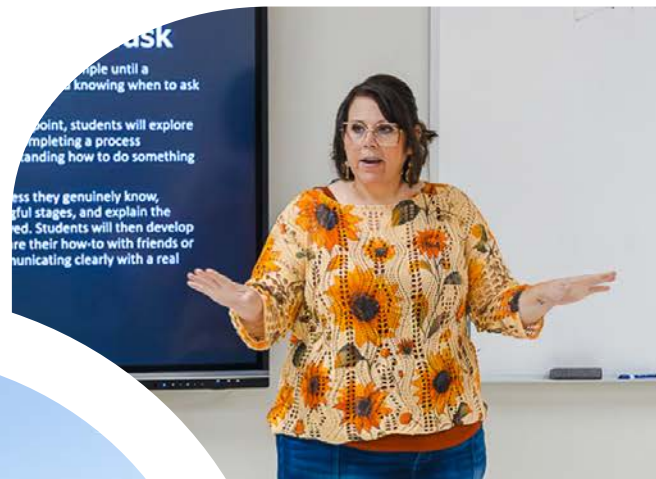


SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE COLLEGIAN

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WELCOME BACK



WELCOME WEEK

SSC hosted a series of activities for students to begin the new semester.

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TEXTBOOK DELIVERY

SSC recently delivered textbooks to concurrent students across its service area.

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Submitting to The Collegian

"The Seminole State Collegian" is published during the fall and spring semesters by the Seminole State College Office of Media Relations, under the direction of Josh Hutton. The staff reserves the right to edit submitted material for spelling and style. Consideration is given to all submitted material, but submission does not ensure publication. No anonymous material will be considered. All views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of Seminole State College. "The Collegian" is distributed on the SSC campus and mailed to more than 300 friends of the college.

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Stay up-to-date with all campus news by visiting sscok.edu/media. You can also view our collection of archives, which includes past issues of *The Collegian*.



NEVER MISS A GAME OF **SSC SPORTS**

Students and employees can attend every SSC athletic event for free with a campus ID. View sports schedules at sscathletics.com.

SSC Hosts New Student Orientation



Seminole State College welcomed incoming students to campus Aug. 15 for New Student Orientation in the Haney Center Ballroom. The event gave students an opportunity to prepare for the fall semester, learn about campus resources and connect with SSC faculty and staff. The orientation was organized by Coordinator of Recruitment and High School Relations Maddy Potter.



SSC Builds on 95 Years at Fall In-Service



Seminole State College's full-time faculty and staff gathered in Cook Commons on Aug. 13 during Fall 2026 In-Service. Employees wore shirts commemorating the College's 95th anniversary and this year's theme, "Brick by Brick: Building on 95 Years of Excellence." In-Service activities were held Aug. 12-14.



Former University of Oklahoma Women's Basketball Head Coach Sherri Coale delivers her keynote, "Time Well Spent," during Seminole State College's fall in-service.



SSC employees competed in a game of Family Feud during lunch on the first day of Fall In-Service on Aug. 12. Pictured from left are Leslie Havileck, Kate Sprague, Skye Lattimore, Dr. Mindy Choate, Matt Kappelle, Kim Pringle, Julie Mathews, Gerry Hatfield and Jamie Worthley.

Welcome Week Kicks Off Fall Semester



SSC students Imani Cudjoe of Edmond, left, and Nylia Reid of Sapulpa walk to class on Aug. 17 as Seminole State College welcomed students back to campus for the start of the fall semester.



Approximately 200 SSC student-athletes gathered for athletics orientation on Aug. 17 as the College began the fall semester. This year's student-athletes include individuals from Venezuela, Montenegro, England, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, as well as 11 states: Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Colorado, New Mexico, Ohio, California, New Jersey, Illinois and Arizona.



Assistant Professor of Life Sciences Truitt Eubank, center, assists SSC students Alivia Wapskineh of McCloud, left, and Christian Herlehy of Shawnee during an Introduction to Environmental Science lab.



From left, SSC students Fredricka Finnikin of Montego Bay, Jamaica; Losaline Makahununiu of Norman; and Malerie Hawk of Choctaw show off custom street signs they created Aug. 17. The activity was one of several events hosted by SSC Student Activities and Events during Welcome Week.

SSC Delivers More than 700 Textbooks to Concurrent Students



SSC GEAR UP Lead Coordinator Leah Martin (left) delivers textbooks to Wetumka High School Counselor Randi Bellinger. As the fall semester began this week, Seminole State College delivered more than 700 textbooks to 420 concurrent students at 38 area high schools. The books were funded through the Scott Empowerment Fund, established following philanthropist MacKenzie Scott's \$17 million unrestricted gift to the SSC Educational Foundation.



SSC Talent Search Advisor Amanda Thomas (left) delivers textbooks to Liberty Academy Registrar Melody Licklider. Through the Scott Empowerment Fund, concurrent students attending high school within SSC's five-county service area automatically receive a scholarship covering the cost of books and fees. Combined with Oklahoma's concurrent tuition waiver, the scholarship allows eligible students to attend SSC at no cost.



Prague High School junior Kori Cahoon (left) receives a textbook from SSC GEAR UP Coordinator Kate Sprague. Enrollment for the fall semester remains open through Aug. 21.

Esports Team Manager Shares Lessons on Leadership at SSC



Seminole State College hosted USA Esports National Team Manager Daniel Clerke (left) and Maryville University senior Nick Wiseman (right) for a presentation on Aug. 27 in the Jeff Johnston Auditorium. The event was hosted by the Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions federal grant program. Clerke discussed his philosophy of treating esports like other youth sports, using competition to teach discipline, teamwork, personal responsibility and the importance of physical and mental well-being.

SSC Announces New President's Leadership Class

Seminole State College has selected 23 freshmen students for Class XX of the President's Leadership Class.

The leadership students, along with their parents and guardians, attended a welcome reception at the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum on Tuesday, Aug. 25. The event introduced students to the program's emphasis on leadership, community involvement and service.

During the reception, SSC President Lana Reynolds welcomed the students and their families. Members of SSC's Administrative Council who participated in the question-and-answer session included Dr. Bill Knowles, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs; Melanie Rinehart, Vice President for Finance, Grants & Enrollment; Jessica Isaacs, Dean of Instruction; and Marc Hunter, Director of Information Technology and Chief Information Security Officer.

Eileen Castle, Executive Director of the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum, delivered a message encouraging students to embrace the importance of play and engagement in their daily lives. She also highlighted meaningful ways to get involved in the local community through volunteerism.

Director of Community Relations Kim Pringle provided an overview of the year's planned activities for the PLC, including community service expectations, leadership training sessions, and civic engagement opportunities.



Seminole State College President's Leadership Class XX students gathered with their parents and guardians Aug. 25 at the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum for a welcome reception focused on leadership, community involvement and service. Class XX students posed for a group photo on the museum's firetruck. Front, standing on floor, from left: Kennadee Mason, Kaitlyn Smith, Stevie Hogue, Lydia Reece, Braylon Henry, Aven Goodlin, Brayden Davis, Brianna Roller and Logan Janaway. Seated, from left: Addison Whisenhunt, Tenna Walls and Serenity Blakely. Standing on truck, from left: Keyan Brown, Brooke Robb, Camrynn Watkins, Miley Wafford, Mia Reich, Nolan Lindley, KC Reiser, Kaleb McAlester, Kale Johnson, Wyatt Hampton and Ethan Arrant.

Planned activities include a Seminole Chamber of Commerce forum featuring Oklahoma State Election Board Assistant Secretary Rusty Clark, a tour of the Oklahoma State Capitol and a presentation on political involvement from Oklahoma Academy Communications and Development Director Lynn Thompson.

The class will also explore Oklahoma tourism with a visit to the Okla-

homa Aquarium in Jenks, tour the Oklahoma National Guard Museum and participate in True Colors personality assessment training. In November, students will attend a Seminole Chamber forum featuring Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt before visiting Devon Park and Riversport to learn more about Oklahoma City's role in the 2028 Olympic Games. The semester will conclude with a holiday gath-

ering in December.

The 2026-27 President's Leadership Class XX includes: Ethan Arrant of Jenks; Serenity Blakely of Chandler; Keyan Brown of Conway, Arkansas; Brayden Davis of Stroud; Aven Goodlin of Wagoner; Wyatt Hampton of Shidler; Braylon Henry of Moore; Stevie Hogue of Seminole; Logan Janaway of Washington; Kale Johnson of Edmond; Nolan Lindley of Stuart; Kennadee Mason of Tecumseh; Kaleb McAlester of Wilburton; Lydia Reece of Tecumseh; Mia Reich of Wright City; KC Reiser of Broomfield, Colorado; Brooke Robb of Newalla; Brianna Roller of Prague; Kaitlyn Smith of Shawnee; Miley Wafford of Fort Gibson; Tenna Walls of Jenks; Camrynn Watkins of Henryetta; and Addison Whisenhunt of Bentonville, Arkansas.

The President's Leadership Class is a two-year scholarship program designed to develop student leadership through civic engagement, volunteerism and opportunities to interact with campus, community and state leaders.

School officials throughout the College's five-county service area of Seminole, Lincoln, Pottawatomie, Hughes and Okfuskee counties are invited by SSC President Lana Reynolds to nominate high school seniors as candidates for the scholarship program each December. Additional students may be nominated by SSC Educational Foundation trustees and community leaders. Participants are selected based on academic performance, standardized test scores and demonstrated leadership ability.

SSC to Host Seven-Time Olympic Medalist Shannon Miller

Seminole State College's Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions program will host seven-time Olympic medalist, ovarian cancer survivor and health advocate Shannon Miller at 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, in the Jeff Johnston Fine Arts Auditorium on the SSC campus. The event is free and open to the public.

The presentation will serve as a culminating event for the final year of SSC's current five-year NASNTI grant. The program's 2026 theme,

"Wellbeing and Resilience," focuses on providing students with resources and strategies to support their personal well-being and academic success.

Following Miller's presentation, audience members will have an opportunity to participate in a question-and-answer session and photo opportunity.

Miller won seven Olympic medals during her gymnastics career. At the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain, she earned five medals — two

silver and three bronze — the most won by a U.S. athlete in any sport at those Games. Four years later, she helped lead the U.S. women's gymnastics team, known as the "Magnificent Seven," to its first Olympic team gold medal. She also won an individual gold medal on the balance beam.

For more information about the event, contact NASNTI Program Director Kay Wallace at 405-382-9646 or k.wallace@sscok.edu.



Shannon Miller

SSC Awarded \$1.25 Million Federal Grant

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Seminole State College's Talent Search-West program a \$1.25 million grant to continue providing college preparation and academic support services to area middle and high school students.

Talent Search-West will receive \$250,000 annually for five years. The program will serve 500 students at seven schools: Earlsboro, Macomb, Maud, McLoud, Pleasant Grove, Shawnee and Tecumseh.

The program serves students in grades 6-12, providing resources and guidance designed to help participants remain in school, graduate from high school and pursue postsecondary education.

"This grant represents an important investment in the students and communities we serve," SSC Vice President for Finance, Grants and Enrollment Melanie Rinehart said. "Talent Search helps students recognize that



Seminole State College's Talent Search-West program has been awarded a \$1.25 million federal grant to continue providing college preparation and academic support services to 500 students in grades 6-12 at seven area schools. Pictured from left are Talent Search Advisor Amanda Thomas, TRIO Accounting Clerk Yahnah Factor, Talent Search Advisor Damaris Haney, Talent Search Director Karan O'Dor and Talent Search Advisor Rachelle Jones.

higher education is within their reach and provides them with the support and resources to take the next step. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue this work with our partner

schools for another five years."

The grant establishes goals for student persistence, high school graduation, completion of rigorous secondary coursework, college enrollment and

postsecondary completion. Among its objectives, Talent Search-West aims to ensure that a large majority of participating students advance to the next grade level and graduate from high school on time while encouraging participants to enroll in and complete a postsecondary program.

Talent Search-West is led by Director Karan O'Dor.

Talent Search is part of TRIO, a group of educational opportunity programs funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The program provides participating students with guidance and resources to prepare for college and pursue their educational goals.

Through Talent Search, participating students receive academic and college preparation support, including workshops, tutoring, campus visits and assistance with the college admissions and financial aid processes.

Hooten Takes Oath of Office at SSC Board Meeting

New Seminole State College Regent David Hooten took the oath of office during the SSC Board of Regents meeting on Aug. 20, officially beginning his service on the College's governing board. Seminole City Attorney and Oklahoma Army National Guard Brigadier General Brad Carter administered the oath. Hooten was appointed by Gov. Kevin Stitt and confirmed by the Oklahoma State Senate Education Committee in April. His seven-year term began July 1 and expires July 1, 2033.

Hooten is the owner of Hooten Oil Co. and a 1979 graduate of Seminole High School. He earned a degree in business administration and accounting from Anderson University in Anderson, Indiana, in 1983 and is a Certified Lubrication Specialist through the Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers. He and his wife, Teri, have three children.

Following the oath of office, SSC President Lana Reynolds provided updates on personnel, the College's new Paralegal Studies program, the demolition of the former Sarkeys dormitory, campus activities, enrollment and grant programs.

After the report, the Board elected officers for the coming year. Regent Curtis Morgan was elected chair, Re-

gent Ryan Franklin was elected vice chair and Regent Robyn Ready was elected secretary.

The Board also approved revisions to four institutional policies.

A revision to Board Policy II-7-2 regarding Program Review updated the College's procedures to align with changes to Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education requirements governing the review of academic programs.

The Board approved a revision to Board Policy II-7-5 regarding unauthorized use of College property and facilities. The updated policy included language prohibiting camping, establishing temporary living quarters or sleeping overnight on College property without prior written authorization from the vice president for academic and student affairs.

Regents also approved revisions to Board Policy III-5-6 regarding service and emotional support/assistance animals. The updated policy more clearly distinguishes between service animals and emotional support/assistance animals, outlines documentation and approval requirements for emotional support/assistance animals, and clarifies where each type of animal is permitted on campus and under what conditions.



Seminole City Attorney and Oklahoma Army National Guard Brigadier General Brad Carter (left) congratulates new Seminole State College Regent David Hooten (right) following the administration of the oath of office during the SSC Board of Regents meeting on Aug. 20. Hooten's seven-year term began July 1, 2026, and concludes July 1, 2033.

A revision to Board Policy III-7-8 regarding Title IX policy and procedure was also approved. The administrative update replaced the name of an individual previously identified in the policy with the title of the applicable College position.

The Board approved the College's financial report through July 31, as well

as purchases of more than \$15,000 to High Point Networks LLC, KB Electric LLC and Village Travel.

Regents Curtis Morgan, Robyn Ready, Ryan Franklin, Teresa Burnett, David Hooten and Haley Coates were present for the meeting. The next scheduled meeting is Oct. 22.

SECOND 8-WEEK CLASSES OCT. 12 - DEC. 12

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