# Spotlight on Student Services







"The journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step." Lao Tzu

# Eligibility

- Active CalWORKs/welfare/cash aid recipient
- Enrolled or plan to be enrolled in credit or non-credit classes (can be part-time or fulltime with no minimum units)
- Working toward degree, transfer, or certificate or to improve work skills

CalWORKs S.T.E.P.S. Program A-109 619-660-4340

Monday8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.Tuesday-Thursday8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.Friday9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

S.T.E.P.S. = Success Through Education Produces Self-Sufficiency

www.cuyamaca.edu/services/calworks

The Cuyamaca College CalWORKs S.T.E.P.S. Program provides services to support CalWORKs students in achieving individual educational goals as well as learning employable skills with the ultimate goal of increased wage-earning power to become economically self-sufficient.

# **Program Requirements**

- Attend New Student Orientation
- Meet with a CalWORKs counselor each semester for education plan and Individual Training Plan showing weekly activity hours
- Meet with a counselor for long term education plan
- Turn in activity hours form each month
- Maintain 2.0 GPA
- Provide eligibility documentation as needed

### **Program Services**

- Personal, academic, & career counseling
- Education Plans long & short-term
- Coordination of costs for transportation, books, & emergency costs with the County Health & Human Services
- Student supply bags twice a year
- Child Care funding (on campus-CCDC)
- Tutoring & other program referrals
- Work study placements on campus
- Coordination with case manager for education plan & participation hours
- On-site case manager once a week
- Supportive services for exempt students
- Job preparation & placement services
- Advocacy for student & welfare rights
- Eligible for priority registration & BOG Fee Waiver

## Did you know?

**CalWORKs Work Study Students** will provide over 20,000 work hours this year to 17 departments and will earn over \$200,000. We placed 57 students in areas that do not have the budget to hire student workers who provide much needed front desk, tutoring, lab, and classroom assistance.

CalWORKs Students Outperform the Average College Student in Retention, Persistence, Course Success, Units Attempted and Completed, and GPA.

CalWORKs students are older than the average college student. Average age at Cuyamaca is 38. Ages range from 19 to 63.

We serve over 600 students per year.

# Facts

- All CalWORKs students are parents eligible until youngest child turns 18 or graduates from high school
- CalWORKs is time-limited at 48 months lifetime and in some circumstances 24 months
- CalWORKs provides supportive services subject to Federal, State, and County laws and regulations
- Participant must be in an approved activity for 20, 30, or 35 hours per week that includes a workoriented activity (education counts as that activity for a certain period of time)
- County issued supportive services for students: books, parking permit or bus pass, transportation, childcare, other items to assist with staying compliant in approved activity
- Monthly documentation of activity hours is required

#### Student Success Tip

Make an appointment with a CalWORKs counselor soon after registering to complete the paperwork to get your books and childcare before classes start.



"Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

#### Staff:

Sheryl Ashley Sara Allen\* Rita Shamoon\*\* Coordinator Student Services Specialist Employment & Outreach Coordinator

## Front Desk Assistants\*\*:

Angel, Aylin, Hala, Mirna, Naba, Noor, Rita

\*speaks Spanish \*\*speaks Arabic

Counselors: Emad Aloka\*\* Melanie Davidson\* Carla Edwards Stacey Mathis Mariam Mena\*\* Arcelon Osborne Martina Peinado\* Sandy Sada\*\*

### Sara Allen: Helping Students Succeed at Cuyamaca College



Stop by Sara Allen's desk in the CalWORKs office at Cuyamaca College and one of the first things you might notice are the many `thank you' notes posted on her bulletin board. "It's very rewarding work," Sara said. "Students and counselors come in here and thank us all the time."

And with good reason. Sara is a clerical assistant who helps manage the CalWORKs office at Cuyamaca College's One-Stop Center. CalWORKs (California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids) is an assistance program for eligible needy California families. The CalWORKs program at Cuyamaca College is known as S.T.E.P.S., which is an acronym for Success Through Education Produces Self-

Sufficiency. It provides an array of support services such as counseling and work-study plans aimed at helping from 500 to 700 needy students reach their educational goals.

Sara has been with the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District since 2001 and graduated from Grossmont College's Office Professional Training program. She landed employment at Grossmont College through the AmeriCorps Program as a student worker, then later moved over to Cuyamaca College, where she was assigned to the CalWORKs program.

Born and raised in San Diego, Sara met her husband, Michael, who is a Cuyamaca College financial aid advisor, at the One Stop Center. She's also been picking up Arabic from co-workers in the office.

"I love it here at Cuyamaca," Sara said. "It's one of the most diverse colleges I've ever been to. And it offers a wide range of opportunities for students to do what they want to do. I'll stay here forever if I can," she added. "I love working with the students here and I see them in the community all the time."

