

2010
**Accomplishments
and Highlights**
for
Seminole State College

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Prepared January, 2011

by

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Office of the President

January 27, 2011

Dear Regents:

As we look to the future at the beginning of each calendar year, we have traditionally reviewed past accomplishments made at Seminole State College. This document provides an overview of 2010. Although there are numerous highlights of the past year presented in the following pages, there are three major accomplishments that are significant in the history of this institution.

First, following input from many campus constituencies, the Board approved a new Mission Statement for the institution and adopted a set of Core Values. This was done at the suggestion of the Higher Learning Commission team who visited our campus in October, 2009 as part of our accreditation process.

Another milestone of 2010 was the occupation, ribbon-cutting and dedication of the Ben and Bonnie Walkingstick Student Services Center. This impressive facility has become an impressive "front door" to the campus and a great resource for all types of services provided to our students.

Finally, we had a terrific kick-off to the SSC Educational Foundation's "Shaping the Future" capital campaign. With 100% participation from faculty and staff, to the great response from our community supporters, we surpassed several of our initial goals for the fund raising effort. It is humbling and gratifying to realize the tremendous support we have had for this campaign and for the College.

This month, I begin my fifteenth year as President. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have participated in the growth and development of our institution. We have made progress on many long-range goals and have seen dreams become reality. Working together we truly are "shaping the future" of Seminole State College.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read 'Jim Utterback'.

James W. Utterback, Ph.D.
President

Highlights of 2010

Board of Regents

- ◆ A Winter Summit kicked off the Spring term with representatives from each academic division, the Board of Regents and students attending a retreat at St. Crispin's Lodge. The focus of the retreat was to discuss ways to improve the Mission Statement and to develop Core Values for the institution, following a recommendation from the Higher Learning Commission. After receiving input from the campus community on the proposals developed at the retreat, the Board approved a new Mission Statement and Core Values for the institution.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

CORE VALUES – C.O.R.E.

The values of Compassion, Opportunity, Respect and Excellence will be considered in all actions of Seminole State College.

- ◆ Chairman of the SSC Board of Regents **Jon Flowers** completed his service as a Regent in June. Shawnee educator **Leesa Adams** was appointed by **Governor Brad Henry** to serve a seven-year term replacing Chairman Flowers.
- ◆ The College ended the fiscal year with \$727,237 in E&G Cash Reserve — the largest in over a decade.
- ◆ In October, the College received an unqualified external audit for FY 10 - a standard practice for over a decade.
- ◆ The Board of Regents authorized a \$500 stipend for full-time faculty and staff of the College in December.

SSC Educational Foundation

- ◆ Two former students were inducted into the SSC Alumni Hall of Fame during the Foundation's annual recognition banquet on May 6. Inductees were **Christy Barnes**, a retired educator and basketball coach from Douglas, and **Dr. Kirk DePriest**, General Surgeon at Integris-Bass Hospital in Enid.

- ◆ Employees and Foundation board members celebrated the public kick-off of a “Shaping the Future” Capital Campaign in early May. A goal was set to get maximum employee participation in the campaign with the hope of raising \$30,000. After surpassing that amount, a challenge goal of \$60,000 for employees was established. At the kick-off celebration, it was announced that SSC employee gifts and pledges totalled over \$75,000. By summer, 100% of all employees had pledged participation in the campaign.



- ◆ In recognition of a \$150,000 endowment to the Foundation, the College named a conference meeting room of the new Student Services Center the Hager-Chapman Center. The gift is from the trust of the late **Tywanna Hager Chapman** and her brother **Leon Hager**.
- ◆ The SSC Educational Foundation’s annual golf tournament, held in October, raised more than \$17,000.
- ◆ The Foundation began an effort to renovate and develop the area around the north pond on the SSC campus. The Foundation Board of Trustees voted in October to adopt a project to create an area to complement the development of Henderson Park on the south edge of campus.
- ◆ Over \$21,000 was raised from donations in support of the Foundation’s Holiday Event for employees and friends of the College. The Foundation designated those funds, along with special donations of an additional \$30,000, to be used for the campus pond and park project.

Awards and Recognitions

- ◆ Oklahoma State **Senator Harry Coates** was one of 16 elected officials honored by the Oklahoma State Regents and the Council of Presidents for his service to Oklahoma Higher Education. Over 100 campus and community guests attended a reception in the Haney Center on January 14.
- ◆ SSC officials joined representatives from colleges and universities from across the state in honoring **Governor Brad Henry** with a Distinguished Service Award in January.
- ◆ Two faculty members, Social Sciences instructor **Bill Knowles** and Language Arts and Humanities instructor **Kelli McBride**, were granted tenure by the SSC Board of Regents in February.



- ◆ After having a record enrollment in the Fall of 2009, the Spring, 2010 enrollment reached an all-time high for Spring enrollment with 2,152 students.
- ◆ The College was invited to showcase its Self-Study documents during the Higher Learning Commission of North Central annual conference in Chicago in April. SSC Self-Study Steering Committee Chair **Pam Koenig** and Vice President for Academic Affairs **Dr. Paul Gasparro** visited with conference attendees about the SSC accreditation process.
- ◆ Adjunct Language Arts and Humanities instructor **Beth Humphreys** won third place in the Great Ideas for Teaching (GIFT) contest at the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Annual Conference in March. The contest is designed to encourage faculty from across the state to share their teaching ideas.
- ◆ **President Utterback** was asked to present at a college textbook symposium on “Textbook Evolution: Texts in the 21st Century” in March. The program was sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education at Tulsa Community College.
- ◆ Vice President for Fiscal Affairs **Katherine Benton** joined a panel of presenters at the Oklahoma Student Leadership retreat to speak on “Alternative Approaches to Textbook Costs.” The event was conducted by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Council on Student Affairs, the Oklahoma Student Government Association and the Student Advisory Board in Tulsa.
- ◆ Seminole State College and BancFirst were among education and business partnerships honored during an Economic Development Partnership Recognition program in April. The program honors outstanding partnerships that lead to significant contributions in educating and developing Oklahoma’s workforce.
- ◆ Career milestones of SSC employees were recognized during the SSC Educational Foundation’s annual recognition banquet in May. Honorees included: **Jonna Bunyan** (35 years); **Debbie Robertson** (30 years); **Patricia Cokeley** (25 years); **Debbie Hammond** (25 years); **Kathy Hoover** (25 years); and, **Ronnie Killian** (25 years).
- ◆ Two long-time employees, **Jeff Cox** and **Donnie Blankenship**, retired in the Spring. Mr. Cox, Chairman of the Language Arts Division, began his career at SSC in 1984, and Mr. Blankenship, a 35-year law enforcement veteran, began working at SSC in 1996.
- ◆ Three employees were recognized in May for service to their colleagues as leaders of their respective groups. **Kelli McBride** served as President of the Faculty Senate during the 2009-2010 academic year. **Eddie Cathey** was President of the Professional Staff Association; and, **Cindy Guinn** served as President of the Classified Staff Association.

- ◆ President **Dr. Jim Utterback** completed a term on the American Association of Community Colleges Board of Directors during the summer. He was the only representative from Oklahoma on the 32-member governing board of the association of the nation's more than 1,200 regionally-accredited public two-year colleges. Before leaving the board, Dr. Utterback participated in the selection of **Dr. Walter Bumphus** as the new President/CEO of AACC.



- ◆ Athletic Director and Head Men's Basketball Coach **Dr. Tom Mills** participated in the Future Leaders Institute seminar conducted by the American Association of Community Colleges in June in Newport Beach, California. **President Utterback** presented during the "Leader and Equity: Awareness and Action" portion of the five-day leadership seminar designed for community college administrators.
- ◆ SSC Coordinator of Media Relations **Dustie Butner** was selected to serve on the Oklahoma College Public Relations Association Board during the organization's annual conference in July.
- ◆ During the OCPRA conference, Vice President for Institutional Advancement **Lana Reynolds** received an award for news writing and presented during a roundtable discussion on "Managing the Campus Calendar." Reynolds was also named to serve on the Executive Board of *Leadership Oklahoma*.
- ◆ Nursing instructor **J. Jeffrey Jordan** earned the designation Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) last Fall after meeting strict eligibility criteria and successfully completing a rigorous certification examination developed and administered by the National League for Nursing.
- ◆ The College certified a C-CERT (Campus-Community Emergency Response Team) in 2010. SSC employees on the team included: **Dr. Brad Walck, Dan Factor, Mike Bender, Dwayne Castle, Alice Bryant, Kathleen Barton** and **Deedra Eldredge**. Community members on the team were: **Robin Harris** of the Seminole County Health Department and **William Williams** of the Seminole Nation Lighthorsemen Police.
- ◆ The College received National Incident Management System (NIMS) Compliance Certification from the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security in December.
- ◆ Several employees were recognized at the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum luncheons throughout the year. Recipients of the "Staff Member of the Month" and "Educator of the Month" awards were: Learning Resources Clerk **Gale Stinnett**, History Instructor **Dr. Steve Bolin**, Library Resource Clerk **Linda Moore**, English Instructor **Kelli McBride**, Housekeeper **Mark Spencer** and Math Instructor **Annette Troglin**.
- ◆ Seminole State College was selected as one of America's fastest growing community colleges by the national publication, *Community College Week*, in late November.

Federally-Funded Programs

- ◆ This fall, the College received a five-year renewal on its current Student Support Services grant totaling over \$1.28 million and a new Health Sciences Student Support Services grant totaling approximately \$1 million. SSC was one of only four colleges in the state to receive a grant. The Student Support Services program was completing its tenth year when it was renewed. The retention goal for the grant, which assists current SSC students in their academic pursuits, is 37% for its 160 participants. The past year, their retention rate was 94%.
- ◆ SSC has seven grants (Student Support Services, Health Sciences Student Support Services, Upward Bound I and II, Upward Bound Math-Sciences, Veterans Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search) funded through the U.S. Department of Education TRiO Division with a combined annual budget of nearly \$2 million dollars.
- ◆ SSC was chosen as one of two community colleges in Oklahoma to receive a new “Students in Service” grant through the national AmeriCorps program. The College was awarded slots for five students through the service/scholarship program.



Global Studies

- ◆ In March, students and community members travelled to Dublin, Ireland and London, England for a Global Studies Spring Break trip.
- ◆ The 2010 Global Studies Program travelled to China in June. The 12-day trip took travelers through Beijing, Xi'ian, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Special Events

- ◆ A campus celebration of Martin Luther King Day featured a presentation by **Kirk Garfield**, Pastor at Emmanuel Temple in Shawnee.
- ◆ In honor of Black History Month last February, the All Nations Student Development Center presented a celebration of heritage in music, dance and spoken word. The program included historical speech reenactments by the Galilee Baptist Praise Team from Shawnee, and a presentation by **Pastor R.V. Woods** of the St. Paul Baptist Church of Wewoka.

- ◆ The College hosted a “College Countdown” event in February to assist families with students preparing to attend college. The free program provided information about the application process for federal student aid.
- ◆ More than 1,000 students from 32 area high schools were on campus in March for the College’s 38th annual interscholastic meet. Students competed for individual awards during morning and early-afternoon testing sessions.
- ◆ The SSC All Nations Student Development Center hosted a student symposium in March as part of its effort to encourage student retention. The keynote speaker for the event was **Grace Panther**, Operations Resource Director for Frito Lay/PepsiCo and founder of RISE Diversity Network.
- ◆ The College hosted the 37th Annual East Central Oklahoma Regional Science and Engineering Fair in March. The event featured entries from approximately 300 public school students.
- ◆ Native American author **LeAnne Howe** spoke on campus in early April at the invitation of the Sigma Kappa Delta English Honor Society.
- ◆ Seminole native and Oklahoma City attorney and philanthropist **Reggie Whitten** spoke on campus in late April about his efforts to provide assistance to the children of Uganda through the “Pros for Africa.” The SSC Classified Staff Association dedicated fund raising activities throughout the year to purchase water-purifying straws to be distributed in Africa by Whitten’s organization.
- ◆ **Dr. John Roueche**, a nationally-recognized authority in community college education, spoke to faculty and staff in April. The event, hosted by the All Nations Student Development Center, was focused on student success and creating an environment for student engagement.
- ◆ Local attorney and military hero **Brad Carter** was the featured speaker at the 77th Commencement Exercises on May 14. Degrees were awarded to 245 candidates. Among them were three mother-daughter pairs: **Rhonda Coates** and her daughter **Amelia Coates**; **Myra Jackson** and her daughter **Martina Perry**; and **Kimberly Anson** and her daughter **Alexandria Anderson-Ysassi**.



- ◆ A long-time vision for the growth and development of Seminole State College became a reality on May 12 with the official ribbon cutting of the new Student Services Center. The 16,600 square-foot facility is designed as a one-stop enrollment center designed with the convenience of students in mind. On November 30, the building was dedicated as the **Ben and Bonnie Walkingstick** Student Services Center in honor of long-time friends and supporters of the College from Chandler.

- ◆ During the annual in-service training, nationally-recognized education consultant, Dr. Mark Taylor, spoke to faculty and staff on the topic: “Stay Connected — Meet Generation NeXt.” He addressed unique challenges presented through generational differences and use of technology.
- ◆ Longtime Seminole educators **Marci Donaho**, **Dr. Donna Hardin** and **Betty Smith** spoke to SSC employees during the College’s in-service training in August. The trio, who are 2007 graduates of the Disney Institute, conducted a session for faculty and staff on “The Disney Approach to Customer Service at SSC.”
- ◆ As the Fall term began, the All Nations Student Development Center presented the Native American Education Expo to help educate students about resources available through their respective tribes.
- ◆ **U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe** delivered a “Congressional Update” to area citizens on campus in late August. The Senator was a special guest of honor at a luncheon hosted by President **Dr. Jim Utterback** prior to the public meeting.
- ◆ Students and faculty had the chance to learn about goods and services available in the community during the College’s 17th annual “Area Services Fair” held on September 28 and 29.
- ◆ In observance of Constitution Day, SSC hosted a “Test Your Knowledge of the Constitution” event in September in the Jeff Johnston Fine Arts Center. Student participants represented Phi Theta Kappa, Psi Beta and the Student Government Association.
- ◆ **Kailyn Parker** of Cromwell was elected to serve the student body as Student Government Association President in September. **Christina Davalos-Gonzales** from Seminole and **Lynnette Gomez** of Holdenville were elected Vice President and Secretary.
- ◆ **Sister Rosemary Nyirumbe**, who operates the St. Monica Girls’ Tailoring Centre in Uganda spoke to students and community guests during two campus presentations on September 23. **Sister Rosemary** was brought to campus by Seminole native **Reggie Whitten**, co-founder of the Whitten-Newman Foundation.
- ◆ Students, faculty and staff learned first-hand of the dangers of texting and distracted driving using the “Arrive Alive Texting Simulator” through the Texting and Distracted Driving Prevention Program hosted on campus. Participants were allowed to text and drive in a high impact computer simulator. They were given mock tickets after their simulation experience to demonstrate the physical and legal dangers of texting and distracted driving.



- ◆ Over 100 area residents gathered in Foundation Hall of the Haney Center in October to hear candidates for the U.S. 5th District Congressional seat speak at a political forum sponsored by the College and the Seminole Chamber of Commerce. Democratic candidate **Billy Coyle**; Independent candidate **Clark Duffe**; and Republican candidate **James Lankford** participated in the event. Political commentator **Scott Mitchell** of Channel 9 News served as moderator.
- ◆ High school students and adult sponsors were guests for a “2010 Sneak a Peek At College” event in November.

Business and Industry

- ◆ During 2010, the Business and Industry division offered short-term college-credit courses in Business Law, Communications, Ceramics, Short Story/Novel Writing, Art History Survey I & II, Psychology, Government, Sociology, Digital Photography, Scuba Diving, Lifeguard Training, ServSafe Food Safety, Pharmacy Technician Certification and Basic Computer Skills. The program also coordinated a Business Leadership course for area high school students through “bank board” programs at BancFirst and First National Bank.
- ◆ In addition to college credit courses, non-credit public service courses included Parents/Children/Divorce, Feng Shui, CPR for the Professional Rescuer. Swimming lessons, Insurance Education, CPR/First Aid, Therapy Dog Training, Emergency Training in NIMS 300 and NIMS 400 courses.
- ◆ A total of 803 students enrolled in Business and Industry course offerings, 513 for college credit (1026 credit hours) and 290 for non-credit public service.
- ◆ The SSC Rural Business and Resources Center, under the direction of **Larry Smith**, had another great year. The center served over 64 individual clients from the communities of Seminole, Wewoka, Holdenville, Okemah, Prague, Shawnee and Oklahoma City. The RBRC also helped recruit three new communities to participate in the Oklahoma Southeast organization.
- ◆ The SSC Rural Business and Resources Center received operational funds to continue a partnership with Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma, Inc. for economic development, with support from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Information Technology/Academics

- ◆ Five “Smart” multimedia classrooms were installed to allow recording of classroom instruction. Students enrolled in classes utilizing this new technology are able to review materials presented in the classroom from any computer that has access to the internet.
- ◆ Ten classrooms on campus were upgraded with new multimedia computers.

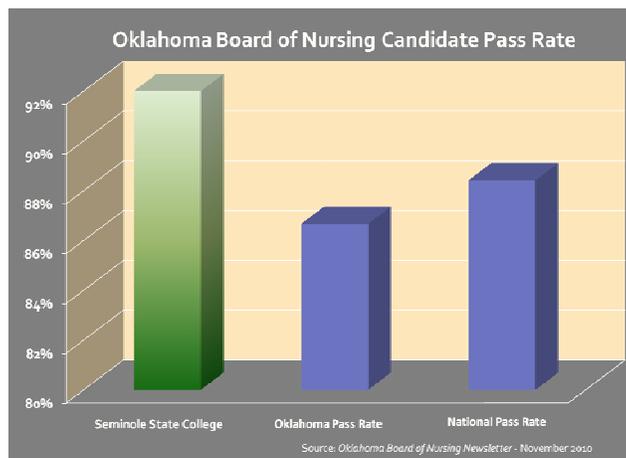
- ◆ A new security video recording system was purchased and installed in the Ben and Bonnie Walkingstick Student Services Center.
- ◆ Seventy-five computers, used by students, faculty and staff across campus, received memory upgrades.
- ◆ The use of the new *Campus Cruiser* classroom management software was fully implemented in Fall of 2010. The program allows for paperless syllabi, and in many cases, paperless coursework.
- ◆ Several innovative changes in academic offerings were made to accommodate student needs including: implementation of an “Afternoon College,” consolidation of all night classes into one facility; and creation of blended classes combining traditional and online settings.

Student News

- ◆ Presidential Leadership Scholar **Jessica Downey** received a Congressional appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in the Spring. Nominated by **U.S. Senator James Inhofe** and **U.S. Congresswoman Mary Fallin**, Downey began her Basic Training in Colorado in June.
- ◆ **Christina LeBarre**, of Choctaw, was crowned the 2010 SSC Homecoming Queen during a halftime ceremony of a men’s basketball game in February. She was selected in a campus-wide student body election sponsored by the SSC Student Government Association.
- ◆ Two students, **Allison Reed** and **Autumn Wiles**, were selected as members of the All-Oklahoma Academic Team. They were recognized during a luncheon at the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges annual conference.
- ◆ The Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges selected Davenport High School senior **Shelbey Lyon** as one of three students from across the state to receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Lyon came to SSC in the fall as a member of the President’s Leadership Class.
- ◆ Student Government Association President **Autumn Wiles** was one of 30 Oklahoma college and university students selected to attend the Nigh Institute Leadership Conference in March. As part of the honor, Wiles received the 2010 George and Donna Nigh Public Service Scholarship funded by the Oklahoma Legislature.
- ◆ During the Spring semester, the SSC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society collected 100 stuffed animals to be donated to area hospitals. The “Smiles to the Hospital” project is an ongoing effort by the chapter to share comfort to children in the hospital.



- ◆ Representatives from SSC were among nearly 3,600 Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society members, advisors and constituents who attended the 92nd International Convention in April. Social Science instructor **Marta Osby** and PTK students **Autumn Wiles** and **Allison Reed**, travelled to Orlando, Florida to participate in the event.
- ◆ Sophomore **Lisa Williams** was honored with the 2010 Siemens/American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Scholarship. She was one of only 100 Medical Laboratory Technology students from across the United States selected for the honor and the \$1,000 scholarship award.
- ◆ Twenty-seven freshmen were chosen for Class IV of the SSC Presidential Leadership program. PLC is a scholarship program created to help students develop leadership skills and provide personal and professional growth opportunities.
- ◆ Members of the Leadership Development class organized a canned food drive on campus for Salvation Army holiday baskets.
- ◆ In the November 2010 issue of the *Oklahoma Board of Nursing Newsletter* information about Oklahoma's college nursing programs showed that the Seminole State College first-time NCLEX candidate pass rate was 92% which is above the Oklahoma Pass rate of 86.67% and the National Pass Rate of 88.42%.



Sports

- ◆ During the 2010 year, a notable five of SSC's nine sports programs were NJCAA Region II Champions and advanced to national tournament play. With two of the four remaining teams garnering Region II Runner-up finishes, seven of Seminole State's nine teams finished as either Region II champions or runners-up.
- ◆ For the second year in a row, the Trojan softball team and Head Coach **Kristina McSweeney** captured the Region II crown and traveled to St. George, Utah for the NJCAA National Softball Tournament in May. SSC survived until the final day of competition and finished 4th in the nation with an overall record of 52-17 in 2010. **Katie Campbell**, a sophomore from Tupelo, Oklahoma, was named to the All-Tournament team for her efforts.



- ◆ The men's and women's tennis teams, coached by **Brian Nelson**, both validated their Region II championships and national tournament appearances with top ten in the nation finishes. Men's tennis traveled to Plano, Texas for their national championships where they finished 5th in the nation. SSC's **Bryan Canavan** brought home an individual national championship by winning the singles competition. A week earlier, the women's tennis team travelled to Tucson, Arizona and finished 9th in the nation at the women's national championships. **Jade Cunningham** had an impressive showing and finished as the national runner-up in the singles flight.
- ◆ Spring also brought success to the Trojan golf teams and head Coach **Nathan Jahn**. After winning the Region II title by more than 60 strokes, the men's golf team ventured to the Phoenix, Arizona area for their national championship competition and brought home a 6th in the nation finish. Although the women's golf team finished as the Region II Runner-up, four individual golfers qualified for the women's golf national championship in Daytona Beach, Florida.
- ◆ The men's basketball program narrowly missed taking their third trip to Hutchinson, Kansas in the past six years by falling to Connors State in the finals of the Region II Basketball Tournament in Shawnee in March. Although holding a slim lead with less than eight minutes remaining in the contest, the Trojans came up short and ended their season as Region II Runner-up with a record of 21-10.
- ◆ This October the men's and women's tennis teams proved their excellence once again at the UTSA/ITA Small College National Championship. **Mbonisi Ndimande**, a sophomore from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, won three straight matches to bring home the NJCAA Singles National Championship. **Celia Respaut** and **Kirstie Symon** finished third in the Women's Doubles and **Admire Mushonga** and **Mbonisi Ndimande** finished third in the Men's Doubles. The Men's team is currently ranked #1 in the NJCAA for the first time in the program's history.
- ◆ In November, Head Volleyball Coach **Amy Gillespie's** team won the Region II Championship for the second year in a row. They lost in the District Playoff to Eastern Arizona College in five games and were essentially five points away from their second national tournament in back to back years. Eastern Arizona ended up finishing 8th at the national tournament. The Trojans ended the season with a school best 32-7 record and **Maryna Samoday** of Sumy, Ukraine was named as an All-American Honorable Mention pick.



