

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE

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**WELCOMING STUDENTS
BACK TO CAMPUS**

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Submitting to The Collegian

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Former Student Speaks on Diversity

Deaven Steele, a former SSC student, spoke on diversity, equity and inclusion at the Seminole State College Employee In-Service Aug. 12. The event was conducted virtually.

Steele graduated from SSC in 2014. She holds a master's degree in Social Work from the University of Oklahoma. She presently serves as a Health Planner for the Oklahoma State Department of Health. In her role, she supports the development, implementation, and evaluation of goals, objectives, and health outcomes in the Community Engagement and Health Planning Division for Region 6, which includes Cleveland, Grady, Hughes, McClain, Pottawatomie, and Seminole Counties.

Prior to her position at OSDH, Steele was the Regional Coordinator in the Oklahoma City metro area for a statewide nonprofit specializing in antiprejudice advocacy. She collaborated with various businesses, nonprofits, and universities in Oklahoma to offer diversity, equity, and inclusion presentations and trainings. A



Deaven Steele

few partners she collaborated with include Rose State College, the University of Central Oklahoma, Oklahoma City University, United States Tennis Association-Oklahoma, and Oklahoma City Public Schools.

Foundation Donates Masks to Campus

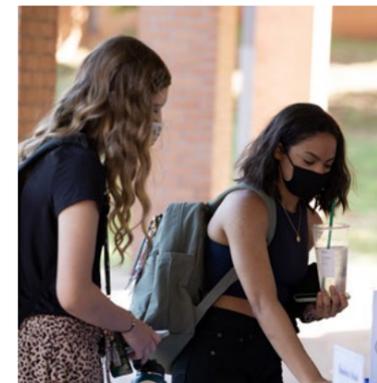


The Seminole State College Educational Foundation recently donated more than \$6,000 for the purchase of over 1,500 branded face coverings for employees and students at SSC. SSC Educational Foundation President Lance Wortham (left) and SSC Student Government Association President Kelsey Edminsten (right) pose next to face coverings donated to the College. Face coverings may be purchased at the SSC Bookstore.



Welcoming Students Back

Seminole State College began its fall semester on Aug. 17. This marks the first time students have met for face-to-face instruction since March. As students arrived on campus, they were greeted by employees who provided free face coverings. The SSC Educational Foundation donated 1,500 masks for the academic year.



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](#).

[CLICK TO VIEW](#)

SSC Names COVID-19 Officer

At the beginning of the fall semester, Seminole State College selected Dr. Deanna Miles to serve as the campus's COVID-19 Officer.

Dr. Miles most recently served the College as an Assistant Professor in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Division and a Curriculum Specialist through a Title III grant.

"I'm excited to serve as the COVID-19 Officer. It's a challenge, but we're doing everything we can to get students and employees what they need to make everyone safer," Dr. Miles said.

Dr. Miles received her Bachelor of Science from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. She then completed her Medical Doctorate at the University of Oklahoma and she also completed her Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Ariz..

As someone who grew up in Moore, Okla., Dr. Miles is no stranger to adversity. On May 3, 1999, her parents' medical clinic was hit by an F-5 tornado. She learned from watching her parents and those around her respond and rebuild in a time of crisis.

"I remember moving the phone lines to our home, trying to get prescriptions to people in need. While this health pandemic is obviously a very different scenario, dealing with the tornado gave me more experience to handle these challenging times than I even realized," Dr. Miles said.

One of the first tasks Dr. Miles undertook in her new role was helping campus administrators and staff from several different departments compile a COVID-19 Safety and



Dr. Deanna Miles is overseeing SSC's coronavirus response in her new role as COVID-19 Officer.

Procedure Manual. The manual is regarded as a living document and will be updated when necessary. It includes information on sanitization, workplace accommodations, what do when you or someone you have been in contact with has tested positive and many other topics.

"I've been really impressed by our professors. They've been really great about sanitizing classrooms and reinforcing what steps need to be taken to their students," Dr. Miles said.

When walking around campus, Dr. Miles has found most people following preventative measures. "At times I'll see a few overlooking things—they aren't staying six feet apart, maybe their masks are positioned under their noses, but for the most part everyone seems to be doing a

good job."

To improve accuracy in contact tracing, SSC has developed seating charts for each course that meets face-to-face and added a reporting form to the top of its website, sscok.edu. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to fill out the form if they test positive for COVID-19, if they develop symptoms and are in quarantine until they get COVID-19 test results back, or if they are a first-degree contact with a person who is confirmed positive.

SSC President Lana Reynolds said Dr. Miles will be continually reviewing SSC protocols and responses to COVID-19-related issues.

"We feel very fortunate to have someone with Dr. Miles experiences in the medical field, as well as

the classroom, to provide guidance to us during this time. She will also serve as a liaison with the Seminole County Health Department and the Oklahoma Department of Health in reporting positive test cases and monitoring campus exposures," Reynolds said.

For more information about SSC's COVID-19 response, visit sscok.edu/covid19/covid.html.

When to Use SSC's COVID-19 Reporting Form:



- You test positive for COVID-19.
- You develop symptoms and are quarantining at home until you get COVID-19 test results back.
- You are a first-degree contact with a person who is confirmed positive.

Click [here](#) to view the form.

SSC Hires New Chief of Police

Former Seminole Chief of Police Shane Marshall was recently named Chief of Police for the Seminole State College Police Department. Marshall brings with him more than 25 years of law enforcement experience.

Since 2018, Marshall has served as a full-time officer for the College's Police Department. In that role, he assisted the campus by training department personnel, students and employees with emergency preparedness and safety. He also helped the department maintain twenty-four-hour coverage of the campus, facilities, students, staff and guests.

Marshall retired from the Seminole Police Department in 2016. He began as a Dispatcher/Reserve Officer in 1993 and after three years became a Patrol Officer. In 2002, he was promoted to Detective where he served for the next 8 years until he assumed the role of Police Chief in 2010. During his time as a law enforcement officer, Marshall obtained over 1200 hours of continuing education credits and training, including executive level training at Arkansas Leader in Little Rock, AR, Rural Executive Management Institute in Chicago, IL and New Chiefs Training in Oklahoma City, OK.

Marshall was born and raised just east of Seminole and graduated from Butner High School. He took concurrent classes at SSC and went on to get his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from East Central University. He has been a lifelong resident of Seminole where he and his wife



Chief Shane Marshall

Heather have raised their four boys, Kolten, Kendell, Bryce and Jordan.

Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Bill Knowles said, "Shane has been a valuable member of our SSC community and his experience and training will be an asset for our students and employees. His wealth of police knowledge will help convey the importance of safety and security as we continue to update and improve these efforts on our campus."

Marshall replaces Louis Ross, who held the SSC Chief of Police position since July of 2017. Ross recently accepted the position of Chief of Police at Rogers State University in Claremore.

The SSC Police Department is located inside the Walkingstick Student Services Building, Room 102. Campus police can be reached by phone at 405-382-9500 or 405-380-8989.

Pitts Appointed to SSC Board of Regents

Ryan Pitts, J.D., was recently appointed to the Seminole State College Board of Regents by Governor Kevin Stitt. Pitts will serve from July 27, 2020 to July 1, 2023. He is completing the remainder of former Regent Paige Sherry's term. Sherry stepped down in the spring when her husband, Jack Sherry, was appointed to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to avoid a conflict of interest.

"I am deeply honored to have been appointed a regent to Seminole State College. I look forward to working with the faculty and staff to serve this region and the State of Oklahoma," Pitts said.

Pitts resides in Wewoka. Since April of 2019, he has been the owner and senior attorney at the Law Offices of Ryan H. Pitts, P.C., where his practice focuses on civil litigation and transactional law. From 2013 to 2019, he worked as an associate attorney at Harold Heath Law Offices P.C. in Holdenville. He also serves as a municipal judge for the city of Holdenville.

Pitts received his Juris Doctorate from the Oklahoma City University School of Law in 2013, his Master's Degree in Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma in 2010 and Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Oklahoma in 2007.

Since 2015, he has also managed Newman Ranches, a cow-calf operation, in Sweetwater, Texas. He enjoys cultivating the land and manages the payroll and books.

Pitts is involved in community



Regent Ryan Pitts

service projects in Seminole and Hughes counties. Since 2018, he has been a member of the Holdenville Masonic Lodge. Beginning in January of 2020, he has served as the President of the New Wewoka Industries, Inc. President. He previously served as the Vice President of the organization for four years. He has been an Advisory Board Member of the Wewoka Chamber of Business and Industry since 2015.

He also assists with the facilities and food preparation for the annual reunion of the National Women's Airforce Service Pilots World War II Museum in Sweetwater, Texas.

"Mr. Pitts will be a great addition to our local Board of Regents. We appreciate his professional and community relationships in Wewoka and Holdenville and believe he will represent those areas well on our Board. We are excited about his new leadership role at Seminole State College," SSC President Lana Reynolds said.

SSC Welcomes Presidential Leadership Class XIV

Seminole State College has chosen 18 students for Class XIV 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.

“The Presidential Leadership Class provides students with unique opportunities to foster their leadership skills while developing academic growth,” SSC President Lana Reynolds said. “We look forward to working with these outstanding students. They will have some great opportunities throughout the year to meet with state leaders, learn about state government and philanthropy, study leadership styles and volunteer their time.”

The scholarship program was established to provide educational classroom and extracurricular activities to enhance leadership skills of students. Responsibilities of PLC members include volunteering for community service programs and campus events.

School officials throughout the College’s service area of Seminole, Lincoln, Pottawatomie, Hughes and Okfuskee counties are invited by President Reynolds to nominate high school seniors as candidates for the scholarship program each December. Other students are nominated by business owners and school officials. Participants are selected based on ACT scores, academic performance in high school and demonstrated leadership ability.

Freshman members of the President’s Leadership Class XIII include: Laney Anderson of Ada, Pepe Casey of Owasso, Elizabeth Denney of Prague, Emily Dobbins of Broken

Arrow, Brandon Gomez of Oklahoma City, Jenna Harrison of Shawnee, Jaycee Johnson of Paden, Landry Kyle of Oklahoma City, Kaitlyn Matlock of Lexington, Uriah McPerryman of Wetumka, Autumn Orsburn of Seminole, Jaxon Pack of Wetumka, Jaylea Paxton of Seminole, Carson Pierce of Edmond, Hannah Potter of Seminole, Zachary Shelton of Seminole, Cepado Wilkins, Jr. of Shawnee and Sydney Winchester of Prague.

Sophomore members of the President’s Leadership Class XIII, returning for a second year in the program, include: Cale Ashcraft of Seminole, Connor Buchanan of Wewoka, Kandyce Davidson of Wewoka, Preston Davis of Oklahoma City, Kelsey Edminsten of Okemah, Candice Ervin of Holdenville, Callen Golloway of Blanchard, Jerome Hilton of Maud, Trevor Martin of Owasso, Tiffany Maxey of Catoosa, Sydney McClaskey of Maud, Brady McEntire of Daingerfield, Texas, Shelby Moutaw of Strother, Rylee Treloar of Depew, Creed Watkins of Duncan and Channing Wortham of Shawnee.

The freshmen attended an orientation session at the College prior to the start of classes. Each semester students will spend a minimum of nine hours doing community service and will attend several events, including team building activities at St. Crispin’s Lodge, a voter engagement panel discussion with elected officials and a financial literacy presentation.

For more information about the PLC, contact SSC Director of Community Relations Kristin Dunn, who serves as coordinator of the program, at 405-382-9218 or at k.dunn@sscok.edu.



Laney Anderson



Pepe Casey



Elizabeth Denney



Emily Dobbins



Brandon Gomez



Jenna Harrison



Jaycee Johnson



Landry Kyle



Kaitlyn Matlock



Uriah McPerryman



Autumn Orsburn



Jaxon Pack



Jaylea Paxton



Carson Pierce



Hannah Potter



Zachary Shelton



Cepado Wilkins, Jr.



Sydney Winchester

SSC Awarded \$2.86 Million in Federal Grants

The U.S. Department of Education recently awarded Seminole State College two grants totaling approximately \$2.86 million. The College was officially notified of the awards Aug. 7 by the offices of U.S. Senator James Lankford and U.S. Congresswoman Kendra Horn.

The programs receiving the grants are Student Support Services (SSS) and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Student Support Services (STEM SSS). Beginning this September, SSS will receive \$294,725 annually for the next five years. STEM SSS will receive \$261,888 annually for the next five years.

The grant application process was spearheaded by SSS and STEM SSS Director Janna Wilson-Byrd. Retired SSC Director of Sponsored Programs Kathy Hoover served as a consultant during the proposal process.

“The success of the SSC Student Support grants lies in teamwork. Everyday our professional staff team, which is made up of Laura Votaw, Sarah Ledford, Damon Cravens, and Kristen Bean, work toward the same mission of assisting our SSS participants in academic success. A special thank you goes to Kathy Hoover for providing rare expertise with her consulting services during the writing process. Finally, I am grateful for the SSC administration, led by President Reynolds, for giving full support to write for the 2020 Student Support Services competition as well as the commitment to SSS programs for the next five years,” Wilson-Byrd said.



Members of the Seminole State College Student Support Services team pose for a photo commemorating the 2.86 million in federal grants the program was awarded. Pictured: (back row left to right) Director Janna Wilson-Byrd, Peer Coach A-yo Jones, Administrative Assistant Patty Bland, Advisor Kristen Bean, Tutor Kirsten Stevenson and Advisor Damon Cravens; (front row left to right) Advisor Sarah Ledford, Advisor Laura Votaw and Tutor Jennifer Neugebauer.

Both grants serve first-generation, economically disadvantaged, and disabled students. The purpose of the grants is to support these students in post-secondary persistence, completion and transfer.

Services provided by the grants include tutoring, academic advising, group study/tutoring, financial literacy, financial aid assistance, transfer assistance, dedicated study/computer labs, university visits and cultural events.

“These grants provide valuable services to our students – many

times giving them the support they need to attend and complete college. We are very appreciative of our Congressional delegation, particularly Senator Lankford and Congresswoman Horn, for working with the U.S. Department of Education to bring these dollars home to Oklahoma,” President Lana Reynolds said.

To apply, SSC students can visit www.sscok.edu/sss and click the “Apply Today” button. SSS and STEM SSS labs and offices are located in Scott Building of the SSC campus.

GEAR UP Donates Supplies to Local High Schools



Seminole State College GEAR UP Student-Parent Coordinators recently purchased school supplies for local high school students. Each freshman and sophomore student from the 10 SSC GEAR UP school district cohorts will receive various school supplies, including mechanical pencils, loose leaf paper, a pencil bag, ink pens, a highlighter, a three-ring binder with dividers and post-it notes.

In light of COVID-19, each student will also receive a mask and bottle of hand sanitizer. SSC GEAR UP serves the school districts of Asher, Holdenville, Konawa, Maud, Okemah, Prague, Seminole, Varnum, Wetumka and Wewoka.

Student-Parent Coordinators (pictured from left to right) Jonathan Bennett, Misty Cooper, April Briscoe and Kim Pringle gathered school supplies for the local high school students.



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SSC Women's Soccer Team Presents Jersey to President Reynolds



Members of the 2020-21 Seminole State College Soccer team presented SSC President Lana Reynolds with team shirts – including a player jersey – on Aug. 31.

The players are on campus and have completed two weeks of study in the fall semester. Their competitive season, normally held in the Fall, has been postponed until Spring by the National Junior College Athletic Association, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The Trojan roster of 23 includes 8 returning players. This year's team is composed of 10 student-athletes from Oklahoma, 10 from Texas, 2 from Colorado and 1 from Gertshofen, Germany. For more information about the Trojan Soccer team, visit the SSC athletic website at: www.sscathletics.com.



President Reynolds receives a team jersey from SSC Women's Soccer Coach Dan Hill on Aug. 31. Coach Hill is beginning his fifth year leading the soccer program. Last fall, SSC advanced to the NJCAA national tournament in Melbourne, Florida. They completed their season with a record of 20 wins, 1 loss and 3 ties.