

## Benefits of an SCC Degree Added Up for WCU Student

When Melody Bruce graduated from Tuscola High School in 2011 with a 4.5 GPA she was uncertain what the next step in her life would be. Enrolling in college sounded like a good option but she did not like the thought of paying a lot in tuition when she was still undecided on a major. Melody states, "My sister was a student at SCC and told me that everyone there was so helpful and how the teachers and courses were phenomenal. A little research of my own revealed that SCC was one of the top community colleges around and I was sold. I decided that getting an Associates in Arts College Transfer degree at SCC would prepare me for a university, save me a bunch of money in the process, and help me decide on a major." Two years later she graduated from the honors program with an Associate in Arts degree and an acceptance letter to Western in hand.



Melody Bruce on her way to the first day of classes at WCU

### A Smooth Transition to WCU

Melody is majoring in mathematics at Western and says "I have always loved the subject because math just makes sense to me. I never really considered a career in math because I'm not much of a teacher and I didn't think I could do anything else with a degree in math." While at SCC, she had the opportunity to take a sequence of calculus courses with "the amazing" Vance Waggener which opened her eyes to the world of mathematics as a career in fields such as engineering, actuary sciences and research.

"The transition from SCC to WCU was smoother than I ever thought possible. My entire degree transferred so I didn't have to repeat classes, and in fact, all liberal studies requirements were waived at Western,"

Melody states. The honors credit she earned at SCC opened the doors for her to automatically be accepted to Western's Honors College.

Melody has discovered that incredible opportunities are abundantly available everywhere at WCU. "I wrote a research paper in my History of Math class. The teacher of the course happened to be a lead organizer for a history of math conference, and asked me to give a presentation about my paper." While at the conference she learned about an undergraduate research journal seeking papers. With her teachers support, she submitted her paper and it was accepted. "Through a serendipitous series of events, I have had the honor and privilege of being published, which may help me get into graduate school. I want to earn a doctoral degree in math and either work in research or teach at the university level," says Melody.

### Utilize the Resources at SCC

Melody suggests SCC students thinking about transferring to Western should take advantage of all the resources SCC makes available. "Go to the University Transfer Advising Center, talk with Student Support Services, and apply for all the scholarships you can. I was fortunate in being able to attend a "transfer days" event through Student Support Services in which I got to visit WCU, take a tour, and meet with the department head of my area of interest, all of which was invaluable. Also, talk with your professors and advisors who are full of information. All you have to do is voice your questions and people will offer answers."

### About Student Support Services at SCC

Student Support Services at Southwestern Community College assists students in achieving their goal of graduating from SCC and/or transferring to a senior institution. The program supports students in dealing effectively with all aspects of college life. Services are provided free for students who meet eligibility requirements. Eligibility for Student Support Services is based upon students demonstrating a need for academic support and at least one of the following criteria: Be a first generation college student; meet income eligibility guidelines; or have a documented ADA disability.

Student Support Services is a federally funded, Department of Education TRIO Program which provides SCC \$1 million in financial support to assist students in graduating and transferring. Learn how Student Support Services can assist you by calling 828.339.4420 or emailing Susan Bradshaw at [s\\_bradshaw@southwesterncc.edu](mailto:s_bradshaw@southwesterncc.edu).

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Double your chance of graduating!

Student Support Services participants graduate at twice the rate of the general student body at SCC.

### Services Include

Academic Co-Advising

Financial Literacy & Scholarship Workshops

Tutoring

Transfer Initiatives

Supplemental Grant Aid

Academic, Personal and Career Counseling

Volunteer & Civic Involvement

Cultural Enrichment

Resource Loan Program

Referral Service

