Upcoming Elections
As you are probably painfully aware, Election Day is only two weeks away! It is an exciting and critical time for the history of our state. From local elections to the Governor’s race and from decisions about sending representation to Washington, D.C. to the outcome of State Questions – there are many important votes to be cast on Tuesday, November 2. Regardless of your political affiliation, I hope you will exercise your right to vote and encourage others to do so. Some of these races are predicted to be among the closest in recent history. Your voice is important!

Personnel News
With the conclusion of the Native American Non-Tribal Serving Institutions (NASNTI) grant last month, we have been faced with some challenges in maintaining services to students and protecting employee positions. Many of the services provided through NASNTI will be offered through our two Student Support Services (SSS) grant programs. Careful strategic planning over the past year has resulted in the placement of personnel from the NANSTI grant into other positions on campus. Positions that have been vacant in GEAR UP and created through the new SSS grant have provided opportunities for us to utilize the individuals involved in different roles.

NASNTI Retention Specialist Yashanda Scruggs has been selected to direct the new SSS Health Sciences grant. Employment Readiness Director Janna Manlapig will be joining her as SSS Health Sciences Advisor. NASNTI Director Shelly Watson will bring her grant supervision experience to the ER Program as its new Director. NASNTI Technology Specialist Michael Schnell will fill a position in the GEAR UP program as Education Technology Specialist. We are excited about these personnel changes and optimistic about the growth and development of these programs.

These personnel changes and a multitude of physical improvements on campus and throughout our service area highlight the importance of our external funding activities. Such financial resources play a pivotal role in the mission of Seminole State College. The record-setting enrollments at SSC over the past few years have been due in no small part to the important services offered by our various grant programs. These federal awards are extremely difficult to acquire. We will continue to increase our efforts in this area.

Kudos
Congratulations to Nursing Instructor Jeffery Jordan for earning the designation of Certified Nurse Educator (CNE). The certification requires meeting strict eligibility criteria and successfully completing a rigorous examination through the National League for Nursing. According to Nursing and Health Sciences Division Chair Donna Chambers, Mr. Jordan is the first member of the College’s nursing department to achieve this designation.

The Seminole State College Trojan Men’s and Women’s Tennis Teams accomplished a feat that not many junior colleges have ever done by winning the following four titles this fall at the U.S. Tennis Association/Intercollegiate Tennis Association Central Region Championships: Women’s Singles, Women’s Doubles, Men’s Singles and Men’s Doubles. In total, six SSC tennis players
advanced to the USTA/ITA Small College National Championships in Mobile, Alabama.  
**Mbonisi “Bo” Ndimande** placed first in Men’s Singles! **Congratulations to Bo on his National Championship and to Coach Brian Nelson, Assistant Coach Quynh Tran and the Trojan Tennis Players!**

Our book rental grant program continues to receive statewide attention. SSC Vice President for Fiscal Affairs **Katherine Benton** was recently invited to serve on a panel discussing “Alternative Approaches to Textbook Costs” at a conference sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in Tulsa. Vice President Benton’s leadership in this area is saving money for our students!

Congratulations to **Chad Noyes** for being selected by our contracted food service company, Sodexo, to serve as the new Director of Operations at SSC. Chad has been doing a great job in an interim position since the beginning of the school year. We are pleased to see him recognized by his company in this way and look forward to working with him.

**Foundation News**

Our “Shaping the Future” capital campaign continues to gain momentum. Following a great kick-off last Spring with our “Friends and Family” portion of the campaign, we reached an astounding 100 percent participation level with ALL faculty, staff and administrators making contributions and pledges to the campaign over the summer.

This fall, several community supporters stepped forward to provide funding for our scholarships, academic programs, faculty and student enrichment programs and future endowments. We have close to $1.5 million committed and are on our way to achieving our goal of $2.5 million in this three-year campaign. One major milestone in the “Shaping the Future” campaign was the announcement of a major gift from SSC Educational Foundation Trustee and former **Regent Ben Walkingstick** and his wife **Bonnie**. In recognition of their past, current and future financial gifts and long-time support of the College, we will officially dedicate the **Ben and Bonnie Walkingstick Student Services Center** on the afternoon of **November 30, 2010**. Please make plans to join us at a 1:30 p.m. reception that day to celebrate this gift and to show our appreciation to the Walkingsticks.

The campaign also received a nice boost from the Foundation’s annual benefit golf tournament held October 9th at the Jimmie Austin Municipal Golf Course in Seminole. Over 20 teams and sponsors, many of whom are corporate friends from across the state, supported the tournament. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma served as the title sponsor for the event. We raised over $17,000 during a beautiful fall day of golf. SSC Rural Business and Resources Director **Larry “Bubba” Smith** did a magnificent job organizing and conducting the tournament. We were fortunate to have Larry and so many wonderful friends of the College help with this event.

*I wish each of you a great Fall Break. I hope you return to campus next Monday refreshed and ready to tackle the remaining weeks of the semester. We have so many things to be thankful for at Seminole State College. I appreciate each of you as a valuable part of this institution.*

"**Seminole State College empowers people for academic success, personal development, and lifelong learning.**"