sociology, political science, and astronomy. His interests include his seventeen year old son, politics, and bridge.



Toni Martin—Administrative Assistant

Toni attended South Puget Sound Community College and studied Secretarial Sciences. Toni is the resource person who maintains all the SSS records and is the go to person when you are unsure of who you need to contact. Toni has four children and is originally from Washington State. Her interests include her children, grandchildren, and quilt-making.

Contact Information		
Staff Members	Phone	Email
Tami	280-3468	tamib@creighton.edu
Karen	280-3007	karenthurber@creighton.edu
Denise	280-2166	leclair@creighton.edu
Rich	280-2167	rjehlik@creighton.edu
Pat	280-2165	palgreene@creighton.edu
Toni	280-2749	tonim@creighton.edu



Office Hours:

Monday—Friday:

8:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.

Evening hours

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday

5:00 p.m.— 8:30 p.m.



Location:

First Floor

Markoe Hall



Workshops and Cultural Events



“Everyone is very nice and the cultural events are awesome!”

SSS student



“I really benefit from the tutoring, counseling sessions, and workshops (time management, test anxiety, med. school, etc.).”

SSS student



SSS sponsors cultural enrichment activities and workshops for all participants each semester. These activities are provided to give students an opportunity to experience cultural events and academic programs not usually available to disadvantaged students. Cultural enrichment activities may include attending plays, concerts, and the opera. Also offered are a variety of workshops to help strengthen student's academic,



professional, and personal competencies. Listed below are the workshops and cultural events planned for the fall. SSS invites you to join us for both our annual Soirée (picnic) and Potluck. These events are an opportunity to get to know SSS participants and staff better.

Wednesday, September 6, *Self Defense*

Wednesday, September 13, *Writing a Resume*

Saturday, September 16, *Soirée*, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Rigge Science Square

Wednesday, September 27, *Blackboard and Self Serve*

Saturday, October 7, *Samba!* - Tour of colorful,

passionate Latin music, Omaha Symphony

Wednesday, October 11, *Graduate School preparation,*

Rolee Kelly, Kaplan

Friday, October 20, *Sweet Honey in the Rock* - Six women

who sing and play the rich textures of African

American music, Holland Center

Wednesday, October 25, *Healthy Lifestyles, Nutrition, and Wellness*

Friday, October, 29, *Tosca* - Tale of a tragic love affair during the

Napoleonic Wars, Omaha Opera

Wednesday, November 15, *Creating a four year plan*

Saturday, November 18, *San Jose Taiko* - Powerful Japanese drums

combined with the rhythms of music from around the world,

Holland Center

Wednesday, November 29, *Personality Styles*

Wednesday, December 13, *Potluck*, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Markoe Hall

