

August 17th, 2009

Dear EXCEL/SSS Student:

This letter is to inform you that, as an EXCEL/SSS student, you **may** be eligible for SSS Supplemental Grant Aid from the Department of Education for the Spring 2010 Semester. A maximum of 34 grants of \$976 each will be available to EXCEL/SSS students who meet the federal government's eligibility criteria, satisfy the minimum participation requirements established by EXCEL, and complete the attached application. *(If more than 34 EXCEL students meet the criteria, awards will be made on the basis of participation in excess of the minimum requirements discussed below. If fewer than 34 EXCEL/SSS students apply and meet the above criteria, awards will be increased proportionately.)*

The Department of Education's eligibility criteria are:

- current Pell Grant recipient at the time the award is made – i.e., February, 2010
- current EXCEL/SSS student in good standing (see EXCEL requirements following)
- unmet financial need in excess of \$976 **(NOTE: It is your responsibility to check with Financial Aid to determine if you meet this criterion; if you do not meet this criterion because of loans, you may write a letter to the Financial Aid Director requesting that your loan burden be reduced so that your unmet need approximates the amount of the SSS Grant Aid – at least \$976. You should contact the Financial Aid Director, in writing, prior to January 15th.)**
- Sophomore or Freshman class standing (i.e., your transferable credit hours may not exceed 62 hours unless you are following an articulated degree program that requires more than 62 hours)
- enrolled as of the census date for Spring Semester 2010

EXCEL/SSS requirements are:

- six in-person contacts with an EXCEL advisor or tutor. At least one contact must be attendance at a Wednesday workshop. Contacts must occur between August 17th and December 15th. The remaining five contacts may be satisfied by any combination of tutoring, advising, workshop, or cultural activity contacts. Students who are unable to satisfy the workshop requirement **MUST** receive a waiver from Matt or Elaine and **MUST** have a total of at least 6 other contacts as defined above.
- a SAP for the Fall 2009 semester or the Spring 2010 semester must be on file in the EXCEL office by December 15th, 2009. (If in doubt, contact Matt or Elaine!)
- completion of the attached [Supplemental Grant Aid Application](#) by December 15th, 2009

The total award amount of \$33,758 is designated for direct grant aid to EXCEL/SSS students and will be awarded in Spring 2010. Grants will be disbursed by the Financial Aid Office after the Spring Semester census date, based on the list of qualified students provided by EXCEL. If you have questions about eligibility for Supplemental Grant Aid or how to apply, contact Matt or Elaine.

Sincerely,



Elaine Belovich
Director, EXCEL/SSS



Matt Sopko
Assistant Director, EXCEL/SSS

