

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE

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**AVEDIS AWARDS GRANT
FOR ADAPTIVE FIELD**

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Submitting to The Collegian

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BancFirst Makes Large Donation to SSC Food Pantry



BancFirst employees donated hundreds of non-perishable food items and bottles of water to the Seminole State College Food Pantry on Oct. 14. BancFirst employees at the Seminole branches, located at 1500 N. Milt Phillips Ave. and 206 N. 2nd St., held a donation drive to ensure the Food Pantry was well stocked in anticipation of the holiday season. Three BancFirst employees and two SSC employees helped unload the food items. (Pictured l-r) SSC Assistant Athletic Director Leslie Sewell,

BancFirst Teller Supervisor Misty Pratt, SSC Director of Physical Plant and Campus Safety Ed Lemmings, BancFirst Senior Vice President Chris Moore and BancFirst Assistant Branch Manager Aaron Winterscheid unloaded the supplies.

The Food Pantry is open to SSC students struggling with food insecurity issues. It is located in the David Boren Library in Room 101. The Food Pantry is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

SPRING ENROLLMENT OPEN NOW

SECURE YOUR SPOT IN THE CLASSES YOU WANT.

SPEAK TO AN ADVISOR TODAY

Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their hard work and dedication during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on Oct. 8. Assistant Professor of English Yasminda Choate was honored as "Faculty Member of the Month" and GEAR UP Office Manager Sherri Dykes as "Staff Member of the Month."

The Seminole Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, along with the Lions Club and Blue Ribbon Realty, recognize SSC employees several times during Forum each year. Individuals are nominated from across the campus and chosen by SSC administrators to receive the honor.

Choate has worked at SSC for eight years. In addition to teaching English courses on campus, she is the 2020-2021 President of the SSC Faculty Senate. She also serves as the Co-Chair of the Distance Education Committee, the sponsor of the Sigma Kappa Delta honor society and a member of the Wellness Committee.

She received her bachelor's degree in English from East Central University in 2001, her master's degree in English from Texas A & M University-Commerce in 2010 and has completed all but her dissertation for a doctorate in Higher Education Administration at the University of Oklahoma.

She is currently the Chairwoman of the Seminole County Democratic Party, an elder at the Ada First Pres-

byterian Church, a member of the Oklahoma Association of Developmental Education and a member of the Alliance for Higher Education in Prison.

In her spare time, Choate enjoys working on her poultry farm, deer hunting and reading. She and her family reside in Sasakwa. Her daughter, Amelia, is a freshman at Konawa High School. Both her mother and sister are alumni of the SSC Nursing Program.

"They're a big part of why I wanted to work at SSC, and I'm very proud of the small role I play in helping students like them achieve their academic dreams," Choate said.

Dykes has been employed by SSC for three years. She provides office support for the GEAR UP team, who spend the bulk of their time in cohort schools four days a week. She focuses on data management, makes flyers, helps with technology issues and assists the program with its annual summer camp on campus.

Dykes received her bachelor's degree in General Studies from East Central University. She is currently the Vice President of the SSC Classified Staff Association.

She and her family reside in Tecumseh. She has three children, Maggie, Jonah and Cameron. In her spare time, she enjoys creating a podcast with her brothers, Michael and Tony, called Kick the Cool, where the siblings review a variety of products and trends.



Assistant Professor of English Yasminda Choate was honored as the "Faculty Member of the Month" at the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum Oct. 8.



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COVID-19 SAFETY PROCEDURE MANUAL



FALL 2020

[CLICK TO VIEW](#)

Stay up to date with campus COVID-19 safety precautions at SSC's Coronavirus Response page.

Here you'll find important updates, CARES Act scholarship information, mental health resources and links to Centers for Disease Control data.

Explore the Response Page [here](#).

Avedis Awards Grant for Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex



The Avedis Foundation meets with representatives of the Seminole State College Educational Foundation to present a \$250,000 grant for the development of an adaptive field within the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex. Pictured (l-r): SSC President Emeritus Dr. Jim Utterback, SSC President Lana Reynolds, SSC Educational Foundation Chair Lance Wortham, Avedis Foundation President and CEO Dr. Kathy Laster, Avedis Foundation Program Director Tracy Meeuwssen and Avedis Foundation Board of Directors Chair Mark Finley.

The Avedis Foundation has awarded a \$250,000 grant to the Seminole State College Educational Foundation's sports complex project for the addition of an adaptive field for persons with special needs. The adaptive field, designed specifically for special kids and adults, will be the first of its kind in the State of Oklahoma.

The Avedis Foundation, established in 2012 in Shawnee, supports a vision to measurably improve the health, wellness and quality of life for the people of Pottawatomie County and its surrounding communities. "Avedis" means "bearer of glad tidings or good news."

The organization sponsors a leadership development institute and is

a partner in several collaborative initiatives including the healthy living Blue Zones Project, Community Renewal of Pottawatomie County, and the Community Market.

Avedis Executive Director Kathy Laster said the Foundation staff and Board of Directors consistently assess health and wellness issues in the area and support new and innovative ways to improve outcomes. She said, "In addition, we have a commitment to improving the quality of the life in our area and to helping nonprofits address community health outcomes."

"We are excited about helping this under-served population and for what the sports complex will do for

this entire area."

Data from the Oklahoma State Department of Education shows that 5,186 students have been identified as having special needs in the five-county service area of SSC. That number does not include other groups such as disabled veterans and other adults with special needs. SSC President Lana Reynolds expressed her thanks and excitement about the award. "Thinking of the opportunities this will create for people with special needs brings tears to my eyes. This award will change lives. We cannot thank Kathy and the Avedis Board enough for helping us make this 'field of dreams' a reality," Reynolds said.

The Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex is under construction just west of SSC on Highway 9. The seven-field complex will serve as home to the Seminole State College Trojan Baseball and Soccer teams and will provide sports fields for hosting tournaments for teams of all ages and abilities throughout the region and state.

The SSC Educational Foundation has partnered with the Cal Ripken, Sr., Foundation to design and raise funds for the complex. Former Baltimore Oriole and 2007 National Baseball Hall of Fame inductee Cal Ripken, Jr. expressed his excitement about this award and project. "We have been doing terrific work in

Avedis cont.

Oklahoma for a few years now and it all comes down to great partners. This Youth Development Park in Seminole, Oklahoma will be transformational. Through our partnership with the SSC Educational Foundation and the Brian Crawford Memorial Foundation, and thanks to the generous support of the Avedis Foundation, kids with special needs will have an amazing place to play and learn," said Cal Ripken, Jr.

The SSC Foundation has contracted with Hellas Construction to build this state-of-the-art adaptive field. To view a video of a ribbon cutting for an Adaptive Field recently completed by Hellas Construction in Texas, visit: https://youtu.be/nSH3_OxJovc.

SSC President Emeritus Jim Utterback has been coordinating fundraising efforts for the BCM Sports Complex. He expressed appreciation to Laster and Avedis Project Director Tracy Meeuwssen, as well as the Avedis Foundation Board, for their support and guidance during the grant process. "Through a series of meetings, Kathy and the Board

helped us shape and sharpen our vision for this exciting and important addition to our complex. In addition, Tracy Meeuwssen provided valuable insight about the grant process. We deeply appreciate the time and effort they expended over the past several months to help us make this project come to fruition," he said.

SSC Educational Foundation Chairman Lance Wortham said the Foundation and College are excited about the expansion of the sports complex to include the Adaptive Field. "This heartwarming addition brings the possibilities of what the complex can do to a new level. We believe this project will be a source of pride for our entire area as we can now provide opportunities for persons of all ages and abilities. The economic impact on this entire area will be incredible," Wortham said.

For more information about the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex fund raising efforts, contact the SSC Foundation office at 405-382-9506 or email Dr. Utterback at j.utterback@sscok.edu.

Health Department Provides Flu Shots at SSC



The Seminole State College nursing program assisted the Seminole County Health Department as they administered free flu shots on campus on Oct. 20. Twenty-eight students and four faculty members helped with the event. Community members, students and faculty received the vaccines by driving through the Enoch Kelly Haney Center or by walking up to a tent on the north side of the Haney Center.

SSC NASNTI Program Launches Native Art Exhibit

The Seminole State College Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) grant program recently completed a permanent Native American art exhibit in the David Boren Library on campus.

Each year, the grant program establishes a theme. NASNTI's theme for 2020-2021 is "Keeping Native Language Alive." In line with that theme, the grant program wanted to create a permanent exhibit showcasing the work of Native American artists.

"We want to help examine the importance of Native Language preser-

vation and the significance culture has in our community, state, county and worldwide," NASNTI Engagement Specialist Kay Wallace said.

The project took six months to complete and features works from six different artists. Artists Phillip Coon, Amber Duboise-Shepherd, Edmond Joshua Jr., Gary Montgomery, Katie Scott and Tony Tiger all have pieces in the exhibit.

The exhibit was made possible through donations from Amber DuBoise-Shepherd, Bill and Karen Hooten, SSC Emeritus Art Professor Kelly Kirk and his wife Judy, Katie

Scott and Tony Tiger.

In celebration of the exhibit's completion, the grant program created a video entitled "Six Minutes and Thirteen Seconds of Your Time: The Making of the NASNTI Art Exhibit." The video tracks the entirety of the project and can be viewed on SSC's YouTube page.

The exhibit is available to view for students, faculty and staff. It opened to the public on Nov. 1. Social distancing, limited group sizes, and face masks will be required of visitors.



"Navajo Woman in Front of the Navajo Rug" by Amber Duboise-Shepherd

SSC Honor Society Inducts New Members

Twenty-nine Seminole State College students were inducted into the Alpha Theta Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges on Oct. 20. The induction ceremony was conducted virtually, utilizing Zoom video conference software.

Students are selected based on their scholarship, leadership and commitment to community. The chapter provides programs, organizes activities and encourages participation in community service projects.

Requirements for membership in the honor society include: enrollment at an accredited two-year college with a Phi Theta Kappa chapter and an overall GPA of 3.5 with a minimum of 12 credit hours completed. SSC President Lana Reynolds served as the event's guest speaker. She became the first female president of Seminole State College in 2017 and has held several administrative roles at the College in the past 30 years.

She is currently the Chair of Leadership Oklahoma and a past Pres-

ident of the Seminole Chamber of Commerce and the Seminole Rotary Club. She was selected as Seminole's "Citizen of the Year" in 2008 and was named by the Journal Record as one of "50 Women Making a Difference" in the state of Oklahoma in 2000, 2012 and 2013 – bringing her into the "Circle of Excellence" for her three-time selection. In November 2017, she received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Oklahoma Christian University.

Reynolds has served as Chair of the Oklahoma State Regents Communicators Council and is a past President of the Oklahoma College Public Relations Association.

Assistant Professor of Business Jeff Cheng and Assistant Professor of Social Sciences Sam Rivera, who serve as the chapter's current advisers, were also present at the induction.

SSC students inducted at the ceremony (arranged by hometown) were:

- Ada: Laney Anderson
- Del City: Ryan Sanders
- Earlsboro: Jessica Waddell
- Edmond: Evy Aud



A group of 29 Seminole State College students were inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa honor society during a virtual ceremony on Oct. 20.

- Holdenville: Steven Horvatt
- Lexington: Kaitlyn Matlock
- Macomb: Aden Bruno
- Oklahoma City: Grant Murphey
- Owasso: Cynthia Armas
- Prague: Isaiah Camren
- Seminole: Jake McRay, Jaxen McRay, Donna Rupe, Tatum Shelton and Marissa Vega
- Shawnee: Tamrin Davis, Amy Hailley, Brittany Harwell, Michelle Mayfield, Caleb Nahmahpeah and Harley Gregory
- Stroud: Samantha Beavers
- Tecumseh: Lindakay Berry, Bethany Randall, Emily Ridley and McKayla Wright
- Wetumka: Wyatt Pack
- Wewoka: Jami Barkhimer and Emma Norman

Board of Regents Convenes for October Meeting

The Seminole State College Board of Regents met Oct. 22 to review the College's annual external audit report and approve the 2020-2021 academic calendar.

The meeting opened with a review of the College's recent expenditures by Interim Vice President for Fiscal Affairs Courtney Jones. Then SSC President Lana Reynolds presented her President's Report, which included an update on the College's COVID-19 response, personnel

changes and information about campus activities.

One action item was approved by the Board. The Board approved the 2020 fiscal year external audit conducted by the Finley & Cook, Certified Public Accountants of Shawnee. The audit focused on College operations from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Prior to the meeting, the report was presented to the Board Audit Committee, composed of Chair Curtis Morgan and Regents

Kim Hyden and Ray McQuiston. Dan Bledsoe, a partner with Finley & Cook, provided a summary at the meeting. The accounting firm communicated that they found no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. They issued an unqualified — or clean — audit.

Under the consent agenda, the Board approved the 2020-2021 Academic Calendar and the Annual Report of Student Assessment Activity. The Board then reviewed the Asso-

ciate in Science in Health, Physical Education and Recreation program, and approved a request to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for the online delivery of the Associate in Science in Criminal Justice.

Board members present at the meeting were: Curtis Morgan, Bryan Cain, Marci Donaho, Kim Hyden, Ray McQuiston and Ryan Pitts.

The next SSC Board of Regents meeting is set for Dec. 10, 2020.

Foundation Appoints Four New Trustees



Darren Frederick



Haley Coates



Jason Smalley



Rhonda McKee

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation welcomed four new trustees during their quarterly meeting on Oct. 21. Former Oklahoma State Senator Jason Smalley of Stroud, Darren Frederick of Seminole, Haley Coates of Seminole and Rhonda McKee of Prague have all been selected to serve as members on the Foundation Board.

Smalley and McKee were appointed for a three-year term. Smalley is currently employed at Motorola Solutions, where he serves as a Senior Account Executive. McKee is a former business owner and currently serves Lincoln County as a civic

worker. Frederick and Coates will each be completing a two-year term on the Board. Frederick is the Owner/Agent of State Farm Insurance in Seminole and Coates is co-owner of HC Investments in Seminole.

The Foundation also appointed two new Executive Committee Members – Andy Tucker of Okemah and Mark Schell of Seminole. They will replace outgoing Vice Chairs Doug Humphrey of Holdenville and Jeramy Rich of Prague. Lance Wortham of Shawnee was reappointed to the Executive Committee and will continue to serve as Chair of the organization.

During the meeting, Foundation members heard comments from the Gift Acceptance Task Force and approved a motion to move donated funds not designated as restricted to an unrestricted account to provide clarity for bookkeeping purposes.

The Trustees then heard an update on recent Foundation activities including the annual golf tournament which raised more than \$21,000, as well as details about an upcoming "virtual" holiday reception and recent gifts and campus support efforts.

Director of Rural Business and Resources Center Larry Smith pro-

vided details regarding regional economic activity and Oklahoma Department of Commerce funding for special projects, and SSC President Lana Reynolds discussed COVID-19 response at the college as well as recent campus activities.

An update was also given about the progress of the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex by President Emeritus Dr. Jim Utterback.

The next SSC Educational Foundation is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 2021.

THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 25-27

We want to wish everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving Break!



SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE
2701 BOREN BLVD
SEMINOLE, OK 74868

PLC Attends Financial Literacy Event

Members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class attended a financial literacy event on Oct. 5 in the Utterback Ballroom, located in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center.

Students engaged with two speakers through Zoom, a videoconferencing platform. The guest speakers were Elaine Dodd, Executive Vice President/Fraud Division for the Oklahoma Bankers Association, and Melanie Rinehart, Director of Financial Assistance at SSC. Dodd provided insight into safeguarding personal information and guided students on what to do if their identities were stolen. Following Dodd's presentation, Rinehart spoke to students about budgeting, payment options, savings, debt and repayment, and managing credit.

Dodd spent 22 years in law enforcement doing investigative work for the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics, retiring in 1995 as the director.

Her tenure there allowed opportunities for investigating white-collar crimes as a diversion investigator, as well as training for officers and medical professionals.

Dodd joined the Oklahoma Bankers Association in October 2003 and since then has provided fraud training to thousands of bankers and customers across the state. In February 2013, she was awarded the Brad Edwards Consumer Champion Award by the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office. And, in April 2013, she was inducted into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame.

For six years, she coordinated the community outreach effort for Leadership Oklahoma, helping to start local leadership groups, facilitating retreats and teaching and enhancing skills on a local level.

Dodd holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Oklahoma.

Rinehart has worked in higher ed-



Elaine Dodd

ucation financial aid for seven years. She currently holds 11 National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators Credentials, including the new Financial Aid Administrator Certification. She has earned her Certification as a Financial Education Instructor from the National Financial Educators Council. She serves as the current Oklahoma Association of Student Financial Aid



Melanie Rinehart

Administrators (OASFAA) Treasurer Elect, Southwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators's Oklahoma Delegate at Large and Boot Camp Committee Chair.

She holds a master's degree in business administration from St. Gregory's University and a bachelor's degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from the University of Oklahoma.