Welcome to the Fall Semester 2006! Here’s a quick glimpse at EXCEL’s activities, services, and important deadlines for the upcoming semester.

**Tutoring Staff:** Bernie and Rachel will be joined by veteran tutors Mike McElwain, Ryan Cantrell, and Dennis Harris. Mike, Ryan, and Dennis are all enrolled at CMU, working on their BS degrees. Newcomer Aaron Gamble comes to us with a background in foreign languages and English.

Tutoring is available in all general education courses – math, science, English, computer science, humanities, social sciences, and history and political science. In addition, the staff tutors in many electives, including accounting and other business courses. And with the addition of Aaron, tutoring is now available in French, Spanish, Italian, and German. If you need help, **Just Ask!**

The tutoring staff will continue to provide individual and group tutoring as well as drop-in tutoring. However, to be on the safe side, it’s best to schedule your appointment a day or two in advance.

**Fall Activities Schedule (attached):** This fall’s workshop schedule includes academic, financial aid, and personal development workshops. See the attached schedule. If you have not attended an EXCEL workshop, put one on your calendar now! Attending at least one workshop this fall is a requirement for SSS Grant Aid unless you have a work or class conflict.

Field trips include the St. Louis Botanical Gardens, the St. Louis Art Museum, and SEMO’s Show-Me Day. Lunch is included on all trips. Additional trips to four-year universities will be scheduled upon request, to the extent the budget permits. See the attached schedule.

EXCEL Passes will once again be available to specific MAC-sponsored cultural events. These passes will admit you at no charge! These events, as well as some EXCEL field trips, may satisfy “outside-class” events required by some instructors. **Just Ask!**

**EXCEL’s Computer Lab:** Six student computers are available for your use in the EXCEL Office, including one with study skills programs. An additional student computer (located in the back tutoring office) is equipped with assistive technology for students with special needs.

**E-Mail:** Please check your MAC e-mail several times per week. We frequently send e-mails to update you on scholarship opportunities, important deadlines, workshops, events, and trips. Drop by theixels Office at your convenience to say “hi” and check your e-mail. Remember, messages are sent to your campus e-mail address, not your personal e-mail address.

**Laptop, Tape Recorder, Calculator, & Video Loaner Program:** Six laptops and printers are available for short-term loans to EXCEL students as well as tape recorders, scientific calculators, and study and personal development skills videos. If you would like to borrow one of these items, **Just Ask!**

**December GRADS:** If you are planning to graduate in December, 2006, your graduation application must be submitted to the Registrar no later than Friday, September 1st. If you do not meet this deadline, you will not be permitted to graduate. Stop by the Student Services office to pick up the application. Matt or Elaine will be happy to help you complete your degree plan.

**SSS Grant Aid:** A limited amount of SSS Grant Aid will be disbursed in the Spring Semester to a maximum of 84 students who meet federal eligibility criteria as well as EXCEL’s requirements. An
information letter and the application are available in the EXCEL/SSS Office or on the EXCEL/SSS web site:

http://www.mineralarea.edu/students/studentResources/TRIOProgram/excel/default.aspx

Awards will be a minimum of $400 but could be considerably more, depending on the number of students who apply and who qualify. Last year the average award was approximately $1100. If you have questions about SSS Grant Aid, Just Ask!

EXCEL/SSS Scholarship: One $500 EXCEL/SSS Scholarship will be awarded each fall and spring semester. Eligibility requirements and an application are available in the EXCEL/SSS Office or on the web site above. Deadline is September 15th! If you have questions, Just Ask!

Minimum EXCEL Participation Requirements: EXCEL/SSS students must meet with Matt or Elaine twice each semester – once to review your class schedule and once to review and revise your Student Action Plan (SAP). These are the minimum participation requirements to stay in “good standing” as an EXCEL student. Meeting these minimum participation requirements does not ensure your eligibility for either SSS Grant Aid or the EXCEL/SSS Scholarship. Students who have met the minimum participation requirements will receive preference in scheduling tutoring appointments, borrowing laptops, and attending EXCEL field trips.

MAC BACKERS: The Student Recruitment and Retention Committee is initiating a new program this year to encourage student participation in extracurricular activities. Students attending extracurricular activities, including EXCEL/SSS workshops and field trips, will have the opportunity to earn tickets. All you have to do is participate in activities on campus and you will receive tickets which will go into a monthly drawing. Prizes may include gas cards, shopping sprees, and tickets to Six Flags. EXCEL events for which tickets are awarded include EXCEL workshops (3 tickets), the EXCEL Open House (3 tickets), and cultural trips (5 tickets). There will be one GRAND PRIZE DRAWING each semester with prizes valued at up to $200. So, the more tickets you earn in a semester, the greater your chances of being a BIG WINNER!!!!

EXCEL/SSS is here to provide the support you need to succeed at Mineral Area College and to transfer to a four-year college. We succeed if you succeed, so we are depending on you to be an active, involved EXCEL student. Use our resources, schedule appointments with us, let us know how we can work together to help you. And when you need a service or have a question, Just Ask!!!

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act and need this publication in an alternative format, notify us at (573) 518-2131. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.