

Welcome to the Fall Semester

The Success Centers, available at all campuses and at the East St. Louis Center, are designed to assist students in reaching their academic pursuits. At the Success Center, our mission is to supplement and enhance classroom instruction by assisting students in developing the skills and strategies they need to become confident, independent and active learners. Free tutoring, workshops, access to computers and computer programs, the Online Writing Lab (OWL) and help with study skills are all just a part of what the Success Centers do to assist students. Let us be a part of your Success!



Success Breeds Success

In 1993, Laverna McWhorter graduated from high school. Thirteen years, a husband and two children later, she made a decision to begin college and enrolled in the Paralegal Studies program at SWIC. Like many students, she was uncertain of the demands of college, but she knew her “plate would be full” juggling her numerous home and school responsibilities.

Shortly after beginning school, McWhorter learned that she was expecting her third child! She also experienced her first college math test. The two situations made her question whether her decision to attend college was the right one. Through the support of her math teacher, Tom Bilyeu, Laverna was connected with Project Success, the college’s early alert system.

Project Success is designed to assist students who faculty members believe could benefit from extra support. That support may come in the form of helping

with the college transition process; educating on study skills including test taking, test anxiety, note taking, etc.; and connecting the students with Success Center tutors. Students meet individually with the Project Success facilitator and an action plan for success is created. Students also receive a free SWIC Student Planner and assistance with time management.

For McWhorter, the meeting was very beneficial. In addition to helping navigate her transition into college, she also was linked with Success Center tutors and provided guides to help with test taking, overcoming test anxiety, note taking and textbook reading. A little knowledge combined with her desire to achieve, along with academic support from the Success Center, resulted in McWhorter earning an A in the course.



The foundation was set! Laverna has continued to attend school, use study skills she learned during that initial Project Success meeting and work hard, to achieve an almost perfect 4.0 GPA.

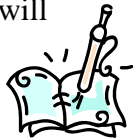
Because of her strong grades and effective study strategies, she was referred by one of her instructors to work in the Success Center as a tutor! In addition to helping students with Paralegal Studies courses, she can assist students with study skills such as test taking, making note cards and memorization strategies. She’s the mother of three children and within the next year is on course to earn her Associate of Applied Science degree in Paralegal Studies. Way to go!

Don’t Forget Our Chemistry Workshops

Two chemistry workshops will be offered this fall: Chemical Nomenclature will cover the in-depth naming of inorganic chemical compounds. The workshops, offered in mid-September, will assist students with understanding chemical nomenclature, a primary concept that all students are required to master as part of their SWIC Introductory Chemistry courses. Gas Laws will review the four properties which completely describe a gas. Two sessions will be offered in mid-November. The free workshops are offered in the Belleville Campus Success Center II, IS-Room 1145, by Physical Science Specialist Dean Schwarz.

New Citation Workshops

This fall, three new writing citation workshops are scheduled to make their debut: *MLA Documentation Style*, *APA Documentation Style* and *Turabian/Chicago Documentation Style*. The free workshops will be offered day and evening. To get a schedule, visit the Success Center or log on to www.swic.edu/successcenter.



How Do You Prefer to Learn?

Each of us has a learning style preference, which is essentially how we learn the best. If given the pieces of a birdhouse and told to assemble it, would you prefer to have someone explain to you how to put it together, watch a video or tinker with it to figure it out? Each of these methods describes a learning style preference.

If you know which learning style helps you to learn the best, you can incorporate this learning style in your studies. This can make learning easier and more effective.

Several learning style inventories are available to you. One of these inventories is the “Index of Learning Styles Questionnaire,” written by Barbara Soloman and Richard Felder of North Carolina State University. It is FREE and available online at www4.ncsu.edu/unity/lockers/users/f/felder/public/ILS_page.html. The index categorizes learning styles in four ways:

Active or Reflective Learners:

Active learners learn by trying things out and prefer working with others, while reflective learners learn by thinking things through and prefer working alone.



Sensing or Intuitive Learners:

Sensing learners prefer concrete and practical facts and solutions, while Intuitive learners tend to be innovative and like to conceptualize solutions.

Visual or Verbal Learners:

Visual learners prefer pictures, charts, and diagrams, while verbal learners prefer written and spoken explanation.

Sequential or Global Learners:

Sequential learners prefer linear, orderly material and learn in small incremental steps, while global learners prefer holistic material; they are systems thinkers and learn in large leaps.

How Does Understanding Your Learning Preference Help You in School?

After you learn how you most prefer to receive new information, then you can set up your study materials in the method that feels the most comfortable. For example, let’s say you are a visual learner. This can create a problem if your instructor delivers the material in a traditional verbal lecture style (great luck for the verbal learners in class). However, once you take the lecture notes, it would then be helpful to translate them into a visual form. For example, in a history class, you might want to create a time line or in a science class, you might find a chart more understandable than definitions. Additionally, you will have a much greater comprehension of the material after you have taken the time to modify it into a context that makes sense to you.

There are other inventories that can help you understand your learning and personality style also:

www.vark-learn.com/english/index.asp - Short computer-scored assessment with study tips based on your identified preference

www.keirseey.com - A 70-question assessment that looks at personality traits as it relates to learning

For additional information or assistance with learning styles, contact the Success Centers.

Congratulations to 23 Peer Tutors Who Earned National Tutor Certification!

Success Center Director Debbie Alford had the honor of awarding 23 peer tutors College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) Tutor Certification at the annual Student Awards breakfast in May. The award acknowledges those tutors who have met all criteria to earn the national certification, including 10 hours or more of training, a minimum of 50 tutoring hours and evaluation. The Success Centers are fortunate to have several CRLA certified tutors returning: Daniel Boeder, DeShon Caldwell, Lisa Capan, Dillan Chai, Jeanine Dixon, Ray Gallaher, Mark Johnson, Amber McClure, Chambri Pearson, Nathan Reynolds, Jayne Spearing, Staci Summers Jennifer Surgeon and Emmie Wolters. Congratulations to the tutors on their accomplishments!

