



SEMINOLE
STATE COLLEGE

2023
YEAR
IN REVIEW

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

Looking back at the news, events
and accomplishments of our
campus community in 2023.







LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of SSC,

As we turn the page on the old wall calendar, or click on our digital calendars for the new year, it is a great opportunity to reflect on highlights of the past 12 months. Individually, over a year we experience highs and lows... successes and failures, family deaths and births, laughter and tears. Most of those milestones and emotions are also felt by an institution. In reviewing the headlines made at SSC in 2023 – I am reminded how lucky we are to have had so many highs!

Communications Coordinator Josh Hutton and Web and Multimedia Coordinator Brooks Nickell have done a masterful job documenting a year filled with employee and student success – including celebrations of our diverse culture,

awarding of raises for employees, seeing four athletic teams compete in NJCAA national tournaments, being part of an impressive public tribute to Veterans, and having our highest number ever of student-athletics being recognized as Academic All-Americans.

The Seminole Producer regularly pulls articles from their newspaper files to run in a column called, “50 Years Ago.” Interestingly, the College has been mentioned in a number of stories of note from that time period. They recently listed the Top News Event in Seminole for 1973 as being, “The continuing growth of Seminole Junior College and its victory in a battle to become a member of the state system of higher education.” It amazes me to think of what a short history we have as an independent community college in Oklahoma. I hope, in whatever

fashion news is recorded and shared in 2074 – that a historical retrospect on the top news of 50 years ago will still reference “the continuing growth” of our College and the positive impact we make on our students and community.

Please enjoy reading about the year 2023 at Seminole State College!



Lana Reynolds
SSC President

JANUARY

Students Return to Campus, Spring Semester Begins

Seminole State College began its spring semester on Monday, Jan. 9. Late enrollment was open to students through Jan. 13.

Panel Presents on Human Trafficking Awareness at SSC

Seminole State College hosted a panel on human trafficking awareness on Jan. 12 in the Jeff Johnston Fine Arts Auditorium. More than one hundred SSC students, employees, community members and area high school students attended the event.

SSC Participates in Southeast Oklahoma Legislative Tour

Seminole State College participated in the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Southeast Oklahoma Legislative Briefing at Pete's Place in Krebs on January 12. SSC regents, employees, students and SSC Educational Foundation trustees joined legislators at the event.



SSC Board of Regents Extend President's Contract

The Seminole State College Board of Regents met Jan. 19 to discuss proposed repairs to the Ben and Bonnie Walkingstick Student Services Center and approved an extension of of President Lana Reynolds' employment.



There's Snow Place Like SSC

Seminole State College closed campus on Jan. 24 as winter weather moved into the area.

FEBRUARY

State Farm Makes Donation to SSC's Laptop Loan Program

State Farm Insurance donated 25 laptops to Seminole State College's laptop loan program. Seminole State Farm Agent and SSC Educational Foundation Trustee Darren Frederick identified the corporate grant program for the College and assisted with the application, resulting in the donation of the devices.

Rep. Bice Meets with Leadership Students at SSC

Two members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class had the opportunity to meet with U.S. Congresswoman Stephanie Bice during her visit to Seminole on Feb. 3.

Trojan Baseball Begins Season with Kick-Off Banquet

Former Seminole State College baseball players, along with community supporters and members of the 2023 Trojan squad, gathered on the SSC campus Saturday, Feb. 4 for the annual Trojan Season Kick-Off Banquet. More than 200 guests attended the event.

Chamber of Commerce Honors Two SSC Employees

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their hard work and dedication during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on Feb. 9. Assistant Professor of Mathematics Dr. Ricky Streight was honored as "Faculty Member of the Month" and Admissions and Records Specialist Jessica Guinn as "Staff Member of the Month."

Buchanan Attends Nigh Academy

Seminole State College freshman Emma Buchanan, of Stroud, attended the Nigh Institute Leadership Academy held in Oklahoma City Feb. 4-7. Over the course of the event, Buchanan and her peers volunteered at the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank, enjoyed an OKC Thunder game, toured the Oklahoma City National Memorial, visited the Bob Funk Ranch and experienced the First Americans Museum.



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. 14. The event, sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, is held annually to demonstrate the value and importance of higher education in the state.

SSC Holds Disaster Training Event for Nursing Students

Seminole State College held a disaster training event for nursing students on Feb. 22 inside the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on campus. Students participated in a training module designed to help them understand what qualifies as a disaster, how to triage patients, manage resources and how to work with other agencies to access quick medical care.



Tenure Granted to Two Faculty Members

The Seminole State College Board of Regents granted tenure to two faculty members: Associate Professor of Mathematics Emily Carpenter and Associate Professor of English Dr. Andrew Davis. The board also approved an increase to room and board rates and approved a resolution to support the current law regarding firearm restrictions on college campuses at their meeting on Feb. 16.



SSC Professors Present at Conference

Three Seminole State College language arts and humanities professors presented at the 2023 Southwest Popular and American Culture Conference during the week of Feb. 21-25 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Assistant Professor of English Paul Juhasz read prose poetry, Associate Professor of English Yasminda Choate read a non-fiction essay and Dr. Andrew Davis presented his academic research.

MARCH



President and Student Read at Wilson Elementary

Seminole State College President Lana Reynolds and SSC President's Leadership Class student Hailey Wallace, a sophomore from Wellston, were among several community guest readers to visit Wilson Elementary. Reynolds and Wallace stopped by Mrs. Sonia Scott's third grade class to read "If I Ran the Zoo" by Dr. Seuss on March 2.

Basketball Teams Compete in Regional Tournament

The Seminole State College men's and women's basketball teams competed in the NJCAA Division I, Region II Tournament March 8-11 at the Rougher Village Arena in Muskogee.

SSC Professors Judge TAOS History Fair

Seminole State College History Professors Jeffrey Christiansen and Marta Osby volunteered their time to judge the first History Fair held by The Academy of Seminole (TAOS) on March 7.

SSC President's Leadership Class Tours Okla. Bureau of Narcotics

The Seminole State College President's Leadership Class toured the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs in Oklahoma City on March 9.

SSC Nursing Students Present at Wewoka High School

Seminole State College nursing students visited Wewoka High School to present information about general wellness and personal care on March 20. This was an opportunity for the nursing students to practice skills involved with educating the public about health care issues.

Basketball's National Tournament Run Ends in Narrow Loss

The Seminole State College Trojan basketball team's NJCAA National Championship Tournament run ended March 21 with a hard-fought game against Ranger College. SSC lost in the last few seconds with a final score of 78-75. This was the team's first appearance at the national tournament since 2007.



SSC Honor Society Inducts New Members

Twelve Seminole State College students were inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges on March 22.

SSC Host Event for Working Adults Looking to Finish Their Degrees

Students from 31 schools across the state competed in Seminole State College's 49th annual Interscholastic Meet on March 23. Nearly 700 students attended the event.

Trojans Player Welcomes Family and Friends from Netherlands

Seminole State College freshman pitcher Gio DeGraau welcomed special guests when his father, uncle and two family friends made the long trip from the Netherlands to watch a few games in person and experience the sights and sounds of Oklahoma.



President's Leadership Class Tours Port of Catoosa

Members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class toured the Port of Catoosa, northeast of Tulsa on March 28. The shipping complex and 2,500-acre industrial park has an estimated \$300 million economic impact on the state.

Honor Society Members Attend Regional Conference

Seminole State College recently sent two Phi Theta Kappa student officers, Abby Ridley and Hannah Ridley, along with club advisors Andrew Davis and Edith Cathey, to the Oklahoma/Arkansas 2023 Regional Convention, hosted by Northeastern State University – Broken Arrow Campus.



Students Honored at Statewide Awards Ceremony

Three Seminole State College students and three area high school seniors were recognized at the All-Oklahoma Academic Team and Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Presidents’ Tuition Waiver Awards Ceremony on March 28 at the Oklahoma State Capitol. SSC students Jami Barkhimer, of Wewoka; Abigail Ridley of Tecumseh; and Hannah Ridley, of Tecumseh, were named to the All-Oklahoma Academic Team. Prague High School student Benjamin Foster, Holdenville High School student Carley Hunter and Shawnee High School student Olivia Stevenson were recipients of the OACC President’s Tuition Waiver.

SSC Holds Workshop for Area Counselors and Administrators

Seminole State College hosted a free workshop for high school counselors, principals and superintendents, beginning at 8:30 a.m. on March 29 at the Enoch Kelly Haney Center. Chair of the Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education Mike Turpen was the featured speaker.

APRIL

Baseball Volunteers at A League of Their Own Season Opener

Seminole State College Trojan baseball players worked with members of “A League of Their Own” at the Avedis Foundation Adaptive Field, located within the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex on April 3. The “League” is a co-ed softball league established to provide an avenue for individuals with cognitive or physical disabilities to play baseball.



Students Attend Promise Day at the Capitol

Eleven Seminole State College students attended Oklahoma Promise Day at the State Capitol on April 11. Students had the opportunity to meet with legislators and state regents to discuss the scholarship program.

SSC Hosts Event for Working Adults Looking to Finish Their Degrees

Seminole State College hosted a free two-day “Reach Higher: Reconnect” event to help working adults learn more about completing their degrees on April 11 and April 12.

Native Language Conference Held at SSC

NASNTI hosted a Two-Day Native Language Conference on Tuesday, April 18, and Wednesday, April 19, at 11:00 a.m. on the campus of Seminole State College in the Jeff Johnson Auditorium

Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on April 13. Nursing Instructor Damaila Lester was honored as Faculty Member of the Month, and Comptroller Julie Hix was honored as Staff Member of the Month.



Aggie Club Hosts Fifth Annual FFA Interscholastic Contest

The SSC Aggie Club hosted its fifth annual SSC FFA Interscholastic Contest on Thursday, April 13. More than 600 students from 66 schools across the state participated in the event.

President's Leadership Class Joins in Community Clean Up

The Seminole State College President's Leadership Class joined organizations across Seminole to lend a hand with the Community Clean Up on April 19 in observance of Earth Day.

SSC Students Inducted into Psi Beta Honor Society

Seminole State College's chapter of the Psi Beta inducted ten new members into the honor society on April 24. Psi Beta is a national honor society for students attending two-year colleges, who plan to major or minor in psychology.

Disabilities in the Workplace Presentation Held at SSC

Seminole State College students attended "Understanding Disabilities in the Workplace," a career development program presented by South Central Industries Executive Director Tina Hanna. The event was sponsored by Student Support Services and STEM Student Support Services.

SSC and Avedis Partnership Honored

Seminole State College and Avedis Foundation were among colleges, schools and businesses honored during a Business Partnership Excellence Awards Luncheon held April 27 at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.



SSC Student Government Association Attends Spring Congress

Seminole State College students Danielle Sullivan, a sophomore from Holdenville, and Benjamin Parker, a freshman from Shawnee, attended the Oklahoma Student Government Association Spring Congress April 21-23 at the State Capitol in Oklahoma City.



Annual Spring Banquet Draws Large Crowd

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation hosted its 28th Annual Spring Banquet on Thursday, April 27 in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on campus. More than 400 people were in attendance. Former students Chris Schroder, Ron Sosbee and Dion Wild were inducted into the SSC Alumni Hall of Fame. Fred and Jonna Bunyan received the Distinguished Service Award.

SSC President Named 2023 Kate Barnard Award Recipient

SSC President Lana Reynolds received the 2023 Kate Barnard Award on April 28 at the Omni Hotel and Resort at an event hosted by the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women. The Kate Barnard Award is given to women who have made a difference in Oklahoma by becoming public servants. These women are elected or appointed salaried public officials in Oklahoma.

Golf Wins District Championship in Playoff

The Seminole State Trojans earned a spot in the NJCAA Men's Division 2 National Golf Championship and collected an NJCAA Men's D2 South Central District Championship title with a sudden-death playoff win on April 29 at Shawnee Country Club.

MAY

Students Complete President's Leadership Class Program

Twelve Seminole State College sophomores in the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class received awards recognizing their completion of two years in the program on May 1.

Chickasaw Nation Legislator Lisa Johnson-Billy Speaks at SSC Commencement

Seminole State College held its 90th Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 5, for students completing coursework requirements for their degree programs. The graduation ceremony was at 10:30 a.m. inside the Raymond Harber Field House on campus. The commencement address was delivered by Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature Chairperson Lisa Johnson-Billy. In 2004, Lisa was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives District 42, becoming the first Native American woman to serve in the House.



OSSAA Class 3A Baseball State Tournament Played in Seminole

The community of Seminole hosted the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association 2023 Baseball Quarter Finals for Class 3A High Schools May 11-12 at the Seminole State College Educational Foundation's Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex.

Pitts Reappointed to SSC Board of Regents

Ryan Pitts, the senior attorney and owner of the Law Offices of Ryan H. Pitts, P.C. in Holdenville, was reappointed by Governor Kevin Stitt to serve on the Seminole State College Board of Regents. The reappointment was confirmed by the Oklahoma State Senate Education Committee on May 17 and sent to the Oklahoma State Senate for final approval. The nomination was carried by Senator Grant Green (R-District 28).



SSC Hosts Send-Off Event for Teams Competing in Postseason Play

Seminole State College hosted a send-off event for three teams competing in postseason play on May 18 at the Utterback Ballroom on campus. After winning the NJCAA Region II tournament on May 14, the Trojan baseball team earned their spot at the South Central District Tournament, which took place from May 20-22 in Neosho, Missouri. The softball team earned their spot as the seventh seed in the NJCAA National Softball Championship in Oxford, Alabama, following their Region II Tournament win in Piedmont on May 14. The men's golf team made the trek to the Indiana National Golf Course at Swan Lake Resort in Plymouth, Indiana for the NJCAA Division II National Golf Championship. The tournament ran from May 23-26.

JUNE

SSC Talent Search Participants Attend Cultural Events

On June 1, the Seminole State College Talent Search/FOCUS federal grant program hosted a trip for 90 sixth graders, SSC students and staff volunteers, and high school mentors to see the "Lion King" musical at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center. The SSC Talent Search/FOCUS Program, along with volunteers from SSC Student Support Services Program, also attended the OKC Broadway production of "Hamilton."

Black Hope/Black Dreams Exhibit Opens at Seminole State College

Seminole State College hosted the "Early Oklahoma: Black Hope/Black Dreams" traveling exhibit in the lobby of the Enoch Kelly Haney Center throughout the month of June. The exhibit, curated by the Oklahoma Historical Society, features the accomplishments of three individuals who had a vision for greater opportunity and equality.

Seminole Pink Ladies Present Funds to Nursing Program

Members of the local hospital women's volunteer auxiliary - the Seminole "Pink Ladies" attended a luncheon at Seminole State College on June 9 to present a check to be used for the College's nursing program.



SSC Student-Athletes Receive Academic All-American Honors

Sixty-three student-athletes and six athletic teams at Seminole State College have been recognized for their outstanding academic achievements this year by the National Junior College Athletic Association.

SSC Board of Regents Approves Employee Pay Raises

The Seminole State College Board of Regents approved a salary increase for all full-time employees, alongside the budget for the upcoming fiscal year at their meeting on June 15.



Students Venture to Italy for Global Studies Program

Twelve Seminole State College students returned from a tour of northern Italy as part of the College’s Global Studies program. The students enrolled in either a humanities or business course tied to the region before embarking on the trip. Students visited Milan, Padua, Venice, Florence and Pisa.

Middle School Students Participate in Rollercoaster Camp at SSC

The Seminole State College Talent Search/FOCUS federal grant program hosted Coaster Camp on June 13 and 14 for eighth-grade students. During the engineering camp, students worked together, problem solved and built their own rollercoasters.

SSC Welcomes New Men’s Basketball Head Coach

Seminole State College named Lucas Hunter as the college’s new men’s basketball head coach. Hunter, originally from Carterville, Illinois, comes to Seminole from NCAA Division 2 Northeastern State University where he was an assistant coach since 2020. Prior to this role, he also worked as an assistant at Rogers State of Claremore and East Central University of Ada.

SSC Hosts Retirement Reception for Two Longtime Employees

Seminole State College hosted a retirement reception for Talent Search Director Mary Ann Hill and Upward Bound Head Coordinator Ronnie Williamson in the E.T. Dunlap Student Union on June 26. Co-workers, family and friends gathered to celebrate their careers and wish them well on their retirements.



SSC Hosts Annual Summer Camps for Kids

Seminole State College recently hosted its annual Kids on Campus Summer Camp from June 26 to June 29. The camp provided an opportunity for children (K-6th grades) to learn new skills, explore new interests and make new friends.



PHOTOS OF THE YEAR





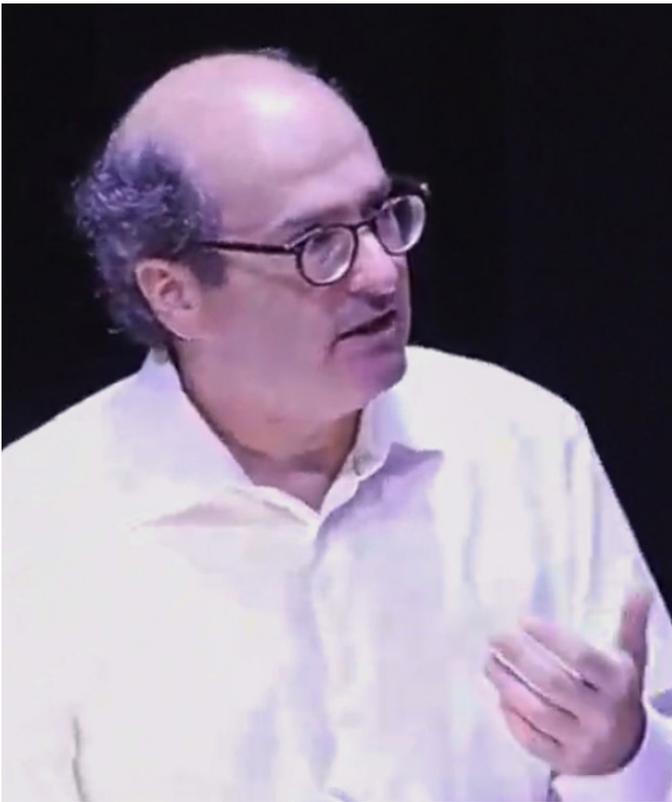
Winter weather rolls into campus on Jan. 24.



SSC Alumnus and Mr. Indigenous OU Asa Samuels performed fancy dancing at Tribal Fest on Nov. 1.



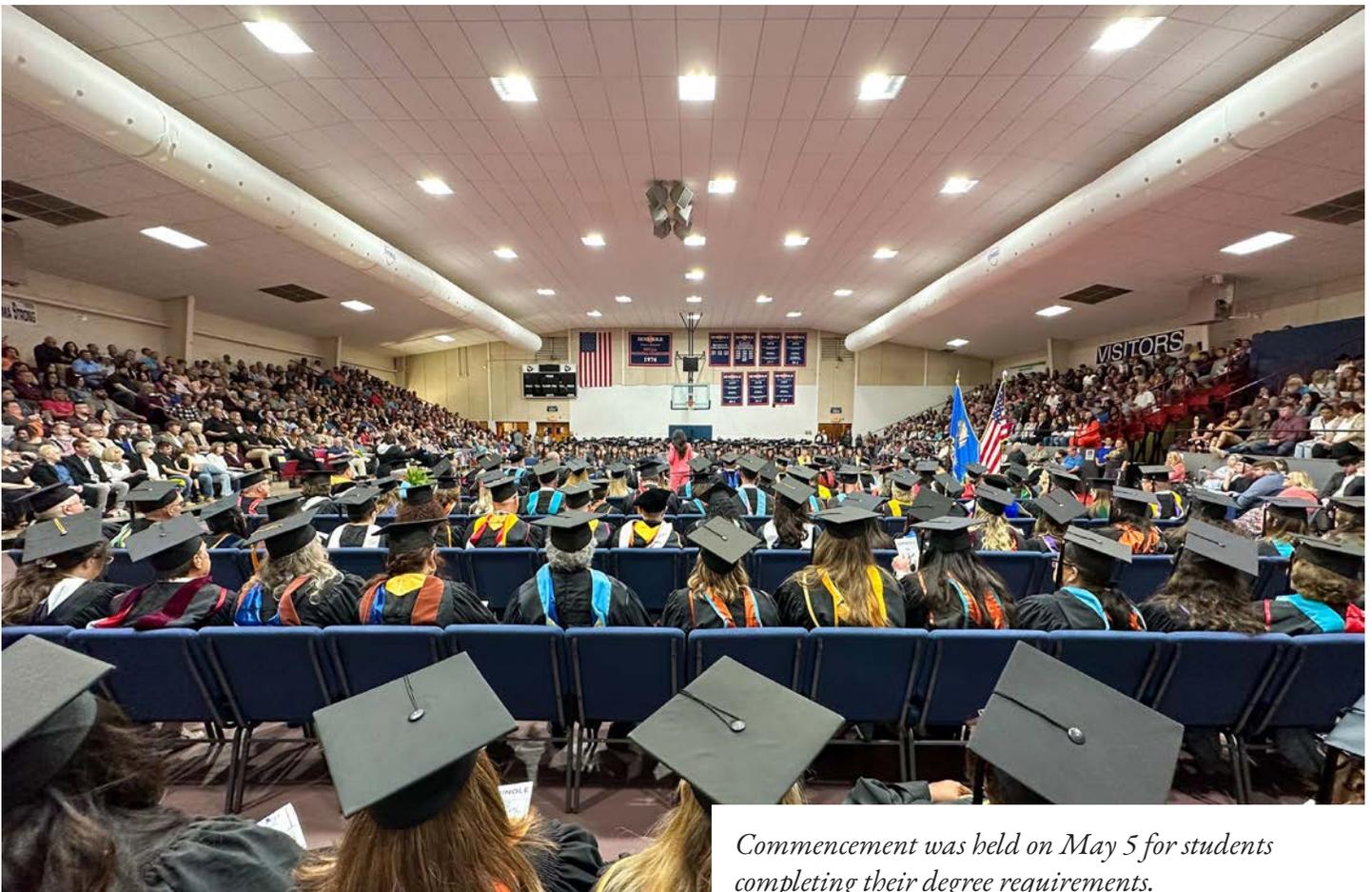
PLC students participate in Community Clean Up in Magnolia Park on April 19.



“Killers of the Flower Moon” author David Grann speaks about his research at campus event on Sept. 21.



SSC students and employees planted 3,000 American flags for an honor field on Oct. 30.



Commencement was held on May 5 for students completing their degree requirements.

JULY

Former Trojan Softball Player Takes the Helm as SSC Athletic Director

Leslie Sewell was named SSC Athletic Director and began her role on July 1. Sewell formerly served as the Assistant Athletic Director and also manages the College's Title IX compliance.

Talent Search's Annual Camp Provides Learning Experiences for High School Students

From July 10 to July 13, the Seminole State College Talent Search/FOCUS grant program held its annual residential camp on the College's campus. Forty-seven 9th and 10th graders from 15 different area schools were in attendance and were able to experience team building, leadership exercises, cultural activities and outdoor adventures.

SSC Public Relations Team Wins Top Prize in Statewide Competition

Seminole State College's public relations team won Best of Show at the Oklahoma College Public Relations Association (OCPRA) annual conference at the Downstream Resort and Casino in Quapaw on July 10. The team won the top prize for their "Together We Grow" brand campaign, which centers around interviews with students, alumni, faculty and community partners.



Oklahoma National Guard Members Receive Tuition and Textbook Assistance at SSC

Members of the Oklahoma National Guard will now have the cost of their tuition, fees and textbooks covered when attending Seminole State College. Beginning with the fall semester, which starts Aug. 14, SSC extended textbook waivers to add to the benefits members of the National Guard receive through the Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance Program (EAP).



SSC Upward Bound Program Inspires Students on Journeys to LA and Houston

The Seminole State College Upward Bound program took two groups of students on educational explorations of Houston and Los Angeles.

Hyden Named Chair of SSC Board of Regents

The Seminole State College Board of Regents elected officers and approved two policy revisions at their meeting on July 20. Following past practices, Regent Kim Hyden, who is beginning the last year of her current term, was elected Chair. Regent Bryan Cain was named Vice Chair, and Regent Marci Donaho was named Secretary.



AUGUST

STEM Faculty Attend Symposium on Addressing the Needs of Variable Learners

SSC STEM Division Chair and Associate Professor of Mathematics Emily Carpenter and Assistant Professor of STEM Melissa Bryant attended the ninth annual Center for Applied Special Technology UDL Symposium from July 31 to Aug. 1 in Denver, Colorado. UDL, or Universal Design for Learning, is a framework for addressing the educational needs of diverse and variable learners.

SSC GEAR UP Students Attend Youth Leadership Summit

Two Seminole State College GEAR UP students were selected to attend the 2023 Youth Leadership Summit (YLS) in San Francisco, California, from July 16-19. The two students, Benjamin Foster of Prague and Mandy Primeaux of We-woka, joined 150 of their peers from across the country at the summit.



SSC Prepares for Fall Semester with Employee In-Service Event

Seminole State College hosted its annual in-service event for all full-time employees on Aug. 9 in preparation for the fall semester, beginning Aug. 14. This year's theme was "Together We Grow."

SSC President's Leadership Class Embarks on Scavenger Hunt

Seminole State College welcomed the incoming freshman class of President's Leadership Class students at an orientation event on Aug. 11. Students were welcomed by SSC staff and administrators. Then the students embarked on a scavenger hunt.



SSC Welcomes Campus Residents on “Move-In Day”

Seminole State College welcomed campus residents, their family and friends on Move-In Day on Aug. 11. Students gathered their belongings and settled into their dorm rooms in the Roesler and Seminole Nation Residential Learning Centers.

SSC Kicks Off Academic Year with Week of Welcome Events

As students arrived for their first day of class on Aug. 14, Seminole State College faculty and staff greeted them, helped them find their classrooms and passed out goody bags. SSC Campus and Activities annual “Welcome Week” programming included free cotton candy for students to begin the week.

Osage History Brought to the Stage at SSC

The Seminole State College Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions federal grant program hosted the Osage ballet “Wahzhazhe” on Aug. 15 in the Jeff Johnston Fine Arts Auditorium.

SSC Announces New President’s Leadership Class

Seminole State College has selected 21 freshmen students for Class XVI of the President’s Leadership Class. They, along with their parents, attended a reception held at the Jasmine Moran Children’s Museum on Aug. 21.

Congresswoman Bice Meets with Students and Community Leaders

U.S. Congresswoman Stephanie Bice visited Seminole State College on Aug. 22. She was greeted by three freshman President’s Leadership Class students from Seminole. SSC also hosted a luncheon for U.S. Congresswoman Stephanie Bice with several local community leaders.



SSC Board of Regents Approve Bids for Renovation Project

The Seminole State College Board of Regents approved bids for the institution’s natatorium renovation project and made updates to the employee policy manual regarding compensation at their meeting on Aug. 23.



Leadership Students Participate in Teambuilding Exercises

The Seminole State College President’s Leadership Class visited the Oklahoma State University Challenge Course on Aug. 31. Students worked together to cross the ropes course high above the ground and participated in teambuilding exercises. OSU’s Department of Wellness oversees the Challenge Course.

SEPTEMBER

SSC Celebrates Constitution Day

Students, employees and community members attended Seminole State College’s Constitution Day event on Sept. 15 in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center. The event featured a special presentation by Professor of Government Jeffrey Christiansen titled “James Madison: Father of the Constitution.”

Reynolds to Lead Council of Presidents

Seminole State College President Lana Reynolds has been selected as Chair to lead the Council of Presidents for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for the 2023-2024 academic year.



SSC Leadership Students Volunteer at Food Bank

The Seminole State College President’s Leadership Class volunteered at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, located in Oklahoma City, on Sept. 14. Twenty-five students unloaded, weighed and packaged food to help families facing food insecurity issues. PLC students worked together to package 2,679 pounds of food, totaling 2,228 meals for those in need.

SSC Announces Lineup of Fall Community Courses

Seminole State College’s Business and Industry program hosted a diverse lineup of educational community courses throughout the fall. Courses took place on a single day, were open to the public and included self-defense, culinary arts, first aid and CPR, as well as crafting.





Author Shines Light on Dark History at SSC Event

“Killers of the Flower Moon” author David Grann presented his research and writing process to a capacity crowd inside Seminole State College’s Jeff Johnston Auditorium on Sept. 21. The event was sponsored by the Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions federal grant program.

SSC and Seminole Police Partner for Active Shooter Training

Seminole State College employees participated in an active shooter and shelter in place training session on Sept. 22. Two training drills were held in partnership with the Seminole Police Department.

College Presidents from Arkansas and Oklahoma Convene in Seminole

Presidents from 11 colleges in Arkansas and Oklahoma met in Seminole last week to conduct the business of the National Junior College Athletic Association Region II. The group discussed future conferences, sports playoff sites; NIL policies and organizational structure and leadership.

Mobile Petting Zoo Makes Stop at SSC

The Little Bitty Acres Mobile Petting Zoo brought a wide variety of animals to Seminole State College on Sept. 26. Students and employees interacted with the animals in the courtyard outside of the E.T. Dunlap Student Union. The event was hosted by SSC Campus and Activities.



SSC Educational Foundation Hosts Golf Tournament Fundraiser

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation hosted its 27th Annual Golf Tournament at the Jimmie Austin Golf Course in Seminole Sept. 29. This year’s event raised nearly \$30,000 for student scholarships and campus capital projects. A total of 94 players, comprising 24 corporate teams, took to the links to show their support for the College.

SSC and ECU Come Together to Discuss Higher Ed Partnerships

Administrators from East Central University and Seminole State College met in Seminole to discuss possible collaborations, partnerships and opportunities for shared services between their institutions.

OCTOBER

Photographer Illuminates Native Language and Culture at SSC Event

Photographer Matika Wilbur took to the stage to present “Celebrating Native Language and Culture” at Seminole State College’s Jeff Johnston Auditorium on Oct. 5. The event was sponsored by SSC’s Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) federal grant program.

Leadership Students Visit the Gathering Place

The Seminole State College President’s Leadership Class toured the Gathering Place public park in Tulsa on Oct. 5. The 66.5-acre park features unique playgrounds, gardens, trails, boat rentals, restaurants and hosts several concerts and outdoor events throughout the year.

Résumé Writing Workshop Held at SSC

Seminole State College students recently had the opportunity to enhance their résumé writing skills during the workshop titled “Creating Your Résumé.” The workshop, presented by Dr. Katie Ward and sponsored by Student Support Services and STEM Student Support Services.

NASNTI Program Awarded Supplemental Grant

Seminole State College’s Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) program has been awarded a supplemental grant award of \$150,694. The grant proposal was written by NASNTI Director Kay Wallace and includes several initiatives to promote Native American language and culture.



SSC Employees Recognized at Statewide Conference

Three Seminole State College employees were honored at the 56th annual Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Conference held on Oct. 6 at Tulsa Community College. During the event, Nursing Program Director Crystal Bray was named SSC Faculty Member of the Year, NASNTI Director Kay Wallace was named Professional Staff Member of the Year and Lead Custodian Christie McKee was named Classified Staff Member of the Year.

SSC Students Explore Career Opportunities at Tinker Air Force Base

Three Seminole State College federal grant programs combined forces to accompany several students on a tour of Tinker Air Force Base. The event was sponsored by Student Support Services (SSS), STEM Student Support Services (STEM SSS) and GEAR UP.

Physical Therapist Assistant Program Achieves 100 Percent Pass Rate

Graduates of Seminole State College’s Physical Therapist Assistant program recently achieved a 100 percent pass rate on their licensure exams from the Oklahoma Medical Board. This marks the second year in a row for SSC’s PTA program to achieve a perfect pass rate.

SSC Nursing Program Receives Million-Dollar Grant

Seminole State College's nursing program was recently awarded a congressionally-directed grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in the amount of \$1,050,000. The grant, to be distributed over the next three years, is set to bring transformative changes to SSC's Nursing Department, particularly focusing on the development and expansion of simulation labs.



Leaders Luncheon

Seminole State College Student Government officers met with members of the college's Administrative Council on Oct. 23 for lunch and a discussion of topics surrounding enrollment, physical safety, personal data security, food service and sports activities.



SSC President Receives Leadership Award

Seminole State College President Lana Reynolds was awarded the Distinguished Leadership Award at *Leadership Oklahoma's* Fall Forum on October 19 at the Helmerich Research Center at OSU-Tulsa. The award celebrates exemplary service to the organization over the course of the last year.

SSC Receives Clean External Audit at Board Meeting

The Seminole State College Board of Regents met Oct. 26 to review the College's annual external audit report and approve a name, image and likeness (NIL) policy for student-athletes. The Board approved the audit conducted by Hinkle and Company, P.C. of Tulsa. The accounting firm communicated that they found no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. They issued an unqualified — or clean — audit.

Volleyball Team Wins Regional Championship

The Seminole State College Trojan volleyball team won the NJCAA Region II Tournament on Oct. 24 at the Raymond Harber Field House. In the final matchup of the tournament, Northeastern Oklahoma and SSC faced off. The Trojans swept the first three sets to clinch the victory.





Trick or Treat Trail Draws Large Crowd

Hundreds of little ghosts, goblins, superheroes and princesses visited Seminole State College to load up on candy Oct. 26 for the College's annual Trick or Treat Trail event. Trick-or-treaters walked along the walking path in Henderson Park as faculty, staff and student organizations passed out candy.

Legislator Tours SSC's Campus

Speaker Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State House of Representatives Kyle Hilbert (R-Bristow) visited the Seminole State College campus on Oct. 26.

SSC Hosts Congressional Aides Luncheon

Several Congressional Aides visited Seminole State College on Oct. 27 to meet with President Lana Reynolds and SSC Rural Business Resources Center Director Danny Morgan about federal funds coming to the college through grant programs and special appropriations.

Women's Soccer Team Clinches District Tournament Win

The SSC women's soccer team competed in the 2023 NCAA South District Tournament at the Advance Soccer Complex in Enid on Oct. 27 and 28. The team won both of their tournament games, earning their spot in the National Tournament.

NOVEMBER

Hundreds Attend Tribal Fest at SSC

Seminole State College hosted Tribal Fest on Nov. 1. The event was organized and sponsored by the College's federal grant programs: Student Support Services/SSS STEM, Talent Search, GEAR UP, NASNTI and Upward Bound. SSC students, community members, and hundreds of fifth through twelfth grade students from Butner, Justice, New Lima, Varnum and Seminole were in attendance.



SSC Leadership Class Makes Large Donation to Food Pantry

The Seminole State College Leadership Development class recently donated dozens of canned and packaged food goods to the SSC Food Pantry. The class organized the drive and collected donations from Oct. 16-30.



“Searching for Sequoyah” Documentary Screened at SSC

Seminole State College hosted a documentary screening of “Searching for Sequoyah” on November 2 in the Jeff Johnston Auditorium. Following the screening, a panel discussion featuring the filmmakers occurred. The event is sponsored by the NASNTI federal grant program.

SSC Family Reunion

Retirees from Seminole State College gathered Nov. 7 on campus to visit with friends and former colleagues, and to hear updates on the college from President Lana Reynolds. The group represents decades of service to the institution and the students it has served, dating back to the 1970s.



Speaking with the Speaker: McCall Visits SSC Campus

Representatives of the Seminole State College President’s Leadership Class met with Oklahoma Speaker of the House Charles McCall on Nov. 9 prior to his presentation at the Seminole Chamber of Commerce November Forum. The students presented the Speaker with some gifts from the College and spoke with him about their future plans.

SSC Hosts Send-Off Event for Soccer Team’s National Tournament Trip

SSC hosted a send-off event for the women’s soccer team on Nov. 10 in the E.T. Dunlap Student Union. SSC students, employees, community supporters, family and friends lined the walls of the union to wish the team well as they headed to the NJCAA Division I National Tournament at the Stryker Sports Complex in Wichita, Kansas.



SSC Professor Speaks on Human Trafficking Panel

Seminole State College Psychology Professor Christal Knowles spoke on a panel about human trafficking at the Pavilion on the grounds of the Governor’s Mansion on Nov. 15. The panel was sponsored by the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women (OCSW) and was titled “Solutions, Initiatives and Strategies to Stop Human Trafficking in Oklahoma.”

SSC Employee Receives Rising Star Award

Seminole State College employee Brooks Nickell received the Randy Talley Rising Star Award at the Oklahoma College Public Relations Association (OCPRA) fall workshop on Nov. 15 at the UCO Boathouse in Oklahoma City.

DECEMBER



SSC Welcomes New Nursing Director

Seminole State College named Dr. Misty Gray to the position of Acting Nursing Director. Gray replaces Crystal Bray who left the college to accept a position as the Nursing Education Consultant with the Oklahoma Board of Nursing.

SSC Named Certified Healthy Campus

Seminole State College was recognized by the Oklahoma State Department of Health as a Certified Healthy Campus. Certified Healthy Campus was created in 2011 to recognize both public and private post-secondary campuses and career technology centers that promote health and wellness for their faculty, staff, students, and even visitors.

SSC Lights Up the Night with Holiday Fun

Seminole State College hosted its annual “Night at the Lights” event on Dec. 4 at the Reynolds Wellness Center in Seminole. Local families enjoyed the community Snowman Wonderland light display, as well as cookies and hot chocolate provided by the College. Dozens of SSC students manned stations, helping children create crafts.



Cherokee National Youth Choir Performs at SSC

The Seminole State College Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions federal grant program hosted the Cherokee National Youth Choir on Dec. 7 in the Jeff Johnston Auditorium. The choir performed traditional holiday songs in the Cherokee language.

FireLake Golf Donates Utility Vehicle to SSC Program

FireLake Golf Course donated a Kubota RV 900 utility vehicle to the Seminole State College golf program. The vehicle will be used to pick up balls on the driving range for the men’s and women’s golf teams.

Young Enterprising Women Forum Held at SSC

The Enterprising Women Foundation, the Institute for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Seminole State College hosted a mentoring forum for high school girls interested in STEM and entrepreneurial careers on Dec. 5 at the college’s Kelly Haney Center.



Fall Pinning Ceremony Marks Milestone for SSC Students

Seminole State College held a pinning ceremony at the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on Dec. 7 for 15 nursing students expected to meet degree requirements this semester. Since the nursing program began in 1972, nearly 1,100 nurses have launched their careers at SSC.

SSC Delivers Holiday Cards to Veterans

Seminole State College students, faculty, staff and administrators came together to collect holiday cards for veterans as part of the annual Operation Veteran Appreciation and Holiday Cheer project. Cards were delivered to the VA Medical Center in Oklahoma City and to American Legion Post #204 in Seminole.

Educational Foundation Hosts Holiday Fundraiser

The SSC Educational Foundation hosted its annual Holiday Reception fundraising event on Dec. 11 at the Crossing Hearts Ranch in Tecumseh. Over 100 people were in attendance and the event raised more than \$27,000 for scholarships and capital projects at the College.



Chamber of Commerce Honors Two SSC Employees

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on Dec. 14. Assistant Professor of STEM and Accreditation Coordinator Dr. Deanna Miles was honored as Faculty Member of the Month and Coordinator of Distance Education Laura Votaw as Staff Member of the Month.

SSC Provides Christmas Gifts to Local Children

Seminole State College employees provided gifts to 23 children participating in the Angel Tree programs sponsored by the Salvation Army and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. The Angel Tree program connects donors with children in need. SSC employees purchased clothing and toys and donated the items.



Empowering people for academic success, personal development and lifelong learning.

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE
2701 BOREN BOULEVARD
SEMINOLE, OK 74868

405-382-9950
SSCOK.EDU