

We had Loads of Fun on our Recent Campus Visits!



Pictured Left to Right:

EXCEL Director -
 Laura Skillings,
 Josh Jerz,
 Elham Amawi,
 Tamara Apple,
EXCEL Counselor -
 Anne Springsteen,
 Michelle Shouse,
 Shawanda Landfair,
 David Sinkiewicz,
 Terrance Jamison,
 Kevin Holmes,
 Stephanie Baginske,
 Annette Jenkins.

EXCEL Counselors are an Awesome Resource for Transfer Students!

Did you know that the transfer process starts as early as your first semester at SMC? Will all of your credits transfer to your four-year school of choice?

Make an appointment with your EXCEL Counselor to discuss these and other transfer topics. Together, you can determine which four-year schools are a good choice for your major, interests, and resources.

Discover easy to use websites that tell you which of your SMC classes transfer and what they transfer as to your choice of universities. Learn about important dates for applications and financial aid. Ask your EXCEL Counselor to write a letter to your transfer school asking that the application fee be waived.

Watch for information about future EXCEL Campus Visits to area universities for a chance to experience the campus culture firsthand!



Pictured Left to Right at the MSU Museum are:

Diego Cano,
David Sinkiewicz,
EXCEL Retention Specialist -
 Laura Hoover,
 Brandy Bowen,
 Terrance Jamison,
 Josh Jerz,
EXCEL Counselor -
 Anne Springsteen
 &
 Terrance Jamison
 Josh Jerz

Call us for
 Valuable
 Transfer
 Advising and
 Assistance!

EXCEL NEWSLETTER

- Southwestern Michigan College -

~ January 2010 ~

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Need Extra Cash This Semester?



The EXCEL Winter scholarship application has been sent to each of you via e-mail. You must print your e-mail if you wish to apply. Also, please note that there are basic qualifications you must meet to be eligible to apply. The requirements are outlined in the application. Before turning in your essay, make sure that you have read all of the directions *carefully* to be certain that you have completed everything exactly as directed, or you could be disqualified.

Like all scholarships, ours is designed to be a competition... so be sure to take your essay seriously and do your very best!

Remember, students, if you do not submit an application you will *definitely not* be awarded a scholarship! So, we encourage you to participate in this scholarship competition. If you have any questions, please contact your EXCEL Counselor. **You have nothing to lose and everything to gain!**

So... On Your Mark! Get Set! Go!

~ Application Deadline Is Monday, March 15, 2010 ~

Join Our Peer Mentor Team

We are looking for EXCEL students interested in becoming Peer Mentors for the 2010 Fall Semester. Peer mentors work with new EXCEL students assisting them in making a successful transition to college and learning about EXCEL services. Peer mentors work up to five hours a week through the college work-study program. EXCEL students interested in applying must meet the following criteria:

- Successful completion of 20 – 30 credit hours by the end of Spring 2010 Term
- Be registered for at least 6 credit hours for Fall 2010 Term
- GPA of 2.75 or better
- Qualify for work-study financial aid
- Possess good communication and interpersonal skills
- Interest in helping others to successfully meet educational goals



Applications for the peer mentor program are available at the EXCEL office located in the CSBG, Room # 2010, on the Dowagiac campus and the Main office on the Niles Campus. If you have any questions please contact Laura Hoover, EXCEL Retention Specialist, at Lhoover@swmich.edu or 269-782-1491.

EXCEL Students Give a Day of Service to Help Fight Homelessness with the Habitat for Humanity Program!



Each year EXCEL students strive to help others achieve the American dream by volunteering at a Habitat home!



Pictured: Chestney Igert, Joshua Jerz, Tim Solloway. Other participants include: Diatra Baker, Kaity Bicard, Cami Morris, Leslie Michael, Ebonie Strickland and Angel Brown. *Your help was truly appreciated!*

Congratulations on an "EXCEL'ent" Job . . .

EXCEL Students Earn a Spot on the President's & Dean's List

Casey Bell	Diatra Baker	Melissa Fox	Kristina Lemon	Samantha Waldschmidt
Benjamin Cabe	Apple Batang	Amber Fries	Dana Miller	Amber Wallace
Wendy Davis	Kaitlyn Bicard	Chestney Igert	Nicole Miller	John White
Matthew Eby	Brandy Bowen	Caleb Jorgensen	Judith Owen	Dewey Young
Christina Hinton	Elizabeth Bralick	Amber Kirby	Charline Pethick	
Joshua Jerz	Angel Brown	Shelly LaPorte	Marsha Robinson	<i>These students may stop in the EXCEL office to receive a free USB thumb drive! Great job!</i>
Velma Kelley	Thressa Carpenter	Dawn Langley	Michelle Shouse	
Loretta Smith	Londa Collins	Valerie LeVan	Nicole Skudlarek	
Melinda Yakim	Rebecca Wendzel	Kassandra Leitz	Nicole Syson	

An EXCEL Trip to the Kalamazoo Air Zoo Lifted our Spirits & Expanded our Horizons!



Pictured: Mason & Erica McMillen, Angelenia Shivers, Laura Skillings, Michelle Shouse, Jenyl Heckman, Faith Fultz, Diatra Baker & Faith Fultz taking a spin!



Schedule of EXCEL Activities

~ January 2010 ~



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day ~ Monday, January 18th, Mathews Library Media Room, 1:00 p.m. If you have a dream of being inspired by this historical figure's most famous speech, join us for this video presentation! *Please RSVP by January 18th.*

Study Skills Boot Camp ~ Tuesday, January 19th at 11:00 a.m., CSBG, Room # 2014. Learn valuable tips and tricks to help you maximize your study time. *Please RSVP by January 18th.*

Get Your Read On! ~ Wednesday, January 20th, Mathew Library, 2:00 p.m. The Mathews Library is the place to find all of your answers. Learn how to use the library to its fullest potential. *Please RSVP by January 19th.*

Transfer Workshop ~ NAC ~ Monday, January 25th at 3:00 p.m., Room # 130. Take action now to learn how to create your transfer plans! *Please RSVP by January 22nd.*

~ February 2010 ~



Campus Visit to IUSB ~ Wednesday, February, 10th. The van will be leaving Dowagiac Campus at 7:45 a.m. and NAC at 8:15 a.m. for an orientation and tour of IUSB's campus. Lunch will be provided. Limited to 10 students. *Please RSVP by February 3rd.*

Financial Aid Workshop ~ This workshop will be offered on both campuses - NAC, Tuesday, February 16th, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., Rooms 156 & 149 and Dowagiac campus, Wednesday, February 17th, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m., CSBG, Room # 2014. Learn more about Financial Aid and get help completing your FAFSA. *Please RSVP by February 15th.*

SMC Winter Musical ~ Friday, February 20th, Lyons Bldg., Showtime - 7:30 p.m. Bring a friend and enjoy the SMC Theatre production of "Guys & Dolls". *You must RSVP by February 12th if you want us to purchase tickets for you.* Otherwise you will have to buy your own ticket to this event. *Will not count toward scholarship participation credit.*

TRiO Day Celebration ~ Friday, February 26th - TBA. EXCEL and ETS students will get together in celebration of the government program that funds the support of these programs for you, the student. *Watch for our flyers and announcements!*

~ March 2010 ~



Resume' Workshop ~ Thursday, March 11th, CSBG, Room # 2014, 3:00 p.m. Learn how to create a winning resume', a key factor in landing a job interview! *Please RSVP by March 10th.*

Fort St. Joseph/Chapin Mansion Tour ~ Friday, March 19th, 2:30 p.m. Transportation on your own - Meet at the Museum. *Please RSVP by March 18th.*

Professionalism Workshop ~ NAC, Thursday, March 25th, Room # 130, 11:00 a.m. Learn tips on how to be a standout employee and about workplace DOs and DON'Ts. *Please RSVP by March 24th.*

To Write or Not to Write... Is this Plagiarism? ~ Friday, March 26th, CSBG, TLC, 11:00 a.m. 21st century tips and tools of the trade for producing outstanding term papers. *Please RSVP by March 25th.*

~ April 2010 ~



Scholarship Awards Ceremony ~ Friday, April 9th, Mathews Conference Center East, 2:30 p.m. If you are to be awarded an EXCEL Winter Scholarship, you will be invited to an EXCEL Fiesta in celebration of your accomplishments. *Will not count toward scholarship participation credit.*

No Money? No Problem! ~ NAC, Tuesday, April 20th, Room # 130, 4:00 p.m. Wouldn't it be nice to have some extra cash? Learn how to make a habit of financial planning, budgeting and tips to help pay for college. *Please RSVP by April 19th.*

Campus Visit to Grand Valley State University ~ TBA - *Watch for our flyers and announcements!*



~ May 2010 ~

EXCEL Graduate Breakfast ~ Saturday, May 1st, 9:00 a.m., CSBG, TLC.

~ Contact Missy at 782-1274 or meblin@swmich.edu to RSVP for these Events! ~