

A huge thank you to the following for supporting the Tutor Program, the Tutors' Training Day, and most importantly, the Tutors:

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*Makes a Difference!*

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Spring 2016

# TRB The Tutor Review



*Assisting  
students  
along their  
educational  
path*

## The Tutor Program Challenge

To actively engage students in their learning, and to tutor students in such a manner that they eventually become confident, independent learners.

## A Special Thanks to Our Tutors:

Brandy Anders	David Parker	Amanda Stafford
Luxi Arenas Petty	Everett Parris	Molly Suminski
Gabrielle Beam	David Parton	Elizabeth Vickery
Ryan Bennett	Rebecca Prichard	Sarah Westmoreland
Debra Cumbie	Valerie Queen	George Whisnant
Karina Dominguez	Danielle Roberts	Rosie Young
Eileen Kessler	Carol Scott	



*It is not what we do that helps our students succeed or fail, but what we empower them to do for themselves!*

### Message to the Tutors

The beginning of this semester certainly presented some challenges with snow/ice, college closures, late openings, early closings, and missed classes and tutorial sessions.

However, your concern for student persistence and achievement had many of you offering make-up sessions and extended time. Several of you offered to meet during spring break, and some dedicated students accepted the offer—coming to campus to work with you on challenges they face with course material.

As I walk through the Tutoring Room I see you using the strategies and techniques you learned through training workshops. You encourage students to work through problems and engage them in the process. Sometimes your encouragement is all that students need to persevere. You are their champion!

One of the most rewarding times I spend with tutors, aside from training workshops, is the semester meetings. During this time, you each share some of the challenges you face and look to each other for suggestions. I listen as you discuss various tutoring strategies. It is gratifying to listen to your excitement as you relate those moments when students finally grasp a concept or figure out a problem. It is evident how rewarding this is for you!

I am so honored to work with such a dedicated group of individuals. The time and energy you put into this program and the students you work with are much more than the time you log on your time sheets. I know many of you spend extra moments answering the panic text messages from your tutees the night before an exam, or replying to your tutees' email messages on the weekend because they are "stuck" on a challenging problem.

The vision of SCC's Tutor Program certainly shines through in your performance as a tutor. This program is, "... recognized as a valuable academic support service among faculty, staff and students at Southwestern Community College" because of you! Additionally, this program aims for a 70% success rate each semester, and every semester the program exceeds this goal. For fall semester 2015, the Tutor Program success rate was **86.0%**. Congratulations to each of you for outstanding work.

Thank you for all you do and for being an invaluable part of SCC's tutor team,  
Laurie

### TUTOR STATISTICS

Spring Semester ~ as of April 15, 2016

Number of Tutoring Relationships Established .....	118
Unduplicated Student Count .....	101
Number of Tutoring Hours .....	1,020*
Tutoring Expenditures including training .....	\$10,567
<u>Cumulative</u> Success Rate .....	81.3%

\* Individual student hours; does not account for group work

### Spring Semester All-Day Tutor Training ~ January 15th

- *Review Level I Topics*
- *Engaged Learning*
- *Identifying and Using Campus Resources*  
Presenters: **Peter Buck**, Student Disability/Academic Engagement Coordinator & Counselor; **Michael Despeaux**, Career Planning & Placement Coordinator; **Toni Knott**, LAC Coordinator; **Erin McCully**, e-Learning Specialist; **Tracy Musick**, Librarian
- *Restorative Power of Nature*  
Presenter: Mark Ellison, Director, Student Support Services
- *Handling Challenging Tutorial Situations/Students*  
Role Play with Veteran Tutors
- *Jeopardy – Tutor Training Review Game*

### Semester Training Workshops

#### *Developing Self-Efficacy in Self and Others*

Presenter: Sarah Altman, Human Services/Substance Abuse Program Coordinator and Instructor

#### *Plagiarism and Research Strategies*

Presenters: Jennifer Hippensteel, SCC English Instructor, and Tracy Musick, SCC Librarian

#### *Fostering Critical Thinking Skills in Tutees*

Presenter: Mary Lockey, Intake Coordinator and Transfer Advisor, Student Support Service

#### *Dynamics & Strategies of Group Tutoring*

Presenter: Laurie Butler, Tutor Program Coordinator

### Evaluation Comments from Student Tutees

“Although my tutoring sessions consist of a group, [my tutor] had a positive attitude on giving each of us her individual attention. She went beyond and above not only giving me the tools and strategies needed to help me in this course, but also help me identify my strength and weakness. ... She gave me similar problems to work with that pertain to my assignment to better help me understand the concept. I will recommend her to any individual. Thank you.”

“This has been a most rewarding experience. [My tutor] has helped me over and above expectations. He has especially helped me understand the material in common sense ways that make it easy to do assignments on my own. I am grateful for this program.... Thank you!”

“My tutor was amazing. She helped and gave me the knowledge I needed to pass a class I didn't think I would ever be able to pass. I will be graduating in December thanks to her help with this class.”



“I love the fact that SCC provides tutoring and the LAC for students, because it helps us greatly! There are many others I see who do take advantage of the opportunities offered! It has greatly helped me improve and [my tutor] has been a fantastic tutor for me! Thank You!!

“[My tutor] was awesome, is awesome, and I highly recommend he continue helping students here thrive.”

“ [My tutor] is a great tutor. She is patient and caring and I know she will be a great teacher.

“[My tutor] was of incredible help and I consider her skill and care for the students to be a true asset to Southwestern Community College. With out her help, I would probably have dropped math class and possibly one other class. Her patience is truly inspiring and makes me wish she were an instructor on a full time basis. “

“I was very satisfied with how quickly I was assigned a tutor. I did the tutoring application and was set up with a tutor the very next day. Being able to talk through my assignments and my study material with someone is very helpful for me and has improved my grades.”



## Meet our **NEW** Tutors



**Name:** *Amanda Stafford*  
**Currently attending** SCC  
**Major:** Pre-Nursing  
**Subject Specialties:** Math & Science



**Name:** *Angela "Rosie" Young*  
**Currently attending** SCC  
**Major:** Associate in Arts/College Transfer  
**Subject Specialties:** Math & Spanish

## *SCC's Tutor Program's:*

### *Vision*

To be recognized as a valuable academic support service among faculty, staff and students at Southwestern Community College.

### *Mission*

The Tutor Program at Southwestern Community College is an academic support system designed to help curriculum students achieve success by providing high quality tutorial assistance to meet their academic needs. Our mission seeks to encourage and facilitate independent learning and critical thinking skills that can help students be successful in their current educational pursuits, academic tenure, and future careers.



### *Goals*

- Offer high-quality academic tutorial support
- Improve student retention, reduce course withdrawal/failure rates, and achieve a minimum 70% success rate in the courses in which students receive tutoring
- Create a learning environment that presents material according to students' learning needs and styles, helps boost student self-confidence, and demonstrates a positive attitude toward learning
- Reinforce and clarify classroom instruction and textbook lessons to enhance students' understanding of course material
- Provide opportunities to develop and improve study strategies
- Engage students in their learning and present tutorial support in a manner that helps them achieve the necessary skills to become more independent, self-directed, and successful individuals
- Establish a safe, engaging environment that promotes student achievement and academic excellence

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*The most important outcome in a tutor session is not necessarily the answer, but the process that helps the student discover the answer.*