

# SSS NEWSLETTER



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Summer 2008

## NEW DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

A lot of you have met our new director, Yvette Rosenberg. Here's what she has to say....

Even though it's the end of the semester, we have a great deal to tell you before we say "farewell" for the summer.

First, a hearty congratulations to our recent graduates. Huzzah! Student Support Services is designed to "increase the retention and graduation rates of eligible students." That's language from the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations. See, not only are we happy you graduated, but so is the federal government! It means success for all of us.

Next, be sure to take a good look at the articles in this newsletter. There's quite a bit of useful information. The application date for the Textbook Scholarship is earlier this year than in the past – for juniors and seniors. Learn ways to maximize the amount of grant aid you receive – for freshman and sophomore students. Take a look at our improved web site and MySpace page. We are working on some changes for the fall, so check

in with us as soon as you come back from summer break.

Finally, if you are returning for summer classes, we will be here if you need us. The office hours will be 7:30 – 4:30 Monday through Friday. Feel free to stop by for assistance or just to say "hi." We love to hear how our students are doing. Maybe we'll even tell you about our summer vacation adventures, too!

So, breathe a sigh of relief that the semester is over, and we'll see you again soon!



**The WSU SSS program is 100% funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The 2007-2008 grant award is \$381, 858.**

**The mission of SSS is to help students who are first-generation, low-income, or registered with Disability Services earn a Bachelor's degree.**

## SSS TO OFFER BOOK SCHOLARSHIP FOR FALL

We will be accepting applications for an SSS book scholarship until August 15, 2008. This is offered to students who have earned more than 60 credits. You may pick up an application from an advisor throughout the summer. The amount of the scholarship and the number given depends on amount of money in the fund. This year we have given four each semester in the amount of \$250. If any of you graduates would like to give back to TRiO by contributing to this fund, Yvette can tell you how. Also, if you would like to lend or donate a current textbook for another student to use, contact Donalyn.

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### Special points of interest:

- Book scholarship applications due August 15.
- SSS is open all summer from 7:30-4:30.
- Check out our WSU SSS MySpace page.
- Participants who are receiving a Pell grant may be eligible for grant aid.

## SSS OFFERS GRANT AID

SSS participants who have attempted fewer than 60 credits and are receiving a Pell grant may be eligible for grant aid.

To qualify, you must be enrolled in 12 or more credits in the fall or spring and

Have a 2.0 GPA. You must also have unmet need according to your financial aid statement. **Recipients can maximize their award by being actively involved in the WSU SSS program by attending workshops, enrichment events, and meeting with advisors regularly during each semester.**

Dollar amounts vary with students but the award cannot be less than \$400, more than your current Pell award, or more than your unmet need. This money is provided through the Department of Education and is matched with

university funds.

This year, students have received the grant aid at the end of fall and spring semesters. It has helped them to pay for expenses incurred during the year and



Are you eligible for grant aid?

to pay for summer semester tuition and books.

Federal guidelines determine that the money is only for freshmen and sophomores. Upperclassmen should be on the look out for scholarships and tuition waivers through the university. The scholarship office is a good contact for awards for unmet need or other financial aid opportunities.

SSS participants are always encouraged to make wise use of their money. We will be offering workshops in the fall on financial management and tips for stretching your money in these times of increasing prices. Attending college is always a financial sacrifice, but one that is worth it in the end.

We have a chart posted on the significant income difference that a bachelor's degree makes over a lifetime.

## SUMMER SEMESTER IS A GOOD TIME TO PICK UP CREDITS

Summer semester at WSU lasts 12 weeks instead of the usual 16 weeks. Classes are held more often or for a longer time period in order to teach the needed material. There are also block classes in the summer that allow students to earn credits in a shorter time period. Block schedules vary over the summer so be sure to check the class schedule carefully when registering.

Some students like the increased pace during the summer and others feel that the classes are too compressed. We have some tutors available during the summer also.

The university waives out-of-state tuition for summer classes which makes classes affordable to students who may

be in the state temporarily or are not yet a resident.

Many students use the summer semester to make up credits they did not pass during the school year, avoiding complications with financial aid or academic standing. Others know that continuing helps them to stay in the education

mode. Whatever your circumstances, summer semester offers an opportunity to continue your studies while enjoying a bit of a

break in August.

Whether you choose to attend summer semester or not, We look forward to seeing you in the fall. Someone is available all summer to help you.

*Go to school in the good ole summertime?*

*Are you nuts?*

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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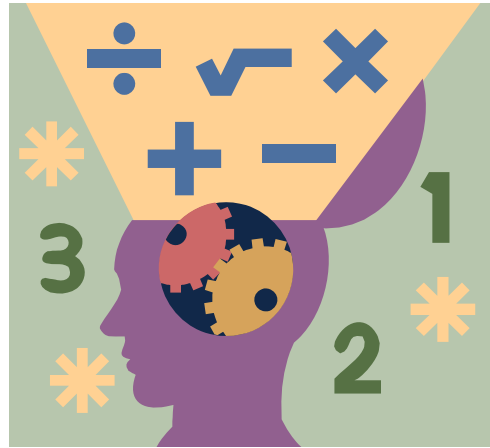
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## MATH 950 TO BE TAUGHT THROUGH SSS

Kathryn, our SSS Math Specialist, has been given the go ahead to teach a Math 950 class for SSS participants in the fall. This required several meetings with Dr. Thaeler of the Developmental Math department. He has worked with some of our students this spring and was able to see the value of small group instruction for our participants.

Those wanting to take the class will have to talk to Kathryn to register, as it will require an override. The 3 credit class will be limited to 12 participants. It will be held Monday through Friday from 9-9:50. The extra class periods will allow for more practice and test-taking instruction. Textbooks will be provided for participants who want to borrow them and tutors will be arranged to

make it convenient for the participants. Students who are intimidated by math will find this classroom setting very user friendly. It will provide a great founda-



tion for the math courses that are required to complete the Quantitative Literacy requirement for graduation.

Kathryn has taught math in the secondary public school setting. She has a Master's degree in Education and really enjoys helping students to learn math concepts. She has been supervising SSS math tutors for two years and is very aware of the problems that developmental math students face.

If you are interested in enrolling in this class or would like more information about it, contact Kathryn. She will be happy to discuss it with you to see if this is the place for you to begin your math classes.

## SSS HAS A NEW SECRETARY

Many of you have noticed a new person in the secretary's office or at the front desk. She is Pamela Nandkeshwar and she was hired in February to fill Vickie's position. She is very bubbly and enthusiastic, as well as organized and efficient. If you have not had the chance to get acquainted, stop in and introduce yourself. She is excited to be at Weber State University.

She moved to Utah from the bay area of California last fall. She thinks that making it through the winter was a big accomplishment, but when you get to

know her better, you will find that her goals include much more. She has two bachelor's degrees, one in Fine Arts and one in Health Science. Pamela plans to enroll in the Master of Education program at WSU. She is extremely interested in health and fitness and is beginning to train for a body building competition. There is a lot of energy packed into her small frame.

Rael will be at the front desk when she is not in class this summer. Lupe Gil will be filling in at times to answer the phone and answer questions.

Please remember to log out when you use the computers in the SSS lab and other labs on campus. If you do not, others can use your account, compromising your online security.

## THINGS TO DO BEFORE FALL SEMESTER STARTS

- When you have registered for Fall semester, submit a book loan request. You will not know until after August 15th what book you will be able to borrow, but it will give us time to plan for new purchases or publisher requests. We try to provide one book per student, but last minute requests may not be filled.
- Let us know if you plan to return in the fall. We need you to update your contact information so we can keep in touch with you.
- If you know your schedule, you can request tutoring before classes start in the fall.
- If you graduated in December '07 or May '08, let us know your plans. You can email us at [sss@weber.edu](mailto:sss@weber.edu)
- Read a good book, just for fun.
- Stay active and enjoy Utah outdoors.
- Strengthen relationships with people who support you in your school endeavors.
- Have a great summer!

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We have also added a memory workshop video on our website. In the future we will offer several workshops for those of you who cannot attend during regular hours or prefer to get the message delivered online. We will have a form that you can fill out on the website to confirm your workshop viewing. Get in the habit of checking your email for SSS information. You can have your Weber mail forwarded to the e-mail account you check most often. The bulletins are no longer sent to your e-mail account unless you make a request. You must check the announcements and events through the eWeber portal.



Our peer mentor, Bruce Davis, has designed a Myspace page for WSU SSS. This offers students the opportunity to make contacts with other students in the SSS program and share information with others at Weber State. If you would like us to add you as a friend to this account, request it through your own Myspace account or respond to the request sent to you by SSS. Check your eWeber student portal for announcements. We have an SSS group that posts announcements to participants who have registered with the SSS group. It allows us to personalize announcements for events that are of interest to our students.

<http://weber.edu/sss/>—SSS IN CYBERSPACE—  
[www.myspace/weberstatess](http://www.myspace/weberstatess)