RIBBON CUTTING AND OPEN HOUSE
I want to thank everyone who had a part in making yesterday's ribbon cutting and open house for the Seminole Nation Residential Learning Center a wonderful success. It was estimated that between 350 and 400 people attended this dedication ceremony. There were many folks across campus, particularly in maintenance, housekeeping and the President's Office, who worked incredibly hard to prepare for this event. I also want to thank the large number of faculty and staff who were in attendance. Your presence was greatly appreciated.

We have been fortunate to experience a number of exciting milestone events in recent years. The support for the good things happening on this campus is overwhelming. I hope you share my pride in the growth and development of Seminole State College.

NEW FEDERAL GRANTS AWARDED!
We received word late last Wednesday afternoon that we have been selected to receive a $1.2 million grant over a two-year period from the U.S. Department of Education through the new Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions Program. The program will assist with recruitment, retention, developmental education and the purchase of instructional technology and will benefit all students. As part of the award notification, we were asked to expand our proposal for three additional years. Should that be approved, we will receive approximately $3 million in federal funds to support student services and technology on campus. This is the first time for this grant competition - and only six proposals in the nation were funded! After we receive formal notification from our U.S. Congressional offices and further information from the Department of Education regarding this award, we will make a public media announcement of this exciting news.

HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION UPDATE
Our work on the Self-Study for our 2009 Higher Learning Commission accreditation visit is reaching a crescendo. I want to underscore comments I made during In-Service requesting that everyone on campus make this a priority during the critical final stages of the preparation of the report this fall. The HLC Self-Study is progressing on time. The Self-Study Chair, Pam Koenig, and the members of the Writing Team are in the process of reviewing the submissions from the five Criterion teams, the Federal Compliance team, and the 2000 Response team. The next writing phase should begin next week. I have been very impressed with the campus-wide support of this project. I think we are doing great. Please continue your efforts with vigilance to assist Pam and all of the various committees working on this project.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about any of the matters discussed in this memo. As always, I deeply appreciate your dedicated support of this institution – its people and its programs.