Welcome from Paula Perez
Coordinator of Accommodative Services

Big News! We have FINALLY and officially changed our name. We are now the DCC Office of Accommodative Services. Recognizing the stigma attached to the word "disability," and that students don’t identify as being disabled, we wanted to remove that barrier and enable more students feel comfortable using accommodations and services they are entitled to by law. We also wanted a name that reflects our function and role towards equal access. We offer the same comprehensive accommodations and services and look forward to a positive and engaging relationship with our students.

Grad Empowers People in Our Community

2012 DCC Grad Mandi Sheraden, who worked in our Employment Circle and also as a student aide in the Office of Counseling and Career Services, is the new Independent Living Specialist at Taconic Resources for Independence (TRI). TRI was one of four agencies where Mandi interned for her Associates degree in Community Mental Health. At TRI, Mandi delivers core services at Independent Living Centers. She promotes self-help, equal access, peer role modeling, personal growth and empowerment to help TRI’s clients make informed choices about living, learning, and working.

Student Excels in Sports & School

Exercise Science and Wellness major Brittany Hilton received the 2012 SUNY Chancellor’s Student Athlete Award and the 2011 Academic All NJCAA Award for her work at DCC as a student and athlete on the track and cross country teams. She is pictured here with her coach Marc Lofarro.

Contact Us:

Paula Perez: Coordinator, 845-431-8058
Linda Bertolozzi: Career/Advocacy Counselor, 845-431-8056
NEW Main Number: 845-790-3631
Main Office: SSB 303
Monday through Friday, 8:30 am-5 pm, Wednesday to 7 pm
Adaptive Technology Lab, SSB 305
Monday through Friday, 9 am-5 pm
Deborah Herring: Administrative Assistant, 845-790-3631
Monday through Friday, 9 am-5 pm
Mary Koniz Arnold: Academic Tutor
Tuesday 8 am-noon & 2-6 pm, Friday 2-5 pm
Dawn Buchal, Math Tutor
Monday through Thursday 1-4 pm

Important Dates for Fall 2012

Monday, Aug. 27
Credit classes begin

Saturday, Sept. 1-Monday, Sept. 3
Labor Day Holiday, College closed

Saturday, Oct. 6-Tuesday Oct. 9
No credit classes. College open Mon. & Tues.

Wednesday, Oct. 10
Monday make-up day for Day Credit Classes

Monday, Nov. 5
Last date to withdraw from a SINGLE course with a "W"

Wednesday, Nov. 21
College closes at 5:15 PM
NO EVENING CREDIT CLASSES

Thursday, Nov. 22-Sunday, Nov. 25
Thanksgiving Recess College closed

Friday, Dec. 7
Last date to withdraw from ALL courses with a "W"

Friday, Dec. 14
Last day of regularly scheduled DAY credit classes

Monday, Dec. 10- Wednesday, Dec. 19
Day Evaluation and Exam period

Monday, Dec. 17 – Wednesday, Dec. 19
Day block final exam period
Hard Work Really Does Pay Off

Dan Galage finished his DCC career with a Spring semester GPA of 3.92 GPA. That would be amazing for anyone, but for Dan, it was an astounding accomplishment.

A Hopewell Junction resident, Dan had graduated from John Jay High School in 2008. His first college classes that fall were at DCC South. The satellite site was convenient, but it wasn’t the best place for him to start his academic career. “It felt like 13th grade,” said Dan. “It didn’t feel like college.” But, since it was college, “we were given all the freedom in the world. I didn’t know what that meant and I didn’t use it wisely.” Dan missed a LOT of classes, and failed a lot of them too. “My GPA my first semester was 0.00. My mom wondered what was going on.”

Connecting with the Office of Accommodative Services and Coordinator Paula Perez helped Dan make a 180 degree turn, academically. “Paula took me under her scary wing.” That included insisting that Dan focus on his school work and use the accommodations available to him through the office. She provided advisement for making his academic schedules, and she also offered him a job as a student aide with the Employment Circle, a grant-funded program that allows students using accommodative services to work as office assistants, test proctors, and peer tutors.

“When I started working here it was a big help,” said Dan, who proctors tests in the adaptive technology lab and frequently speaks to incoming students the College’s yearly transition workshop for high school students and orientation for new students who plan to use accommodative services. “It was a base to go to, so you could get your bearings. It was a close knit community, and there was a sense of identity working here.” The staff was easily accessible and generous with their time. “When I needed someone, Paula and Linda (Bertolozzi, access & equity counselor) were here to help me.”

With steadily improving grades, Dan set his sights on transferring to a four-year school. He considered going into nursing, but in the end chose psychology. This fall he will be a junior at SUNY Plattsburgh. “When I started at Dutchess, they recommended I choose LAH (Liberal Arts and Humanities) as the most transferrable.” The strategy worked, he said. “It’s beautiful how the credits synch. I basically have all my general education requirements done and can concentrate on psychology classes at Plattsburgh.” He is excited about transferring to the school and working with teachers there who seem very accessible.

At Plattsburgh, he’ll be building on some solid classroom experiences and student-teacher relationships he made at Dutchess. “Public speaking—it’s a class I would recommend it to everybody,” said Dan. “It’s a big part of the reason why I’m good at speaking at orientation. It helped me get past the fear of speaking, and it helped me become a more social person.”

Dan, who holds a second job cleaning cars at Pleasantville Ford in Westchester County, sees a very practical side to his academic achievement in the form of career opportunities. “When the A’s start coming in, you see dollar signs, future stability, and comfort. Nobody likes doing homework, but there is satisfaction when the grades come. If you put the effort in, it will be worth it.”

Back To School Check-List: Did You—

- Complete any outstanding Financial Aid Paperwork?
- Confirm Your Transportation Options?
- Check Your MyDCC Account for Important Information?
- Visited Security for your photo ID and Parking Pass?

Pick Up Your Letter of Accommodation?
Double Check Days and Times for your Courses?
Buy Your Books and School Supplies?

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