Annual Newsletter Spring 2022 Edition

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Student Support Services

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Salutations from the SSS team!

Our Student Support Services (SSS) team remains focused on student success as we navigated significant program changes this academic year. After the retirement of our long-time Director, I have been appointed as the new SSS Director. I am grateful to Dean Allison Crume and Assistant Dean Tony Delgado of Undergraduate Studies for the strong support they have provided to SSS during this transition period. I am excited to lead the program through this new chapter of our 35+ year history at USF. I also



appreciate the outpouring of support I received from partners and colleagues across campus as I stepped into my new role. I am deeply committed to ensuring the continued success of SSS students as we meet our grant funded objectives and contribute to the strategic mission of USF. Toward that end, I am happy to share that we have exceeded our funding objectives in our most recent Annual Performance Report (APR) submitted to our funding source, the U.S. Department of Education. For the 2020-2021 academic year, data from the APR show SSS achieved a 97% persistence rate and a 97% good academic standing rate among served students. SSS also achieved a retention rate of 92% for the summer 2021 cohort of students. We are especially proud to have achieved these outcomes during the Covid-19 pandemic when students were facing unprecedented challenges personally and academically. The SSS team was also personally affected by the pandemic and we have a renewed focus on personal and professional wellness to ensure we can continue helping students succeed at USF. In addition, new SSS initiatives began this year - including the SSS Open House for current students to visit our office to network with their peers and connect with SSS staff and the SSS Connects Live sessions held on MS Teams for newly admitted students to learn more about our program. In partnership with the ACE team, SSS also debuted a new SSS Canvas page to help newly admitted students complete their onboarding requirements to enroll at USF. These new initiatives highlight the innovative approach to student success that SSS continues to model in the constantly evolving world of higher education. I am thrilled to share stories of student success and program updates throughout this newsletter. Thank you to our campus partners who also help support the success of SSS students. We look forward to welcoming our newest class of SSS students this summer and helping them develop a sense of belonging at USF. With your help I know we can continue to build on our legacy of inclusiveness by ensuring all students reach their personal, academic, and career goals. As you read our newsletter, I invite you to join SSS in celebrating student success - GO BULLS!

LaTosha C. Thomas

LaTosha C. Thomas, Ph.D. SSS Director #OneUSF | #TRIOWorks



Student Spotlight: Michkayla Dandreano

Michkayla Dandreano is a Florida native who lived in Ocala, Florida prior to enrolling at USF. She has been a participant in the Student Support Services TriO program since arriving on campus in 2018. Michkayla is a graduating senior majoring in Elementary Education with plans to become a primary grade Teacher in the Tampa Bay area after graduation. She aspires to work with and make a difference in the lives of low-income disadvantaged children. In addition to educating students, her goal is to help improve the mental health of students and to help teachers prioritize their wellbeing too. Michkayla is passionate about education, and she also has plans to become certified in Social Studies to teach middle and high school students.

Michkayla chose to attend USF because she believed the university – through the SSS program – offered the best opportunity for continuing her education. Michkayla notes, "I have had a multitude of challenges since becoming a student at USF which range from family deaths, leaving an abusive relationship and struggling with my own mental health. SSS has done so much for me, and I cannot begin to describe how thankful I am for my Tampa family! Starting college was extremely difficult – first time away from family, first generation, leaving my entire support system and moving to a completely new place on my own. SSS helped me find resources and consoled me during everything I went through." During her time at USF,





Congratulations to Michkayla for being an outstanding SSS student – we are so proud of all that you have accomplished at USF!

Michkayla went on to not only move past these personal challenges but she has also thrived academically by making the Dean's List multiple times!

Michkavla is an outstanding student who currently works in the SSS office as the Summer Program Coordinator and served as an SSS Peer Coach in the summer of 2021. In both roles, Michkayla has been a valuable member of the SSS team by helping new students navigate the admissions process and successfully transition into USF. Michkayla shares, "In October 2019, I began working for SSS and have helped others like myself follow their dream. Through my job I met two of my closest friends who I truly admire and they never fail to put a smile on my face or make me laugh. During the Summer of 2021, I became a Peer Coach and was able to introduce my second set of students to the place I have called home since Summer 2018. Throughout all of this they have helped me become a stronger, more confident woman."

Michkayla was selected as Miss SSS for the 2019-2020 academic year because she exemplified the SSS spirit – hardworking, resilient, service oriented, and committed to SSS. When asked how SSS has helped her to achieve success Michkayla replied, "I would not have made the friendships that have helped me to better myself, would not be where I am today without the support granted to me, and would not have the family that I have gained since moving to Tampa in 2018. Without USF or SSS, I would not be in college today!"

Mr. & Miss SSS

Congratulations to **Juandiego Gallego** and **Toni Hardy** for being selected as Mr. & Mrs. SSS for 2021-2022. These two students were selected for this honor



because of their high energy, positive attitude, and hardworking spirits. Juandiego and Toni also demonstrate a strong commitment to SSS and USF.

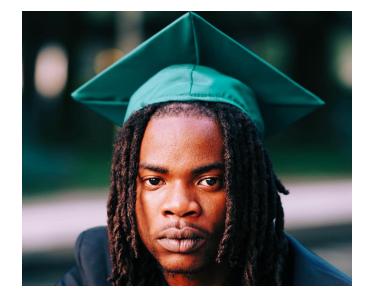


Thank you for representing SSS!

Students Share How SSS Has Helped Them Be Successful

"As a Black man and student, people don't really give you a chance to portray who you are and what you can do -- yet SSS saw past the stereotypes and gave me a chance to succeed. They created a safe inquisitive space for me to learn not only more about myself but more about the inner workings of life and the world as a whole. SSS provides one with a sense of opportunity and belonging, and that is rare in this world. You get the sense from one conversation that they truly care, and I can say firsthand that they do and they won't stop until you are successful. For that, I thank them for helping me develop into the young man that I am today. Their expertise in fostering success is next to none in my eyes! SSS is life for me!"

-Brandon Marshall, Senior, Public Relations & Advertising Major





"SSS has helped me build lasting friendships, pursue career opportunities, and allowed me to understand the importance of professionalism!"

-Jaelyn Wise, Sophomore, Public Health

"The SSS program is the reason why I am at USF. As a covid student in my last year of high school, I wasn't doing too well to finish off the school year and was very scared of not making it into college. However, they recognized that the last 4 months didn't represent who I was as a student and as a person. They've given me the chance to keep reaching for higher goals, keep exploring new opportunities, and keep fighting for what I want while having support from new people close and far. I couldn't be prouder of the person I am today."

-Natalia Alonso, Sophomore, Health Science

"SSS is an important factor of my success in USF because the SSS team allowed me to regain confidence in my abilities as a student and an individual. They not only provide you with useful information and opportunities to excel in academics, clubs/organizations and work-related issues, but they assist you in your problems if you're having a rough time balancing college duties. SSS also brought me to my closest friends who were also in the program and allowed me to connect with students that are experiencing the same situation as me."

-Julie Bone, Sophomore, Health Sciences



"SSS helped me be successful at USF because without it I don't believe I would have made it as far as I have without this program. SSS offered this support group that I could talk to and not feel judged for my problems. SSS puts their students first and

are always there to help students with both their academic and personal problems. I don't think I would still be at USF if it wasn't for SSS because when things get bad and I feel like giving in, the SSS team refuses to let me quit. They've had my back every step of the way and I am always going to be grateful to them."

-Toni Hardy, Sophomore, Biology

"Excuses are the tools of the weak and incompetent. They build bridges to nowhere and tunnels to nothingness. To get something clear, I owe everything that I have and will have at USF to SSS, because if it wasn't for their kindness, I would not be at USF and to that I was, am, and will forever be grateful. SSS has many individuals within their staff that wish to see you thrive, become a better person, and succeed. They are willing to give opportunities and have immeasurable amounts of patience with you. They encourage students to get out of their comfort zone and explore, which is something that I didn't do in the past. Ever since I began, it has changed my life at and outside of USF immensely. There are countless things that I can mention about this great and amazing program, but I would probably be writing volumes if I was to continue. All in all, SSS has given me many opportunities that I would otherwise never have."

-Juandiego Gallego, Sophomore, Civil Engineering



"I wouldn't be graduating this semester without the help of SSS. My acceptance into USF was a dream come true because I was given the opportunity to be surrounded by my SSS family. The SSS Counselors made a

huge impact on my success here at USF. I was able to make plenty of networking connections in my career field. I was able to gain the confidence I needed to survive and conquer the world through my SSS family. On May 7, 2022, I will be graduating with my bachelor's degree in Film and New Media. I currently have an internship with Remote Vision Productions here in Tampa, FL. I volunteer as a Production Assistant behind the scenes, Set Manager, and even an actress for the upcoming film titled Rewind written by Deriyun McGee. I will forever be a part of the SSS summer class of 2018."

-Skyya Edwards, Senior, Film & New Media

Community Engagement to Promote Student Success

SSS collaborated with the United Negro College Fund who hosted an event for high school students titled, "Get That Money: Practical Tips for Securing Scholarships". The UNCF reached out to SSS for college students who could serve as role models and participate in the event. Jude Cineas and Latrell Pryor are two SSS students who served on a panel in which they discussed their college experiences. According to Jude, "For this event we were granted the opportunity to speak to middle and high school students. We had a well-engaged conversation about various tips and tricks to succeed at the collegiate level. I mentioned numerous study tactics, benefits of getting involved on campus, and the use of scholarships and grants. Participants were allowed to ask any questions that may arise and I assisted with answering those questions. Latrell and Jude provided tips about the college admissions process, financial aid, and how to be successful while in college."

Jude and Latrell both enjoyed giving back to the community on behalf of SSS and USF. They felt the experience was beneficial for the high school students, as well as for their own motivation to stay focused and be successful. Latrell reflected, "The UNCF was a wonderful event that promoted the continuation of education at an institution of higher-level education and provided the active students a chance at scholarships. They discussed the importance of school and all of the benefits and new experiences that come with it. Some of the things I talked about included the importance of reputation, networking, and broadening your horizons based on surrounding yourself with people from various backgrounds". We appreciate SSS students for their community engagement and thank our community partner the UNCF for their collaboration!

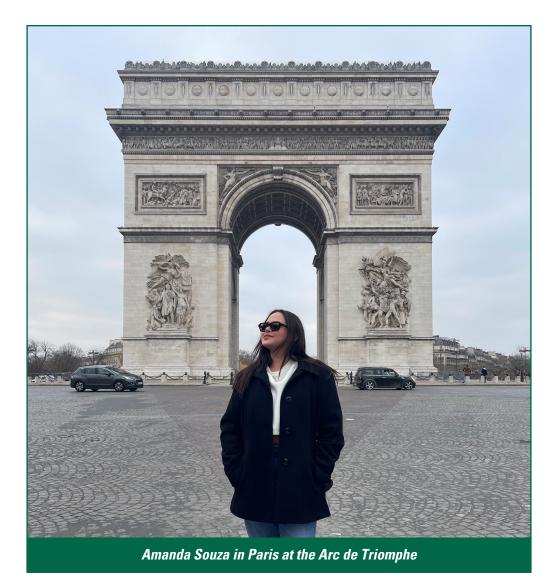


Jude Cineas, Senior, Criminology major & Political Science minor



Latrell Pryor, Junior, Industrial Engineering

SSS Encourages High Impact Practices: Study Abroad



SSS junior student and Communication major **Amanda Souza** is living her best life while studying abroad in Reims, France at NEOMA Business School. Reims is full of history and known for its vineyards and famous Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Reims. When not studying, she enjoys traveling to places like Madrid, Barcelona, and Paris with plans to visit Amsterdam, London, Denmark, and Scotland. Amanda states, "I have had the most surreal moments through this program, and I am incredibly grateful to SSS and USF for helping me achieve these lifelong goals."

Congratulations on fulfilling your dream of education abroad!



Sujey Coloma in front of the Cattedrale di Santa Maria del Fiore

SSS junior student and Global Business major **Sujey Coloma** traveled abroad to Florence, Italy during the summer of 2021. She attended Florence University of the Arts with course work in Business Law and Florence Food and Culture. The university is a leading institution in the private educational sector of Italy. Sujey connected with the Italian culture through exploration of the city, which is known for its rich culture, architecture, monuments, museums, and art galleries.

We are proud of Sujey for being a global citizen!

SSS Encourages High-Impact Practices: Internships and Undergraduate Research



High-Impact Practices (HIPs) are student experiences that enhance retention and engagement. SSS strongly encourages students to engage in HIPs, such as internships and undergraduate research. Work experience gained through an internship strengthens students' skills outside the classroom, can help solidify career choice, and helps students be seen as viable candidates for employment. Senior student Ashley Accius has proven herself in the classroom as an academic leader, and in the workforce as a valued intern working in a job in her field of Psychology. Ashley has conducted undergraduate research in the mental health field while at USF and she participated in the "This Is My Brave" stage production. Ashley has been admitted into the USF Social Work Master's degree program and she looks forward to pursuing a career helping others overcome adversity. Ashley is a great example of the high-impact practices and student engagement opportunities SSS helps students pursue.

We are extremely proud of Ashley for seizing opportunities and working toward future goals!

Congratulations to SSS Graduates



(I-r) Brandon Marshall, SSS Counselor Brian Williams, and Dannavan Fulton

(since summer 2021)

- Aaliyah Valere, Health Sciences
- Adriana Borrero, Health Sciences
- Alex Honeycutt, Women's and Gender Studies
- Alexa Gonzalez Laca, Cell & Molecular Biology
- Alexa Simpson, Biomedical Sciences
- Alexys Gurreri, Integrated Public Relations & Advertising
- Angeline Duroseau, Communication
- Antonia Davis, Nursing
- Ashley Accius, Psychology
- Ashley Gelman, Communication Sciences
 & Disorders
- Bayleigh Howe, Social Work



(I-r) Former SSS Counselor Roshanda Pinson and Kedrine Gayle

- Bobbi Flournoy, Management
- Brandin Muniz, Criminology
- Brandon Marshall, Integrated Public Relations
 & Advertising
- Brenda Suarez, Health Sciences
- Breunna Alexander, Health Sciences
- Brianna Burnsworth, Health Sciences
- Caleb Johnson, Environmental Science & Policy
- Catherine Rami, Psychology
- Chloe Sartorio, Integrative Animal Biology
- Christie Castillo Guzman, Health Sciences
- Claudia Acosta, Integrated Public Relations
 & Advertising
- Dannavan Fulton, Integrated Public Relations
 & Advertising
- Eden Faison, Health Sciences
- Elijah Murphy, Cell & Molecular Biology
- Frea'Drika Curry, Health Sciences
- Giselle Castro, Criminology
- Jacquelyn Ward, Health Sciences
- Jai Brown, Information Studies
- Jake Jawor, Criminology
- Jaqueena Cousin, Psychology
- Jasmin Johnson, Criminology
- Jasmine Sanchez, Health Sciences
- Jason Azif, Finance
- Jaymie Rosenberg, Behavioral Healthcare
- Jennifer Hesselbirg, Psychology & Criminology
- Jeremiah Huggins, English
- Jeremiah Kinsey, Finance
- Jocelyn Hall , Political Science
- John Guirguis, Finance
- Jonae Fludd, Health Sciences
- Jonathan Brooks, Criminology
- Jude Cineas, Criminology
- Kamilah Rennie, Nursing
- Katie Torres, Psychology
- Kayla Aska, Health Sciences

- Kayla Heredia, Communication
- Kedrine Gayle, Public Health
- Kevonna Perkins, Health Sciences
- Khadir Freeney, Marketing
- Kianna Pintado-Adames, Elementary Education
- Kimberly Beckford, Criminology
- Kwame Aniapam, Jr., Finance
- Kylie Henderson, Integrated Public Relations & Advertising
- Lela White, Public Health
- Leslie Molina, Business Analytics and Information Systems
- Louna Clerge, Psychology
- Luke Tharayil, Economics
- Martika Major, Political Science
- Michkayla Dandreano, Elementary Education
- Mostafa Faituri, Biomedical Sciences
- Orlando Huertas, Business Analytics and Information Systems
- Paige Hodapp, Integrated Public Relations & Advertising
- Romy Lisse, Criminology
- Sarah Ingram, Psychology
- Shamara Ebanks, Biomedical Sciences
- Shani Stinson, Mass Communications
- Shawn Richardson, Communication
- Shayla Konosky, Health Sciences
- Skylar Cantone, Personal Finance
- Skyya Edwards, Film and New Media Studies
- Tiera Nelson, Criminology
- Tyler Barrett, Public Health
- Urvi Kaushik, Aging Sciences
- Victoria Gonzalez, Nursing
- Victoria Yang, Supply Chain Management
- Vigilance Harris, Psychology
- William Persaud, Integrated Public Relations & Advertising
- Zamarea Harris Vigilance, Psychology
- Zoe Henry, Health Sciences



Jude Cineas

Thank You From SSS Graduate



In Fall 2021, I graduated on the Dean's List and Magna Cum Laude with my Bachelor of Science degree in Health Sciences from the University of South Florida. I will be furthering my education by going to nursing school in which I have already been accepted into several programs. SSS has helped me succeed at USF for all three years (I was an early graduate!). Within this program, I was able to navigate the ins and outs of campus, lean on all the SSS Counselors for support and guidance, and create lifelong friendships with people in this program. It was amazing to be a part of a program that truly cares for you as a student and is an advocate for your success.

Kind Regards, **Kamilah Rennie**

College Success Workshops



SSS workshops are designed to give students important information to help them be successful at USF and in life. In collaboration with campus partners, these workshops cover topics such as:

- Academic Awards
- Accessibility Education
- Alumni Panel
- Campus Involvement: SSS Student Leader Panel
- Career and Major Exploration
- Financial Literacy
- Graduate School Forum

- Healthy Relationships
- Learning about Internships
- Learning beyond the Classroom
- Networking 101
- Strategies for Success
- Stress Management

Campus Partners



Thank you to the USF departments and organizations who contribute to the success of SSS students!

- Academic Success Center
- Black Faculty & Staff Association
- Black Leadership Network
- Bull2Bull Financial Education
- Campus Recreation
- Center for Leadership & Civic Engagement
- Center for Student Involvement
- Center for Student Well-Being
- Center for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention
- College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)
- College Reach Out Program
- Corporate Mentor Program, USF Muma College of Business
- Education Abroad
- Global Citizens Project
- Housing & Residential Education
- Latino Scholarship Program
- NAACP Hillsborough County
- New Student Connections

- Office of Academic Advocacy
- Office of Admissions
- Office of Community Engagements and Partnerships
- Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity
- Office of Graduate Studies
- Office of Multicultural Affairs
- Office of Orientation
- Student Conduct & Ethical Development
- Office of Undergraduate Research
- Student Health Services
- Student Accessibility Services
- Take Stock in Children
- The Students of Concern Assistance Team
- University Scholarships & Financial Aid Services
- Upward Bound Program
- USF Athletics
- USF Counseling Center
- USF Dining Services

Alumni Success

Hi SSS Family:

Hope you're doing well, just wanted to shoot a message to give updates on how life outside of college has been. As you know I started working at the Kennedy Space Center for Lockheed Martin building the Orion Space Module. I am a Systems Integration and Test Engineer that plans the assembly, tests multiple components on the space module, manufacture parts needed, review all designs to make sure it is manufacturable, and troubleshoot any issues that arise on the shop floor. Coolest part of my job is staying on the shop floor and seeing the space module be built up as parts come in from different areas of the country. Also, seeing rocket launches every couple of weeks is a great experience as well. I've only have been working since June, but I really have enjoyed my time here and definitely plan to stay in the space industry for years on. However, the town I moved to is definitely much smaller and quieter than what I'm used to as I grew up near Miami and lived in Tampa for undergrad. But the area is starting to grow on me. I also have made a decent number of friends while being here and was fortunate enough to have joined a volunteer fire department, where I am currently training to become a reserve firefighter. Training at the fire station for the past couple of months has been fun and surprisingly not too time consuming, only 50 hours per month. During the summer I obtained my medical responder and wildland certifications. Starting in October, I will start my Fire 1 course to start getting experience on the field and hopefully continue my journey in emergency medicine.

I wanted to send this note to the SSS family to show what a nurturing community can create and thank you for everything you have done for me. Please use this as encouragement for yourself and the team to continue the success SSS has produced in me and past cohorts. If you ever need me to provide advice, assist students with resumes, or in searching for internships please let me know. I am also currently applying to graduate programs, if I am fortunate in getting in to the graduate programs I am seeking then that can also be something I can provide advice for SSS students. As years pass,



hopefully I move up in this industry and provide a connection with my company and the students at SSS and USF.

Thank you again for everything and I hope this semester goes well for you and all the students you are nurturing to become the talent of the future. Continue being great and have a great rest of your week!

-Dervens Marseille, c/o 2021

Students Striving for Success (S-Club)

S-Club is the only student organization officially affiliated with SSS. The organization includes the mentoring and community service groups, Brothers Reaching Ultimate Heights (BRUHs) and Sisters Inspiring Success (SIS). S-Club held several events this year to promote student success and campus engagement. In honor of Black Heritage Month, students of the Students Striving for Success (S-Club) showcased their display of "Hidden Figures in Black History" in the Marshall Student Center on the Tampa campus. The individual displays featured outstanding African American historical figures and described their contributions to American history. Important figures such as Mamie Till, Katherine Johnson, Lewis Latimer, Madame C.J. Walker, Mae Jemison, and John Lewis were honored at the event. When asked about the goal of the event, an S-Club member stated "Our Hidden Figures in Black History event was a wax museum inspired event, in which students were able to engage with the rich history of the people of the African diaspora. We chose to highlight notable figures who typically do not get recognized for their efforts and achievements that helped the advancement of African Americans."



Students Striving for Success Executive Board: (bottom I-r) Julie Bone, Toni Hardy, Jaelyn Wise and (top I-r) Bryce Humphrey, Sachenley Fortune, Oliver Jeoboam, Samuel Phillips-Lawrence Slack

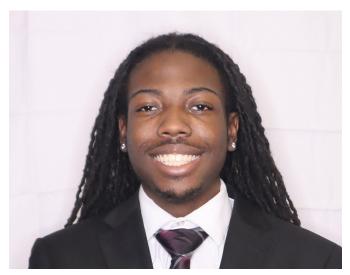


Students Striving for Success – Jasmine Cullen, Freshman, Pre-Social Science Ed

College is a time for students to make the most of opportunities for self-development and introspection. S-Club provides students with information and resources that may help them combat many of the obstacles they face. S-Club hosted an event called *"How College Students Get Turned Out"* where S-Club members addressed obstacles that students face during college. Discussion topics addressed a variety of struggles that can cause students to get "turned out" financially, emotionally, physically, sexually, and educationally. The event helped promote student success by providing students with action steps to stay focused and resources to help overcome barriers to success.



Students Striving for Success - "How College Students Get Turned Out" (James Forrester, Freshman, Mechanical Engineering)



Students Striving for Success - Professional Head Shot (LaTrell Pryor, Junior, Mechanical Engineering)

S-Club believes in equipping students of the USF community with tools to achieve success. To help with positive first impressions, headshots were a perfect way to get students setup for success. In the *"Professional Headshots"* event held in the Marshall Student Center, students of the USF community were provided with free professional headshots to help promote their personal and professional brand. Under the S-Club umbrella, Sisters Inspiring Success (SIS) has participated in several community service events this semester such as volunteering at a Women's Empowerment event and the Black Heritage Expo. Members of SIS cooked meals and distributed food to homeless populations in the community. They also assisted at a community Easter egg hunt and volunteered at the botanical gardens. To help provide financial support for S-Club events, SIS held several fundraisers such as a carwash and selling Valentine's Day sweets. The mission statement for SIS reveals the passion they have for helping others and states they are an "organization that facilitates the idea of women's empowerment through community service, fundraisers and more". SSS is proud of our new student organization, S-Club – lookout for more events to come!



Sisters Inspiring Success (SIS)

SSS Welcomes Assistant Dean Tony Delgado!



SSS is part of the Academic Inclusion pillar of Undergraduate Studies (UGS) under the leadership of Dean Allison Crume. We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Tony Delgado as our Assistant Dean for Academic Inclusion. Dr. Delgado is a demonstrated leader serving most recently as Associate Vice President for Student Affairs for West Chester University in Pennsylvania. He brings a wealth of experience into our new Academic Inclusion pillar of Undergraduate Studies. His commitment to equity and inclusion are a driving force in his student-centered approach to building community. Dr. Delgado successfully brings people together to maximize their strengths.

We are excited for Dr. Delgado's leadership as we advance the mission of SSS!

Meet the SSS Team

- Dr. LaTosha Thomas, Director
- Brian Williams, Counselor/Advisor
- Nicholas Cullen, Counselor/Advisor
- Eirleene Bristow, Administrative Specialist
- Michkayla Dandreano, Summer
 Program Coordinator
- Jaelyn Wise, Summer Program Assistant
- Nicholas Irby, Office Assistant
- Brandon Marshall, Office Assistant
- Patricia Brutus, Peer Coach
- Sachenley Fortune, Peer Coach
- Onika Griffiths, Peer Coach
- Jaelyn Wise, Peer Coach







Student Support Services Office of Undergraduate Studies

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