

SMC In Focus Logo



Issue 1 | January 27, 2015

Counseling



NOT A SURPRISE: COUNSELING AND STUDENT SUCCESS

"I can't say that I was totally surprised," says Health Sciences Counselor Janet Robinson. "It was just great to see numbers supporting what SMC counselors believe about the impact of our work on students."

SMC's Institutional Research recently conducted a study which threw up some not surprising but very gratifying data for the counseling department.

Take this for example: A large majority of first-time freshmen (87%) and reverse transfers (76%) received counseling services by the end of their initial fall term ("reverse transfers" refer to students who transfer from four-year universities to community colleges, most often for financial reasons). And those that did go to a counselor then, increased their odds of persisting through a coming spring and fall semesters by over 200%!

"Students who go on to success often say that what made the difference between staying in school and dropping out was making a connection with one person who mentored them – and very often this is a counselor," says Laurie Guglielmo, Counseling Department Chair.

Brenda Benson, Dean of Counseling, credits a lot of this success to strong support from SMC as an institution – "more so than other community colleges," says Benson. Also, she says, within the department there has always been a genuine

commitment to innovation and student success. The data backs up what they have always known anecdotally.

“While the evidence indicates a clear relationship between counseling contact and success for first-time SMC students, the relationship is correlational and does not imply a cause-and-effect between meeting with a counselor and success,” says Hannah Lawler, Dean of Institutional Research. “Still, the data favorably supports the finding that students who meet with counselors are much more successful than students who do not.” As for the counseling department, the results of this study has come as a big boost.

“It definitely lets us know we’re moving in the right direction!” says Benson.

Hi-Tech Image



Hi-Tech SMC

SMC gets \$1.6 million to train students in Information, Communication & Technology jobs – and were instrumental in forming a regional alliance that got a total of \$15 million. [Read More](#)

Courtney Pierce Image



In focus: Courtney Pierce

Thirteen years. From working two part-time custodian jobs to being a supervisor. [Read More](#)

Cosmetology



Hair Ye, Hair Ye

The next time your eyebrows are going crazy or your hair is past the point of no return, you can stop by the cosmetology department's full service salon! [Read More](#)

Bragging Rights



SMC Bragging Rights

An English professor wins a grant from the oldest feminist agency, SMC's favorite nurse gets a Lifetime Achievement Award and more! [Read More](#)

Fall Photo



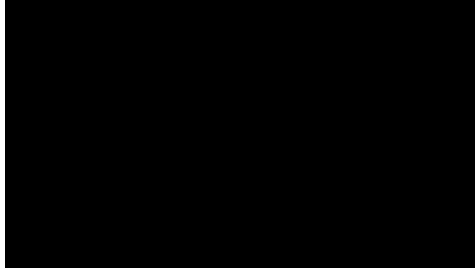
Fall Photo Contest

From a squirrel who badly wanted Flex Day cookies to fall leaves and old abandoned chairs, you proved that SMC's diversity extends to your photography talent. [Read More](#)

missed information

YouTube Videos





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