DRC Newsletter-Fall 2011

Mission

The DRC assists students to maximize their potential and prepare for productive life after college. DRC services are individualized to aid each student's independence, productivity and self-esteem. Services are provided to enhance students' access to, and success in, all classes and activities offered at COS. The DRC supports the mission of COS through district community collaboration.

DRC Staff

**Director**
David Maciel

**Counselor**
Hunter Church-Gonzales

**Learning Specialist**
Kathleen Conway

**Support Services Coordinator**
Sharmeen Lakhani

**Senior Secretary**
Chanda Galvan-Deisman

**Lab Coordinator**
Melony Henson

**Access Specialist**
Wendi McLain

**Test Proctor**
Christy Magaña

**Lead Interpreter**
Catrina Campbell Gates

**Interpreters**
Erica Dent
Kayla Katayama
Aminta Long
Tracy May
Laura Murrieta
Michele Palmer
Sara Palmitessa
Jaclyn Rivas
Darby Sanders
Jessica Torres

WA III Staff

**Counselor Coordinator**
Maria Hamid

**Job Developer**
Sharmeen Lakhani

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DRC Student Testimonial

My name is McKenzie Bullock and I have been a COS student since Spring 2010. I’m currently working on transfer credits so that I may transfer to a university next Fall to obtain a Bachelor’s degree in Mass Communications & Journalism. I love music, writing and working with people. However, I came across academic difficulties while working on my general education units.

During my first year at COS, I struggled with my math courses. I finally took the initiative to reach out for outside resources. That is how I became a student of the Disability Resource Center. As a DRC student, I now have accommodations to assist me with the classes in which I need additional help. I’ve witnessed many other students who have succeeded with assistance that the DRC has provided. Their stories were inspirational to me. If they could do it, then I knew that I could definitely succeed as well.

I only wish that I would have signed up with the DRC program sooner. Their services have helped me to better achieve my academic goals. I’ve learned better study skills and that it is ok to ask for help when you are in need. The DRC Testing Center provides a structured, quiet environment in which I can take my exams, which allows me to concentrate more fully, as opposed to taking my tests in class. There are many other accommodations the DRC provides and I encourage anyone who has a physical, psychological or a learning disability to sign up as soon as possible. As a single mother, I don’t have time to waste by not being able to complete my courses. My educational goals go beyond attending COS. One day I hope to be a top publicist in the entertainment industry. This will only be possible after I complete my education. I have one more semester remaining before I graduate from COS and I couldn’t have done it without the help of the DRC. This program worked for me, and it can do the same for you!
Hello students, the staff of the DRC would like to welcome you to the Fall 2011 semester. You may notice new faces when you visit our office. If you did not know, Sandy Gaither, Senior Secretary, retired at the end of the Spring 2011 semester.

We are fortunate to find a replacement that has great familiarity with the campus and plenty of skills to help you out. Her name is Chanda Galvan-Deisman. Chanda possesses a BS in criminology and was formerly employed with Turning Point as a residential manager. She also worked for Tulare County Office of Education as a Substitute Teacher and Teacher’s Aide with their special education division. Most recently, Chanda has been an Outreach Specialist here at College of the Sequoias.

Additionally, during the summer, Catherine McGuire was hired as the Counseling Technician by the college and is no longer our Test Proctor. We are pleased to find a very capable replacement. Christy Magaña has agreed to join our program as our new Test Proctor. Christy formerly provided test proctoring services at the Tutorial Center. She possesses a BA from CSU Fresno in Social Work and interned with Visalia Youth Services as a Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist. We are pleased to have individuals with Chanda and Christy’s skills and talents join the DRC team.

Due to limited funding, our program hours of operation have been reduced. The DRC is open to the public Monday through Thursday 8:00am-4:30pm; we are closed during the lunch hour 12:00 until 1:00pm. On Fridays we are open to the public from 8:00am until noon. Learning Skills lab hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:00am until 2:00pm. The Testing Center is available from 8:00am until 1:00pm Monday through Thursday; appointments can be made for tests to be administered on Mondays through Thursdays from 2:00pm until 4:00pm and Fridays from 8:00am until noon.

If you are interested in receiving priority registration remember to check your email for dates. Priority registration dates will be posted mid-October. Students will be required to use the COS website to register for classes during their priority registration date(s). The DRC will no longer be able to submit add slips for students to assist during priority registration.

We are optimistic that you will enjoy a rewarding semester. Please feel free to contact our office should you have questions, or need any assistance. Have a great semester!

Please note:

Students will be required to use the COS website to register for classes. The DRC will no longer be able to submit add slips for students to assist during priority registration.
Hello, my name is Christy Magaña and I am the new DRC Testing Center Proctor. Many of you may know me from my previous job, Clerical Assistant at the Tutorial Center. I have been with COS since 2007 and enjoy working with such great people. While working as a Clerical Assistant, I attended CSUF and obtained my bachelor’s degree in Social Work. My past experiences include working with at risk youth and the mental health population. There are several changes that have occurred at the Testing Center since I have come on board and I want to thank those who have helped make those changes possible. I would like everyone to know that at the DRC Testing Center, we strive to serve both students and faculty to the best of our ability. I am excited to be in a department with such wonderful people and look forward to a great semester. I have three student workers in the Testing Center this semester. Here is a little bit of information about them:

**Stephanie Garcia** - Hello everyone, this is my second year at COS. I currently hold the position as the ASB Vice President. Being a student helped me determine my priorities; helping students, succeeding academically and serving the community. Participating on the COS women’s tennis team is an amazing experience which helps me stay balanced. I am a part of the Puente Program, Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society and several college committees. I plan on graduating from COS and transferring to either UCLA or studying abroad in Spain.

**Monica Ochoa** - Hello, I am glad to be working in the DRC Testing Center this semester because I truly enjoy helping students. I’ve previously worked as a computer tutor in the Business Lab. This is my last semester here at COS, as I will be transferring to Fresno State in the spring. I plan on getting a bachelor’s degree in Accounting. I look forward to a great semester!

**Erin Gish** - Hi, I am a first year student at COS, majoring in biology. I want to be a pediatrician, and hope to obtain the education for the career path that I have chosen. I’m taking my first ASL class and I have fallen in love with it. Along with being a doctor, I have chosen to get a certificate in ASL. I love being active and busy, and work at the DRC Testing Center because I love meeting people and helping them with their needs.

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**Meet the New Testing Center Staff**

**Study Strategies Resources**

The link below provides information on study guidelines and strategies that you may find useful.

[http://www.studygs.net/](http://www.studygs.net/)

The website is a great resource for students who are looking for more information in the following areas:

- Learning/Studying
- Time/Project Management
- Reading/Research
- Writing
- Memorizing/Testing
- Math
- Bibliographies

We would like to welcome everyone back to a new school year. The WorkAbility III (WA III) program has been very busy over the last 9 months helping students find gainful employment. There are currently (21) students who have been referred by Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and are active in the WA III program. We have (2) students employed and (3) students participating in Work Experience this semester.

The WA III program continues to work with community members and agencies to offer students additional resources when searching for a job. This semester we’ve had Dr. Steven Koobatian and Michelle Lalanne from Vocational Designs donate their time to provide WA III students with a workshop on Disability Disclosure. They offered students a wealth of information with over 30 years of experience in their field; including career and vocational rehabilitation counseling. We are thankful for the time they spent with the WA III students.

We look forward to this year and watching the program flourish. If you would like more information about the WorkAbility III program call Maria Hamid, Program Coordinator/Counselor at (559) 730-3805.
What Students are Saying About the Learning Skills Lab

The Learning Skills Lab, located in the southwest corner on the first floor of the Library/Lodgepole Building, is where students of the DRC and/or enrolled in the LS 308: Instructional Support class can learn applied study skills, and attend workshops targeting academic skills.

At the end of last semester, students enrolled in the LS 308 were asked to complete a short survey indicating their reaction to LS Lab services. Ninety students (38% of the class) responded to the online survey; responses to queries that pertained to all enrollees are provided below:

- I am comfortable asking questions……………………………… YES-92%
- The staff are helpful…………………………………………….. YES-99%
- The instructor cares about my progress……………………… YES-94%
- The LS Lab has helped me to do well in my classes……….. YES-98%
- I use the LS Lab regularly……………………………………….. YES-97%
- I would recommend the LS Lab to a friend………………….. YES-99%

Students of the DRC may use the LS Lab without having to enroll in LS 308; however, many students who enroll appreciate having priority at the six computer workstations. Any questions regarding the LS Lab or its services should be directed to Kathleen Conway at kathc@cos.edu or 737-6116.

Important Dates-Fall 2011

October 21, 2011  FINAL DROP DATE: LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES WITH A “W” ON TRANSCRIPT AND NO REFUND AT www.cos.edu
November 11, 2011  Veterans’ Day Holiday – NO CLASSES
November 17, 2011  Last Day to File for an Associate Degree for Fall 2011
November 23-25, 2011  Thanksgiving Day Holiday – NO CLASSES
December 12-16, 2011  Fall Final Exams
December 16, 2011  Fall Semester Ends; Last Day to make up Incomplete “I” grades for Fall 2010