

CAMPUS MEMO

from the

Office of the President

August 25, 2020

Fall Semester is Underway

Seminole State College is alive and well amid the strange and scary world of COVID-19. The fall term has been under way for a little over a week. Our faculty, staff and students are working together to be safe and to create an environment conducive to learning. We continue to face challenges, and are continually learning ways to do things better, but I believe things are going well. I am extremely thankful to this wonderful campus community for their tenacity, perseverance, and concern for others. Employees and students are trying to do the right things – wearing their masks, staying socially distanced, washing their hands – and asking questions when they need clarification on policies and procedures. THANK YOU!

Addendums to COVID-19 Safety Procedure Manual

As we have worked through implementing procedures published in our COVID-19 Safety Manual, we have found a couple of areas that needed expansion and clarification. The Administrative Council, in concert with our COVID-19 Officer Dr. Deanna Miles, has approved two additional sections that now appear in the updated version of the manual on the College's website at www.sscok.edu under the Coronavirus COVID-19 SSC News button.

One addition provides the opportunity for possible exceptions to SSC travel restrictions requested through appropriate supervisors to the area Vice Presidents. The Vice President and I will analyze feasibility and possible health risks on a case-by-case basis. Factors to be considered include: number of people to be travelling; distance of designation from campus; expected amount of exposure to other people; number of positive COVID-19 cases in the area of the destination; and appropriate transportation options.

A second addendum provides additional information regarding “first degree” COVID-19 exposure, quarantines and clearance procedures. If a student or employee is subject to a federal, state, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19, has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine related to COVID-19; or is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis, he/she should follow steps outlined in the manual regarding completing appropriate forms and providing documentation for clearance to return to campus. Due to ever-changing protocols and recommendations, we realize this manual will need periodic updates. Please rely on the online version for the most current guidelines.

Fall Enrollment

While we would be thrilled to be up in enrollment this Fall, we are very thankful that the expected downturn in the number of students and their hour loads has experienced only a minimal decrease. Following the final day of enrollment on Friday, August 21, we were only



***Lana Reynolds, President
Seminole State College***

down 4.5% in headcount and 2.5% in hours. Considering projections from early summer, these numbers are amazing. I would like to compliment and express appreciation to everyone on campus for taking a proactive approach to getting students enrolled this Fall. More opportunities to try to retain current students and encourage others to enroll lie ahead in the second half of the semester. Academic Affairs and Student Affairs will be jointly working on providing a robust list of mid-term classes. We would appreciate continued support of these efforts across campus.

Campus CARES Committee

In addition to distributing over \$317,000 in federal money from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to assist students last Spring and Summer based on their enrollment, approximately \$152,000 has been awarded to our students on the basis of need. Our Campus CARES Committee, comprised of **Leslie Sewell**, Assistant Athletic Director and SGA and Food Pantry Sponsor; **Christal Knowles**, Social Sciences Associate Professor and SSC HELP Center; **Lindsay Hernandez**, Office Manager, President's Office; **Janna Wilson-Byrd**, Director of Student Support Services Grant; **Kelly Hankal**, Director of Medical Laboratory Technology, **Jeffrey Christiansen**, Professor of Political Science and **Marc Hunter**, Director of Information Technology, has spent many hours working through hundreds of applications and meeting to determine these awards. They still have three meetings scheduled to appropriate another \$112,000 in the coming months. All of this was done under the direction of Financial Assistance Director **Melanie Rinehart** and her staff. Melanie shared some of the responses she has received following notification of the need-based awards. She reported there were a lot of "thank you so much" responses, in addition to the comments printed below.

"You are a blessing. What great timing. I just went through 2 frustration hours trying to submit an assignment with my old computer. I was almost in tears. Then after getting that done, I went to my email to see if it had been submitted and thankfully it was. I saw your email opened and read it and was in tears of joy. Literally. I have no words for my appreciation of all your work on behalf of me and others."

"I would just like to extend my deepest appreciation for all the help SSC has given me. I love you guys and I feel loved here. SSC makes me feel like I matter."

"Thank you guys so much!"

"This is a blessing! I'm in tears, honey. Thank you so much."

"Thank you so much. I feel so blessed and grateful."

"Thank you for the update, I know your office has to be extremely busy. Thank you for all your hard work!!"

"Thank you so much!!!! This seriously means so much to me!!!! I love y'all and I love our school!!!!"

I don't think I can top those comments. Thank you – faculty, staff, Regents, Foundation Trustees and community supporters for your love and support of our students. Together, we are changing lives and helping people survive these challenging times.