Greetings SSS Family!

Spring is finally here. The weather changes, flowers bloom, and the semester comes to an end. I hope you all finish the semester strong. This is the time of year where we will also lose some of our students to graduation. SSS would like to thank you potential graduates for all you have given to Shawnee Community College and the Student Support Service Program. You will be truly missed!

There are still several workshops remaining as well as the SSS Award Banquet on May 9, 2014. This is the chance for us to honor you for your participation in SSS.

Happy Spring!

Left to right: Amber Suggs, Lee Ann George, Evelyn Davis, Tanya Hill, Sheila Nelson.
On March 10th, 2014, eleven SSS students pictured left along with SSS advisors, Tanya Hill and Lee Ann George, attended an evening with Nicholas Sparks. Thousands of SEMO students, staff and faculty, along with community members and students from other area colleges were in attendance to hear the award winning author speak about his life, his books, the movie adaptations, and how to become an author. Nicholas Sparks also answered questions after the event and offered a book signing. Sparks has almost 80 million copies of his books in print. In 1994, at the age of 28, he wrote “The Notebook” over a period of six months. In 1995, rights to “The Notebook” were sold to Warner Books. It was published in 1996, and he followed that with 16 novels, including “Message in a Bottle,” “A Walk to Remember,” “Nights in Rodanthe,” “Dear John,” and “The Last Song.” All of his books were domestic and international bestsellers. He has had more books adapted to movies than any other author in history. Nicholas Sparks wonderfully told of the real life stories behind some of his best-selling and most popular books with a grace that only a good storyteller could do. All of the students that attended this trip enjoyed the unique experience of learning about the life and success of the famous author, Nicholas Sparks.
We would like to congratulate **Mildred Henderson**, who received “**Student of the Month**” for the month of February and March of 2014. Mildred was selected based on the many activities she attended each month. Mildred is a delight to be around and we truly appreciate her devotion to college, doing her best, and also her participation in our program.

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We are thrilled to announce that Samantha Wild will be transferring to SIUC in fall 2014 and was awarded the Dean's Transfer Scholarship. This scholarship is given to outstanding students who demonstrate the potential for superior academic performance. She will receive $5,000 over the next two years. “Way to go Samantha, we are proud of you!!!”

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**Congratulations Latara Slaughter for being crowned the Saints 2014 Homecoming Queen.**

Homecoming was March 1, 2014. The Homecoming dance was a fun filled night of laughter, dancing, eating and pictures.
Congratulations Justin Leon for being named First Team All Region, Runner-up Region 24 player of the year, and Region 24 All American nominee. Justin is a freshman-forward from Conway, Arkansas who averaged 15 points and 6 rebounds per game this season for the Saints.

Congratulations to Julius Barton. Julius will sign a letter of intent to play basketball for Kentucky State University. Julius, on the court, is a freshman Forward from West Memphis, Arkansas.

Congratulations to Duan Stewart on left and Jobe Dillard on right. They both signed with Columbia College, in Columbia, Missouri. Both are two year starters and team captains. Juan Stewart is a sophomore from Chicago, Illinois who averaged 11 points and 4.5 rebounds per game. Jobe Dillard is a Sophomore from Little Rock, Arkansas who averaged 11 points and 4.5 rebounds per game.

Congratulations to Cameron Ballard. Cameron recently signed a national letter of intent to play basketball with Crowley's Ridge College, in Paragould, Arkansas. Cameron is a sophomore guard from Mounds, Illinois.