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SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE

2018

YEAR IN REVIEW



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

January 17, 2019

Dear Friends,

End-of-year reflections are pretty common in newspapers and on television programs. Looking back on the events of a year helps give us some perspective on history and, often, some insight into the future.

As we enter each new calendar year, it has become a tradition on this campus to review our past accomplishments. The following document highlights news and activities at Seminole State College during 2018.

As with each passing year, we are saddened to lose old acquaintances, but are pleased to make new friends. In particular, there is an excitement about having new students pass through our doors in any given calendar year – and to have new faculty and staff members join the SSC family. This year we have been blessed by those who have come our way. Our students and our employees ARE the lifeblood of Seminole State College. They make this institution a vibrant, exciting place that changes lives through education.

I hope you will share my pride as you read through these pages of news items that occurred at SSC in 2018. I ask that you join me in pledging to make 2019 a great year for everyone associated with our College.

Best wishes to all!



**Lana Reynolds**  
SSC President



# JANUARY

## **SSC Foundation Receives Donation Valued at Over One Million Dollars**

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation received a donation valued at over one million dollars – one of the largest gifts in the organization’s history. This large real estate donation was given by the family of Roger and Pam Parks of Parks Manufacturing, founders of Blue Wave Boats, currently located in Seminole, Okla.

## **Joyce Jackson Speaks Honor of MLK Day**

In recognition and celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Seminole State College hosted a special program featuring guest speaker Joyce Jackson – founder of SHADES of Oklahoma magazine and the first female African American newscaster in Oklahoma.

## **PLC Visits the OU Children’s Hospital**

The Seminole State College President’s Leadership Class traveled to Oklahoma City to visit the OU Children’s Hospital. The group toured the facility and learned about the wide range of services the hospital has to offer.



## **SSC Regents Convene for January Meeting**

At their January meeting, the Seminole State College Board of Regents approved the addition of an Academic Excellence fee and authorized a lease agreement between the College and the SSC Educational Foundation for the proposed Brian Crawford Memorial Baseball and Sports Complex.

# FEBRUARY

## **Simone “Jamaican Hurricane” Edwards Visits Campus**

Seminole State College hosted former Belles basketball player and Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA) star Simone “Jamaican Hurricane” Edwards on campus. During her visit to SSC, she promoted her book *Unstoppable*, a memoir aimed to encourage others to pursue their dreams, even in the face of opposition.

## **SSC Regents Convene for February Meeting**

At their February meeting, the Seminole State College Board of Regents approved the hiring of Tony Crouch as the Vice President for Fiscal Affairs. They also approved three Board policy revisions regarding evaluations of administrative and classified staff evaluations and academic rank.

## **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. Assistant Professor of Math Emily Carpenter was honored as “Educator of the Month” and Business and Education/Language Arts and Humanities Office Manager Carmen Hutchins was honored as “Classified Staff Member of the Month.”

## **SSC Delegation Attends Higher Ed Day**

A large delegation of campus and community leaders representing Seminole State College attended “Higher Education Day” at the Capitol in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, Feb. 13. The event, sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, is held annually to demonstrate grassroots support for Higher Education funding.



## **Winchester Attends Nigh Leadership Academy**

Area Seminole State College student Gavin Winchester of Prague, Okla. attended the Nigh Institute Leadership Academy held in Oklahoma City. Winchester received a George and Donna Nigh Public Service Scholarship this year through the Nigh Institute program funded by the Oklahoma Legislature.





# APRIL

## **SSC's Global Studies Program Planning for 2019**

The Seminole State College Global Studies program released the itinerary for the 2019 Barcelona, Southern France and Florence Tour.

## **Cain Reappointed as SSC Regent**

President of Security State Bank Bryan Cain, of Wewoka, was reappointed by Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin to continue to serve on the Seminole State College Board of Regents for another seven-year term.

## **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. Assistant Professor of Nursing Brenda Hudson was honored as "Educator of the Month" and Financial Aid Specialist Edith Cathey was honored as "Professional Staff Member of the Month."

## **Chambers Hired as SSC Trojan Head Baseball Coach**

Seminole State College announced that former Trojan Mack Chambers was hired as the college's head baseball coach.



## **Alumni, Employees and Students Honored by SSC**

Close to 400 friends and supporters of Seminole State College attended the SSC Educational Foundation's annual recognition banquet April 26, in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center. The event included recognition of college alumni, employees and students.

## **SSC Faculty Senate Awards Scholarships**

Two students were recognized by the Seminole State College Faculty Senate with scholarship awards for the 2018-2019 academic year. Abigail Williams and Daniel Skelly were special guests at a Senate meeting on April 23.

## **SSC Hosts Inaugural Agriculture Interscholastic Meet**

Seminole State College's Aggie Club hosted an inaugural Agriculture Interscholastic Meet. The event featured approximately 300 students from 38 middle and high schools across the state, competing in nine different contests.

## **SSC Hosts Women in STEM Program**

Several female faculty members of Seminole State College shared their success stories in a program entitled "Women in STEM: We are Unstoppable!" The program was provided to encourage young women to consider a career in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

### **SSC Board of Regents Convene for May Meeting**

The Seminole State College Board of Regents approved a revision regarding standard working hours for employees during the summer months as well as revisions to the campus tobacco use policy.

### **SSC Hosts Guest Speaker Dr. Dee Terrell**

Seminole State College hosted Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center Associate Professor of Epidemiology Dr. Dee Terrell on campus, where she spoke to students, faculty and staff.

### **SSC Softball Finishes Fourth in Nation**

After the Seminole State College Trojan Softball team swept the NJCAA Region II Tournament, they went on to finish fourth in the nation at the JUCO World Series with an overall season record of 50-7.



### **FBLA Inducts New Members at SSC**

Ten Seminole State College students were inducted to the SSC Chapter of Future Business Leaders of America.

### **SSC Graduates Attend N.E.W. Leadership Conference**

Recent Seminole State College graduates Miranda Shupe of Chandler and Allyson Sing of Tecumseh attended the National Education for Women (N.E.W.) Leadership Institute in Norman.

### **SSC PTK Recognizes Graduating Members**

Thirty-five Seminole State College students were honored as graduates of the Alpha Theta Nu Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society.

### **Ken Miller Speaks at SSC Commencement**

Seminole State College held its 85th Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 4 for students completing coursework requirements for their degree programs. Oklahoma State Treasurer Ken Miller gave the commencement address.



# JUNE

## **Alternative Site for SSC Baseball Complex Approved by Foundation Trustees**

A new site for the construction of a baseball quadruplex planned for Seminole State College, located west of the construction site of the new Seminole High School, was approved by the SSC Educational Foundation Board of Trustees.

## **Hartman Honored at Retirement Reception**

Seminole State College celebrated the retirement of long-time employee Carol Hartman at a come-and-go reception beginning on June 26 in the David L. Boren Library on the College campus.

## **SSC Hosts Summer Kids Camps**

Seminole State College hosted Kids on Campus, a variety of children and youth camps scheduled throughout the summer.

## **Marshall Hired as Full-Time Police Officer at SSC**

Former Seminole Chief of Police Shane Marshall was hired as a full-time officer for the Seminole State College Police Department. Marshall brings with him over 23 years of law enforcement experience.



## **SSC Student-Athletes Receive All-American Academic Honors**

Thirty-nine student-athletes and four athletic teams at Seminole State College were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements this year by the National Junior College Athletic Association.

## **Seminole State Offers Zoom Classes for Concurrent Students**

Seminole State College implemented a new course delivery system called Zoom – a videoconferencing solution that has improved the quality of distance learning courses offered by the College.

## **SSC Board of Regents Convene for June Meeting**

The Seminole State College Board of Regents approved increases in tuition and fees and accepted the College's budget for FY 2019, which reflected a raise for all full-time SSC employees. The Board also accepted a new policy regarding free speech on campus and approved bids for two renovation projects.



## JULY

### ***SSC Board of Regents Convene for July Meeting***

At their July meeting, the Seminole State College Board of Regents approved the temporary suspension of men's and women's tennis to allow the College time to hire a new coach after the recent departure of long-time head coach Brian Nelson – and to address several other matters pertaining to the program.

### ***SSC PTA Program Receives Candidacy for Accreditation***

Seminole State College partnered with Gordon Cooper Technology Center to offer a Physical Therapist Assistant Program, a degree that received Candidacy for Accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. The first cohort of students began classes in the fall of 2018.

## AUGUST

### ***SSC Receives \$10,000 WICHE/Lumina Grant***

Seminole State College received a \$10,000 grant from the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education and the Lumina Foundation to pursue Native American projects on campus.

### ***SSC Softball Program Celebrates 20th Anniversary***

The Seminole State College Trojan Softball Program celebrated its 20th anniversary by hosting an Alumni Celebration.



### ***SSC Announces Presidential Leadership Class XII***

Seminole State College announced the selection of 24 students for Class XII of the SSC Presidential Leadership program. PLC is a two-year scholarship program created to help students develop leadership skills and provide personal and professional growth opportunities.

# SEPTEMBER

## **SSC Regents Convene for Special September Meeting**

At a special September meeting, the Seminole State College Board of Regents approved a new policy regarding emotional support animals on campus, and approved revisions to two existing policies on employee insurance and retirement benefits.

## **New SSC Booster Club President Selected**

The Seminole State College Booster Club Board of Directors met to kick off their new year supporting SSC athletics. Seminole businessman Dillon Robinson, of Pam Robinson Real Estate, was elected to serve as President of the Club.

## **SSC Retirees Return to Campus**

Over 30 Seminole State College retirees returned to campus to attend a luncheon held in their honor.



## **SSC Achieves One of the Highest Community College Graduation Rates in the State**

Seminole State College's graduation rate surpassed every community college in the state, save one, largely due to its recent Student Success Initiative.

## **SSC Celebrates Constitution Day**

Seminole State College hosted "Constitution Jeopardy!" in honor of Constitution Day at the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on Sept. 17. SSC Associate Professor of Government Jeffrey Christiansen organized the program and also served as the game show host.

# OCTOBER

## **SSC Honor Society Inducts New Members**

Twenty-eight Seminole State College students were inducted into the Alpha Theta Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges at the Jeff Johnston Fine Arts Center on Oct. 11.

## **Denmark Students Visit Oklahoma**

As part of Seminole State College’s cultural and educational exchange program with College360° in Silkeborg, Denmark, SSC welcomed a delegation of 20 Danish students and instructors to campus.

## **Dunnington and Pugh Visit SSC**

Oklahoma State Representative Jason Dunnington (D-Oklahoma City) and State Senator Adam Pugh (R-Edmond) visited the Seminole State College campus to speak to students. The legislators recently launched a non-profit organization called, “From Now On.”

## **Former SSC Baseball Player Named to Kansas Sports Hall of Fame**

Former Seminole State College Trojans baseball player Adam LaRoche was inducted to the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame at an induction ceremony in Wichita on Oct. 7.



## **SSC Regents Convene for October Meeting**

At their October meeting, the Seminole State College Board of Regents approved the annual external audit, the purchase of one passenger bus, the lease of an additional passenger bus and a website privacy policy.

## **Passing of the Gavel**

Out-going Chair of the Seminole State College Educational Foundation Board of Trustees Jeramy Rich, received a plaque from newly-elected Chair Lance Wortham, in appreciation of his service.

## **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. 11. Assistant Professor of Life Science Theran Hernandez was honored as “Faculty Member of the Month” and Financial Assistance Clerk Caitlin Brown was honored as “Classified Staff Member of the Month.”



# OCTOBER

## **Senator Smalley Makes Campus Stop**

State Senator Jason Smalley (R - District 28) visited Seminole State College to speak with students in the President’s Leadership Class and tour the campus Oct. 4.

## **SSC Educational Foundation Employee Receives 2018 NextGen Under 30 Honor**

Autumn Wiles, Seminole State College Educational Foundation Advancement Coordinator, was named among the 2018 NextGen Under 30 honorees.

## **Smalley, Wallace Recognized with Distinguished Higher Education Service Awards**

Sen. Jason Smalley and Rep. Kevin Wallace were recognized with 2018 Distinguished Service Awards for Higher Education during Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education meetings.

## **Trick-or-Treat Trail Success**

Several hundred kids and family members participated in Seminole State College’s 5th Annual Trick-or-Treat Trail on campus October 30.



# NOVEMBER

## **SSC Hosted Poet Laureate and Purple Heart Recipient at Creativity Symposium**

The Language Arts and Humanities Division at Seminole State College hosted Dr. Jeanetta Calhoun Mish, Oklahoma Poet Laureate, and Jason Poudrier, Purple Heart recipient and writer, at its annual Howlers and Yawpers Creativity Symposium on Nov. 8 and 9.

# NOVEMBER

## **Governor Fallin Visits Seminole State College**

Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin visited Seminole State College to deliver the keynote at the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum Nov. 8.

## **Former SSC Regents Meet on Campus**

Several former members of the Seminole State College Board of Regents returned to campus for a luncheon with SSC President Lana Reynolds.

## **Peter Simon Performs at SSC**

International concert pianist Dr. Peter Simon performed a free public concert Nov. 8 and for area school children during kids’ concerts on Nov. 9 on SSC’s campus.



## **SSC Director of Financial Assistance Honored**

The Southwest Association of Financial Aid Administrators honored Melanie Rinehart, Seminole State College Director of Financial Assistance, with the 2018 Philo Brasher Emerging Leadership Award during the 2018 SWASFAA Conference held in Little Rock, Arkansas.

## **SSC Hosts Speech Tournament**

Seminole State College hosted its inaugural Trojan Speech and Debate Tournament in November. A total of 14 high schools from across the state participated in the event.

## **Utterback Inducted into Higher Education Hall of Fame**

Seminole State College President Emeritus Dr. Jim Utterback was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame during a special ceremony held at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

## **SSC Women’s Soccer Team Takes Second Place at Regional Tournament**

The Seminole State College Women’s Soccer team finished in second place at the NJCAA Region II Finals in Miami, Oklahoma.

# DECEMBER

## **SSC Hosted “Night at the Lights”**

Seminole State College hosted their annual “SSC Night at the Lights” event on Monday, December 3 at the community Snowman Wonderland Light Display, showcased at Magnolia Park in Seminole.

## **MLT Students Tour OU Children’s Hospital Laboratory**

Seminole State College/Gordon Cooper Technology Center Medical Laboratory Technician students toured the laboratory at the OU Children’s Hospital in Oklahoma City.

## **Reynolds Named to AACC Commission**

Seminole State College President Lana Reynolds was selected to serve on the American Association of Community Colleges’ Commission on Small and Rural Colleges.

## **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 Dec. 13. Language Arts and Humanities Vice Chair and Speech Professor John Bolander was honored as “Faculty Member of the Month” and Information Technology Technician Rick Hanson was honored as “Professional Staff Member of the Month.”

## **SSC Athletes Wrap Gifts for Rotary Christmas Dinner**

Seminole State College student-athletes and coaches volunteered their time to wrap over 600 gifts for the annual Rotary Christmas Dinner.





# DECEMBER

## ***SSC Employees Honored at Retirement Reception***

Seminole State College celebrated the retirement of employees Ann Gavin and Rick Hanson at a reception on Dec. 13, at the Haney Center’s Utterback Ballroom.



## ***SSC Places Second in Voter Registration Contest***

Seminole State College placed second in Oklahoma Campus Compact’s annual Voter Registration Contest in the “Democracy” category. Over the 19-week contest period, SSC registered six percent of its student body.

## ***SSC Hosts Finals Eve Pizza Party***

Seminole State College faculty and staff members hosted a “Finals Eve Pizza Party” for residence hall students at 9 p.m. on the night before final exams began.

## ***Seminole State College Plans for the Future***

Seminole State College began efforts to develop a new multi-year strategic plan for the institution – a plan to help guide the development of new academic and sports programs, the physical needs of campus and related budget matters. It will also help SSC prepare for their upcoming Higher Learning Commission accreditation visit.