Supplemental Instruction Program Helps Students Achieve

Attending supplemental instruction lectures is often an integral component to academic success for many Texas A&M students. The Texas A&M SI Program is a popular student service designed to offer “high impact academic assistance” in the form of weekly tutoring.

After SI sessions for a particularly difficult biology class, SI leaders quickly caught on to an effective method of helping students with their note-taking skills. After realizing that students were taking notes with multiple colored pens in an effort to be more organized, one of the biology SI leaders decided to pitch an idea: that the SI Program would provide students with the useful tool of multiple-ink-color clicky pens.

After seeking help from The Association to fund their new pen initiative, the SI Program now distributes more than 3,000 “orbiters,” as the pens are nicknamed, to Aggies attending SI sessions every semester.

More than 11,000 students have the chance to attend free SI sessions, and more than 50 sections of various core courses are offered. The Association of Former Students also helps the Texas A&M SI Program in funding SI Leaders' compensation, books and supplies.

Letter Of Appreciation From The Corps Of Cadets

Paden Allen '11, commander of the Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets' Special Tactics Squadron, wrote to The Association of Former Students expressing gratitude on behalf of the unit:

"On behalf of the Corps of Cadets' Special Tactics Squadron, we wish to express our gratitude for your generous donation. It is through kindness of others, such as yourselves, that the Corps of Cadets has been able to produce men and women of character, including more than 43,000 military officers, to lead our nation's public and private sectors since 1876.

"Although 'STS' is a brand new unit, great strides were accomplished during the Fall 2010 semester, helping our members gain confidence and competence in specialized skills and leadership qualities needed for their various military officer aspirations. Our past semester, we began the unit with a candidate class that finished with 17 cadets, all earning their new and coveted STS and prepared to lead STS into its second semester, where we expect a large growth in members. In the future, we will be working with the Bryan Police Department and Disaster City Program to enrich our program and continue a strong relationship between Texas A&M and the community.

"Due to the funding we received from The Association, we have been able to purchase safety gear such as hydration equipment and protective pads for activities such as room clearing, wilderness survival and other operational tasks. This will aid our unit in achieving our goal to serve as a supplemental program developing strong future leaders in the public and private sectors. The future of the Special Tactics Squadron has become very positive as a direct result of The Association's generosity. It is our goal to now reciprocate your kindness and assure our cadets excel beyond their goals and provide the best training we can.

"Once again, we would like to extend our sincerest appreciation for your assistance and support of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets and the Special Tactics Squadron."

The mission of STS is to instill within cadets the knowledge, training, familiarization, and physical capabilities to become successful military officers or to prepare cadets to become successful members of governmental agencies.