

News Release

South Seattle Community College

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

School's in for the Summer!

High school students get a head start at South.

(Seattle, WA) It's "books over beach" for more than 100 area high school students taking part in on-campus summer programs designed to help them improve their academic skills and success. The free summer sessions at South Seattle Community College also give students the opportunity to experience life on a college campus, while becoming familiar with resources available to help them succeed. Whether prepping for the WASL or creating digital video productions, these high schoolers are making the most of their summer vacation.

Recent Stanford University graduate and current *Upward Bound* teaching assistant Johann Strauss knows first-hand the value of spending the summer at South. Colombian-born Strauss, who participated in *Upward Bound* for four years, credits the program with helping him achieve his higher education dreams.

"It kept me motivated, and prepared me for math, reading and writing that I would encounter in the following school year," he said. "It gave me that added edge to excel in my classes."

The federally-funded, six-week *Upward Bound* program offers students from the Tyee and Evergreen Complexes classes in science, math, Japanese, Spanish, SAT prep, journalism and digital video production, supplemented with fun and educational field trips. Two-thirds of the students are low income and first in their families to attend college, and most participate in the program for their entire four years in high school. During the school year, South's learning specialists continue to work with them on the high school campuses.

Strauss, whose younger brother Eric is a second-year *Upward Bound* participant, found the supportive atmosphere on campus as important as the academics. Now just a year away from completing a master's degree in Latin American Studies at Stanford, he vividly recalls how the staff never let him give up, especially when college seemed a distant possibility.

"Without *Upward Bound*, I would have really narrowed my options," he recalls. "Many times I thought I wouldn't get into Stanford, but I always got lots of encouragement here."

Also on the South Seattle Community College campus this summer:

South Seattle's *Career Link*, now in its 14th year, hosts summer students who are working on completing their high school diploma. The 19 current students from the Highline, Federal Way and Vashon School Districts attend history and PE classes four days a week and can earn eight high school credits. Students interested in enrolling in *Career Link* beginning fall 2008 are invited to learn more at an information session at 1 p.m., Tuesday, August 19, in Rainier Hall, room 311.

This is the inaugural summer of ***Jump Start***, a new program for high school graduates who were awarded Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Achievers scholarships. Funded by the College Success Foundation, which covers tuition and books for the summer, the program offers students the opportunity to enroll in summer quarter classes on a part- or full-time basis. South's Outreach Director Rosie Rimando serves as their college success mentor.

Also on campus are 65 high school students in the ***WASL Summer College***, a partnership between the City of Seattle, Seattle Public Schools, and the Seattle Community Colleges. The program, which enrolls juniors and seniors who still need to pass the WASL, is now in its third year. Students are placed in reading, writing, and/or math classes, based on which WASL test(s) they still need to pass. The small class size enables instructors to provide individual attention to student needs. A Career Choices class that tours campus professional technical programs and provides information college and career resources, is offered as an option in place of one academic class.

The ***Puget Sound Skills Center Summer Math Program*** recently concluded its four-week session. Students from the Highline School District studied math through hands-on activities and real-world projects, using self-paced computer tutorials.

For more information on these programs, contact:

Upward Bound	(206) 768-6401
Career Link	(206) 764-7946
Jump Start	(206) 768-6691
WASL Summer College	(206) 768-6738
PSSC Summer Math Program	(206) 768-6885



(L-R) Johann & Eric Strauss

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