Greetings!

We are excited about our first newsletter, Success Express, which will inform the campus community about the exciting things taking place with academic student support services.

Our mission is to support students in every aspect of their lives at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. We offer outstanding academic student services that support the student’s academic and social interactions.

All our services are free for current undergraduate and graduate students and we have something for every University student, from those wishing to maintain a high GPA to those students who may find themselves struggling a bit to get through the end of the semester.

Our many offices are staffed by dedicated and talented professionals who understand the needs of today’s college students and how to promote student success inside and outside of the classroom.

Our common ground is our commitment to providing great academic support services to our students. I am thankful for the opportunity to work with such a wonderful staff that cares deeply for our students.

Please visit our websites to learn more about our services. We encourage you to check out our services designed to help you meet your academic goals. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Dr. Gerardo Moreno
Assistant Vice President for Student Success

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**SAVE THE DATE:**
TRIO McNair Scholars Poster Presentation
April 16th: 9:00 am-12:00 pm
University Center Ballroom
Student Support Services (SSS) provides assistance in meeting students’ academic, career, cultural, personal, and social needs. Director, Carmen Ortiz, and recent additions to the staff, welcome students of all backgrounds to apply and utilize available services. SSS offers extended time tutoring in Math, English, & Science, financial aid advice and assistance, laptop lending library, self-improvement workshops, and field trip opportunities. One recent cultural and educational trip brought students to San Antonio for a graduate program tour at Our Lady of the Lake University. SSS program attributes increased student participation to the availability of travel functions such as this.

Current SSS students are excited to take advantage of the recently initiated Laptop Lending Library. With so many classes being technology-based, these laptops offer students the convenience of completing their schoolwork from home. Additionally, the SSS computer lab is fully functioning for students; it serves as a central location for schoolwork, tutoring, workshops, or other presentations.

Most importantly, the caring and knowledgeable staff of SSS is proud to have had 8 students graduate this past fall, and looks forward to helping more students reach that ever-important milestone.

Dr. Rosales, Director of the ELITE Program, is making waves here at the Island University with her exceptional work acquiring funds to enhance the graduate student experience. Rosales has been leading grant-writing initiatives and seminars for the South Texas community for over 6 years. After completing her Ed.D. in Education Leadership at the University in 2008, Rosales was determined to write her first grant. A year later, she scored a five-year $2.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education Title V-PPOHA - Promoting Post-Baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans, which she oversees. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi was one of only 22 schools in the nation to win the award. Through grant writing and program management, Dr. Rosales has dedicated herself to the development of nationally recognized programs that promote student excellence in learning by working hard to expand educational opportunities, improve academic attainment, and enhance the quality of programs for students.
The Title V Program has been awarded a $4.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) STEM and Articulation Program to increase the retention and graduation rates of Hispanic and low-income students who are pursuing a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) related degree.

The funds will be utilized to improve and expand the University's capacity to serve all Hispanic, first generation, and low-income students who are either transferring from a community college into a STEM program, or are first time college students in a STEM field at the University.

The University's STEM Outreach, Access, and Retention (SOAR) project works to increase the percentage of Hispanic students seeking STEM degrees, while raising the number of those students who transfer from an HSI community college to an HSI university. Students are required to graduate within six years of enrollment. SOAR will accomplish its objectives through a three-pronged approach that includes capacity building through renovations and upgrades to facilities, a retention program to keep students succeeding, an articulation program, and a faculty development program to enhance the overall teaching capabilities and classroom environment.

"These funds will assist us in developing a STEM Success Center that will serve as a one-stop shop for numerous retention strategies for our Hispanic students," said Dr. Gerardo Moreno, Assistant Vice President for Student Success. "We will also build collaborative STEM partnerships with Del Mar College, Coastal Bend College, and Victoria College for students who transfer to the University to study these specific fields."

"I have no qualms about asking for help", she says comfortably. Although Perez does not consider herself a non-traditional student in the sense that she had exposure to the college experience, she acknowledges differences in the college climate. After 20 years spent serving in the Navy, collegiate level education seems significantly more technology based, says Perez.

To help adjust to the widespread use of technology, Perez takes advantage of available campus resources. She accesses the computer lab and tutoring services offered through the SOAR program. “It’s my classroom away from my classroom”, states Perez. She also frequents the Bell Library as she finds the knowledgeable employees very helpful in finding professional journals to use.

In order to be successful, Perez has utilized the resources made available to her and encourages others to do the same. Perez strongly believes in “befriending others who can help”. Also, perhaps most important in Perez’ eyes is not only to attend class, but to “be interactive with professors”. Looks like Perez is on the track to success!
The Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA) offers an array of services including tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, the Writing Center, Math Lab, and help with completing Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements.

CASA is also proud to offer the Academic Insight Mentor (AIM) programs headed by Jason Dubose, Assistant Director for CASA. AIM has nine peer mentors that are working with a cohort of First Year Islanders. The AIM peer mentors guide their students through each semester to the most successful completion possible.

Things are chugging along over at the Center for Academic Student Achievement’s Writing Center. In addition to writing consultations, they have already facilitated 26 fifty-minute writing workshops, with a total of over 600 writers in workshop attendance. Fall brought the launch of our new website: http://casa.tamucc.edu/wc.php. Information, Q&A’s, and our online scheduling system is located on this site so writers have convenient access to our services.

Supplemental Instruction (SI) is an academic assistance program that increases student performance, retention and graduation rates. The SI program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi targets large entry-level core curriculum courses and provides regularly scheduled, out-of-class review sessions. CASA also offers help with reading comprehension as a collaboration with Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) and the College of Education. Students can visit CASA for all their academic needs.

"Success doesn't come to you. You go to it." Marva Collins
ELITE

Whether a student, faculty, or staff member, the ELITE Graduate Program is here to serve you! Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, ELITE is designed to enhance the quality of your experience at Texas A&M-CC. ELITE offers a multitude of educational programs and activities to help navigate through your degree, technological and research advancements, career decisions, and unexpected situations that happen in life.

Here are just a few of the programs ELITE offers:

- Fellowship Research
- GradLife Coaching
- Grant Writing Resources
- Laptop Lending
- Statistics Tutoring
- Travel Funding

Having access to these resources and services is just another way that ELITE wants to make it easier to expand educational opportunities and help prepare Texas A & M -CC for the future. ELITE strives to engage the campus community in learning about the latest technology and research.

More information about the ELITE Graduate Program can be found at elite.tamucc.edu.

McNair Scholars

The McNair Scholars Program is a TRiO federally-funded program assisting low-income, first-generation college students and underrepresented groups that have demonstrated strong academic potential to matriculate, persist, and graduate with a baccalaureate degree and pursue a doctoral degree. Also Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi received a fifth –year funding award in the amount of $212,710.00. This award provides the necessary funds for McNair scholar academic excellence. There will be 18 scholars in the summer research component and each scholar will receive $2800.00 to complete their research.

The McNair Scholars Program is highly interactive. Comprised of both an academic and a summer research component which requires scholars to complete a series of assignments that prepare students to enter and succeed in graduate programs. During the summer research component, students forge a relationship with a faculty mentor while conducting research. Scholars present their research findings at professional and academic conferences, where they benefit from the interchange of ideas with others working in related areas. Participants receive a $2800.00 summer research stipend and travel funds to attend these conferences.

Q: What is the #1 key to success in college?
A: Take responsibility for your own learning.

See more valuable advice in this article: 88 Surefire Tips for Succeeding in College (http://oedb.org/library/college-basics/88-surefire-tips)
“A man who has never gone to school may steal from a freight car; but if he has a university education, he may steal the whole railroad.”

~Theodore Roosevelt~

Look for our next edition of Success Express rolling into your inbox the first week of April!