



Why SSS?

- ✓ Academic peer tutors & specialists
- ✓ Transfer trips to 4-year colleges
- ✓ Transfer advising & academic advising
- ✓ Off-campus trips
- ✓ Food & supply pantry
- ✓ Fun educational workshops & events

AMBER HUTFLES - DIRECTOR



Hi everyone! I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve in this role and to work alongside each of you. I graduated from Highland Community College (go Scotties!), and transferred to Kansas State University (go Cats!) to complete a degree in Hospitality Management, with an emphasis in Event Management, and a minor in Business Management. I love building relationships with people! While I was a student at Kansas State University, I received the "Extraordinary Student Award." This award is given to students who have been successful in their academic pursuits while facing opposition or significant obstacles. These experiences have truly made me who I am today.

For the majority of my young adult life, I have lived and worked in Manhattan, Kansas, a community that is very dear to me. I have a passion for engaging and growing young people and community development. My husband, Joel, and I decided to transition closer to home in the Fall of 2023. We just celebrated a year of marriage!! We love Jesus Christ and spending meaningful time with family and friends! We also enjoy coffee, travelling, staying active, ~and now~, gardening and remodeling our new home. We are expecting a beautiful baby boy or girl in August 2025! We can't wait for this new season and for the newest Scottie to join the family!

Have an incredible year and please stop by and visit us in Student Support Services!

KIM BECHTOLD - TRANSFER ADVISOR



Hi, my name is Kim Bechtold, and I'm the transfer advisor for the SSS program. I spent a year at HCC before transferring to Northwest Missouri State University, where I earned a bachelor's degree in Merchandising with a minor in Business. As a former transfer student myself, I understand that the process can sometimes feel overwhelming.

After gaining experience in the design industry in Kansas City, I transitioned into higher education as a Graduate Enrollment Advisor at Baker University's Overland Park campus. For the past 13 years, I've had the privilege of serving students at HCC and helping guide them through their transfer journey. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family. My husband and I stay busy supporting our two children, Mason (14) and Mila (10), in their many sports activities throughout the year. We're also kept on our toes by our playful 5-year-old Boxer, Steven! I look forward to a great semester and can't wait to share in all the wonderful events we have planned!



HEATHER MEJIA - RETENTION AND TUTORING COORDINATOR

Hi everyone! My name is Heather Mejia. This is my 7th year working at HCC, however, I have worked in Student Support Services as the Retention and Tutoring Coordinator for the past year. I enjoy working with our amazing students and being a part of their success. I grew up in the small rural town of Wathena, KS. I graduated from Highland Community College before transferring to Fort Hays State University where I earned a bachelor's degree in General Studies with a concentration in Psychology and Sociology.

I love spending quality time with my husband (Tyler) and our four children (Camilia-15, Henley-11, Lane-9 and Tyson 3). When we are not attending our children's multiple sporting events (basketball, volleyball, soccer, baseball, softball and football) we love to travel and spend time with our friends. During the summer months we spend a lot of time at our family lake house at Lake of the Ozarks. A fun fact about myself is that I worked as a cosmetologist for 13 years before I began my journey in Higher Education. I'm excited for the new academic year and look forward to meeting students.



TAMMY FUNK-ACADEMIC SPECIALIST

Hello everyone! My name is Tammy Funk. I grew up in a small town about 10 minutes away called Fanning. I graduated from Troy High School. This will be my 26th year teaching. I began my educational career at Missouri Western State University earning my bachelor's degree. I majored in elementary education with a minor in social science. Several years later I went back to earn my master's degree in elementary education through Baker University. The past 25 years I have taught at the Elwood/Riverside schools. I spent the majority of my years as a Title I elementary teacher. In addition, I taught first grade. I've spent a lifetime finding joy assisting students learn and succeed. My family consists of my husband and two

sons. My husband's name is Brandon. We have an anniversary date to remember, 11/11/11. Our sons are Colten and Spencer. They are both grown and live on their own. I am excited to share that we added a new grandson to our family! His name is Tristian. Even though our boys are not home anymore, we keep busy with our fur babies. Their names are Suni, a mini chihuahua, and Charlee, a chubby black kitty.

I feel so blessed to be a part of the SSS team. I look forward to meeting and assisting new students on their journey through language arts. I hope to see you soon!



JACKIE DENTON- PROJECT ASSISTANT

Hi! My name is Jackie Denton. I am Doniphan County born and raised, and I love all things Kansas. After graduating high school from Doniphan West, I attended Highland Community College just down the street. While I was a student here, I studied marketing and served as the Business Professionals of America Vice President. During that time, we placed first in the state and went on to place Top 3 in our team division and I placed Top 10 individually at the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California!

After HCC, I transferred to Emporia State University where I earned my Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Relations/Communications with a minor in Marketing. Following graduation, I began adventuring around the country trying out different career paths. Some of my most notable jobs are DJ, Realtor, Marketing Manager for Mancuso Harley-Davidson, Project Coordinator for ME-Engineers, Administrative Support Assistant for the United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resource Conservation Service and most recently Project Assistant for the Student Support Services at HCC! When I'm not working or exploring the country I like to spend time with my family, ride horses, play with my dogs, attend concerts, treasure hunt and collect all things hippo! I am happy to be back at Highland and look forward to sharing my post-secondary adventures with the students!

FALL '25 EVENTS

OCTOBER 14,
6:00PM

FALL SOCIAL AT KLINEFELTER BARN

Students will travel to Klinefelter Barn where they will tour the farm. They will also take a hayrack ride, as well as enjoy a bonfire while making s'mores. They will also participate in a pumpkin carving contest.



ELIGIBILITY/TRANSFER WORKSHOP

Learn more about transferring schools + eligibility! Ask the SSS Transfer Advisor, HCC Registrar and Athletics Director your transfer questions.

OCTOBER 30,
BARBER
ROOM
12:30PM-
1:00PM

NOVEMBER 6,
BARBER
ROOM
11:30AM-
1:00PM

FIRST-GENERATION LUNCHEON

Students will enjoy a tasty meal and candid conversations with alumni, faculty and professionals.



TRANSFER TRIP

Students will tour the Washburn campus and have an opportunity to ask questions of admissions professionals. After the tour, students will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

MID
NOVEMBER
2025

MORE SSS EVENTS COMING SOON!

“Student Support Services has made my experience here at Highland unforgettable. Everyone always makes you feel welcomed and like you’re a part.”

-Ashley Pelayo

“SSS helped with selecting courses that reflect my degree plan.”

-Patrick Bryant

“It’s a great program and resources. I definitely wish I could’ve been more active with SSS. More people should join for sure!”

-Mercedes Taylor

“It helped me open up and meet new people.”

-Dav’eyon Stallworth

“SSS has helped me with so much. I don’t think I would’ve made it through my freshman and sophomore years!”

-Alexis Lewis

JOIN THE FUN!

Team up with new friends to enjoy social and cultural events. Strategies on Success workshops, regional visits and more!



 @Highland Community College
Student Support Services

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or SSS@highlandcc

 @SSShighland



**STUDENT SUPPORT
SERVICES**

CONTACT US

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