



SSS Student Support Services Newsletter



February 2008

Student Highlight: Amanda Watkins

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Important Dates

- * February 1— SSS Helping Hands Club Meeting
- * February 11— HACU Internship Workshop
- * February 22— SSS Helping Hands Club meeting
- * February 27—7 Habits Class Begins

Amanda Watkins says that she is not the kind of person who gives up easily. It's tempting to be negative, she admits, but her optimism and positive attitude win out when it seems nothing is going her way.

Amanda juggles raising her two children and attending college, which she has done as a single parent while facing numerous health issues in the past few years. Amanda's face lights up as she talks about her biggest fans, her children, who keep her motivated and encouraged to achieve her goals.

Amanda received the Greeley Assistance League's Single Parent Scholarship this year.

She scrambled to meet the deadline after only finding out about it two days before the

that her successes have brought her the confidence to try.



Amanda has got to know the staff at Financial Aid by talking with people there and bringing her children by to meet them. She also applies for at least one scholarship every two weeks. When she writes essays for scholarships, Amanda says she thinks about her children and writes from the heart.

Amanda could not be a more grateful student.

She said that her children have had to make this sacrifice along with her, but with all of the support she has received, she knows she is learning, reaching for her goals, and being the best mom she can be.

She didn't give up even after she heard a "no" from the first person she asked to write a recommendation letter. She refused to let one setback discourage her completely. She says in the past she did not think she could ask for help or apply for scholarships. After a lot of hard work and dedication, she now feels

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SSS Helping Hands Club

I would like to take a minute to welcome everyone to the Student Support Services Helping Hands Club section in the newsletter. Watch for upcoming events, pictures and articles from the president and some of the other officers on different subjects. The 29th of February we became an official organized campus club. WOW, that is exciting. Come see what the

club is all about, look for the next club meeting on the white board in the SSS office and in the weekly updates. I am extending an open invitation for any SSS member to join the Helping Hands Club.

The next meeting will be Friday, February 22 at 1:00 in the SSS Office.



Dan Beal, SSS Helping Hands Club President



FAFSA and Scholarships

To receive financial aid in the 2008-2009 school year, you will need to fill out the **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) again using your 2007 taxes. The application can be filled out anytime after January 1, 2008. The priority deadline for financial aid is March 1. If you have your FAFSA in by then you have the greatest chance of receiving the most aid that you qualify for. *If you are transferring, it is especially important to have your FAFSA done by March 1.*

Representatives from Financial Aid will be in the Student Support Services office to assist you with your FAFSA! They will take appointments on Fridays in February

from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Call Frances Hernandez at (970) 339-6372 to make your appointment!

This is also the time to fill out scholarship applications. There are two iFocus workshops about scholarship searches offered this semester. **“Scholarships 101”** will be offered on Tuesday, February 5 at 1:10-2:00 pm in the College Center room #727 and Wednesday February 6 at 4:10-5:00 pm in the College Center room #729.

A big part of many scholarship applications is writing an essay or personal statement.



On **February 1 and 15 from 1:00-2:00 pm and February 8 from 2:30-4:00pm** Natalie Nelson will be available to work with you on this part of your application. If you would like to ask any questions about writing the essay, please stop

by!

United Way of Weld County is offering **free tax preparation** to qualified clients (seniors, low income, and disabled persons). Call the United Way number at 211 and they will connect you to the tax help site where you can make an appointment to get your taxes done.

7 Habits of Highly Effective College Students

Are you interested in learning how to find balance, put important things first, and take control of your life?

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective College Students helps students succeed by discovering a personal mission, setting goals, prioritizing tasks, and teaming with others.

Student Support Services is offering a 7

Habits of Highly Effective College Students workshop this semester just for students in

the program. The workshop will consist of three

class sessions in the three weeks prior to Spring Break. It will be held on **Wednes-**

**Wednesday February 27, March 5, and March 12
2:00-4:00 p.m.
Horizon Hall Room #342**

days February 27, March 5, and March 12 at 2:00-4:00 p.m. in Horizon Hall Room #342.

Please RSVP to Frances Hernandez at (970) 339-6654 if you are planning to attend. This workshop series counts as an activity needed for grant eligibility.

Attend this powerful workshop and learn how to create habits that lead to success!

February iFocus Workshops

There are some great iFocus workshops being offered in February!

Since it is FAFSA and scholarship time, workshops about money start off the month. **“Show Me The Money! Scholarships 101”**

will be held on the Greeley campus Tuesday, February 5 at 1:10-2:00pm in the College Center room #727 and Wednesday, February 6 at 4:10-5:00pm in the College



iFocus!
Educational Workshops Brought to you by STAR, TRIO and ASACC

Center room #729.

If you want to know more about internet research, attend the **“E-Savvy Techniques-Web Research”** workshop.

This will be held on the Greeley campus on Wednesday, February 20 at 2:10-3:00pm in the College Center room #727.

“Top 10 Ways to Study Smarter”, which will include a free grab bag gift as part of the workshop, will be offered on the **Love-land** campus on Thursday, February 7 at 4:10-5:00pm in Room #101 and in **Fort Lupton** on Wednesday, February 13 at 4:10-5:00pm in Room #101.

Remember, all iFocus workshops count toward the two activities you need to be eligible for the Student Support Services grant. Hope to see you at the workshops!

Tutoring Corner by Kim Wallin

As we head into February, one-to-one tutoring is underway and going very well. Requests for one-to-one will continue to be accepted throughout the semester. Tutoring is available for math, English and science (both computer science and the life sciences). It is always worth asking for other subjects as I can often find a tutor who is willing to take on something new.

How do you know if you need one-to-one help? I'm so glad you asked. If you have been feeling comfortable in a class and suddenly find a concept confusing or can't follow a lecture, I would recommend you head directly to the drop-in

labs. Don't move on hoping to catch up or figure it out later. There is seldom time to go back and the missing information makes it more difficult to understand what follows. (I call this the Swiss cheese effect) After working with a drop-in tutor if you feel you need more help, stop by and request a one-to-one tutor. Continue to use the drop-in lab while the arrangements are being made. You can request a tutor for a short period of time or for the entire semester.

Once you are working with a tutor it is very important to show up for the scheduled appointments. Our tutors are paid by the hour. If you call and cancel, they

don't get paid! If you don't call and don't show they do get paid, but that means the tutoring budget is being depleted without anyone receiving any benefits. Either way you're missing out by not being there. If you don't have homework to complete don't skip tutoring. That's the perfect opportunity to begin reviewing, to clarify any lingering questions you may have from a previous session or actually work ahead.

If you have any questions about tutoring, please feel free to stop by or call me at 339-6383. Happy studying.

Valentine's Day Potluck!

Please join us for a very sweet Student Support Services Valentine's Day Potluck on **Thursday, February 14th from 11:00a.m.– 2:00p.m. in the SSS Office (Horizon Hall 344).**

If you like, please bring a dish to share!

We look forward to seeing you at this annual event!



Tutor Tip

Even a well written paper can receive a poor grade if it does not follow the assignments guidelines. If you are not sure what the instructor is asking for, ask him/her as soon as possible and write down the information. Repeat the information back to the instructor to make sure you understood exactly what is being asked for. It's better to feel a little foolish asking for clarification than it is to write an entire paper incorrectly.

*by Jared Merk
from the Writing Lab.*

HACU Internship Informational Workshop

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) is accepting applications for summer and semester-long paid internships at federal agencies and private corporations in Washington, DC and other parts of the country. To apply, you must have a 3.0 GPA and have completed your Freshman year of college. You can apply online at: <http://www.hnip.net>.

The deadline for summer semester is

February 22, 2008.

Kathy Rocha, a former Student Support Services student and Aims graduate, will be presenting information from her internship experience and answering your questions on **Monday, February 11th from 1:00-2:00pm in the SSS Office, Horizon 344.**



SSS Student Support Services

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Horizon Hall #344

Phone: 970-339-6372
Fax: 970-506-6937

We're on the web!

<http://www.aims.edu/student/>

The Student Support Services (SSS) program provides opportunities for academic development, assists students with basic college requirements, and serves to motivate students towards the successful completion of their postsecondary education. The SSS program may also provide grant aid to eligible SSS participants who are receiving Federal Pell Grants. The goal of SSS is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants and facilitate the process of transition from one level of higher education to the next.

Services provided by the program include:

- Instruction in basic study skills
- Tutorial services
- Academic Advising
- Assistance in securing admission and financial aid for enrollment in four-year institutions
- Information about career options
- Mentoring

Direct financial assistance (grant aid) to eligible SSS participants who are receiving Federal Pell Grants.

Your Student Support Services Staff

Director:

Therese Lask
970-339-6273

Academic Advisor:

Natalie Nelson
970-339-6654

Tutoring and Mentoring

Coordinator:

Kim Wallin
970-339-6383

Staff Associate:

Frances Hernandez
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