

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE COLLEGIAN

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EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION RAISES RECORD FUNDS AT 30TH ANNUAL SPRING BANQUET

Page 4

COMMENCEMENT

Caps in the air and futures unfolding at SSC's 92nd Commencement. [Page 3](#)

SSCOK.EDU

POSTSEASON PLAY

The SSC softball and baseball teams compete in regional tournaments this weekend. [Page 6](#)

Submitting to The Collegian

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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 home game for free with a campus ID. View sports schedules at sscathletics.com.

AI EXPERT EXPLORES FACT VS. FICTION IN CAMPUS TALK AT SSC



Dr. John Hassell, Associate Professor of Software development at the OU Polytechnic Institute and SSC alumnus, spoke on the Jeff Johnston Fine Arts Auditorium stage during his presentation "AI Myths: A Clear Look at Artificial Intelligence" on April 23. Students, community members, faculty and staff attended the event, which was sponsored by the SSC STEM Division. Hassell's talk explored common misconceptions about AI, including the ideas that it is conscious, unbiased or a cure-all for complex problems. He also discussed the differences between predictive and generative AI and emphasized the importance of data quality and human oversight.

Summer is here, and so are new opportunities.

Whether you're looking to catch up, get ahead, or lighten your fall course load, there's still time to enroll in summer classes at Seminole State College. With flexible schedules and affordable tuition, SSC makes it easy to stay on track.

Classes are filling quickly. Visit sscok.edu or call (405) 382-9797 to get started.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE TO DELIVER KEYNOTE AT SSC'S 92ND COMMENCEMENT

Seminole State College will hold its 92nd Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 9 at 10 a.m. in the Raymond Harbor Field House on campus. The event will recognize students completing coursework requirements for their degree programs.

Oklahoma Speaker of the House Kyle Hilbert will serve as this year's keynote speaker. Hilbert represents House District 29, which includes parts of Creek and Tulsa counties. At age 30, he is the youngest Speaker in Oklahoma history and only the second Republican Speaker under 31 nationwide since 1873.

He earned both his bachelor's degree in agribusiness and a master's degree in business administration from Oklahoma State University where he served as Student Government Association President. During his eight years in the House, Hilbert has authored more than 40 bills signed into law. Notable legislation includes the DRIVE Act, which modernized transportation funding and the Redbud School Funding Act, which allocated marijuana tax revenue to underfunded school districts.

Before his speakership, Hilbert held leadership roles including Speaker Pro Tempore and Vice Chair of the Appropriations and Budget Committee. He resides in Bristow with his wife Alexis and their two daughters.

The ceremony will begin with an invocation by SSC Regent Bryan Cain, followed by a welcome address from SSC President Lana Reynolds. Dr. Bill Knowles, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, will present the de-



*Oklahoma Speaker of the House
Kyle Hilbert*

gree candidates and President Reynolds will confer the degrees.

Due to venue capacity concerns, this year's event will require tickets for entry into the Field House. Overflow seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis in the Jeff Johnston Auditorium. The ceremony will be livestreamed in the overflow area and on the College's official YouTube page.

Graduates of the Nursing Program will also participate in a Pinning Ceremony at 12 p.m. in the Utterback Ballroom, located in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center.

Campus offices will be closed to the public on the morning of May 9 to allow staff to assist with commencement preparations. The SSC Bookstore and The Flower Box will have pop-up shops on site before and after the event. Offices will reopen at 1:30 p.m.

For more information about SSC's commencement activities, contact the Office of Admissions at (405) 382-9230.

COMMENCEMENT LIVESTREAM

View the livestream of the event, beginning at 9:45 a.m. on May 9 by visiting the **Seminole State College YouTube Channel**.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT MEMBERS ATTEND LEADERSHIP RETREAT



Seminole State College members of the Student Government Association and staff participated in the 2025 Student Government Association Student Leadership Retreat on April 12 at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha. The event featured sessions on leadership, résumé building and managing school social media accounts. Pictured (left to right): SSC SGA Advisor and Recruitment Specialist Maddy Potter, SGA Freshman Senator Aubree Wilkins of Earlsboro, SGA President Adisen Williamson of Oklahoma City, SGA Secretary Zoe Davis of Shawnee and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Bill Knowles.

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL SPRING BANQUET DRAWS LARGE CROWD

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation hosted its 30th Annual Spring Recognition Banquet on Thursday, May 1 in the Utterback Ballroom of the Enoch Kelly Haney Center. A crowd of 450 guests filled the venue, and the event raised just over \$60,000—making it the most successful banquet in the event's history.

The banquet serves as a major fundraiser and recognition event, honoring alumni, employees and students. This year, Phil Johnson and Karen Romine were inducted into the SSC Alumni Hall of Fame. The Distinguished Service Award was presented to longtime SSC administrator Dr. Brad Walck.

Phil Johnson, who finished his time at SSC in 1989, currently serves as the State Director of the Oklahoma Supreme Court Alternative Dispute Resolution System. Over the course of his career, he has overseen conflict resolution services in all 77 counties in Oklahoma and mediated more than 3,000 cases.

Karen Romine, a 1999 graduate, has served as the Clinical Educator at SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital in Shawnee since 2008. She has worked in emergency, outpatient and acute care settings, and previously taught nursing at SSC.

Dr. Brad Walck, who retired from SSC in 2013 after 22 years of service, received the Distinguished Service Award. He held several roles at the College, including Vice President for Student Affairs and Head Women's Basketball Coach.

Five students were recognized as Outstanding Students of the Year by their academic divisions: Cednei Hulbutta



Seminole State College President Lana Reynolds (left) and SSC Educational Foundation Chair Mark Schell (right) present the Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Brad Walck during the SSC Educational Foundation's 30th Annual Spring Recognition Banquet on May 1. Walck was honored for his 22 years of service at SSC, where he held several roles including Vice President for Student Affairs and Head Women's Basketball Coach.



Karen Romine (left) and Phil Johnson (right) were inducted into the Seminole State College Alumni Hall at the event. Romine is a Clinical Educator at SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital in Shawnee. Johnson serves as State Director of the Oklahoma Supreme Court Alternative Dispute Resolution System.

of Wewoka, Business and Education Division; Caitlin Nuttall of Midwest City, Health Sciences Division; Caden Pothorst of Prague, Language Arts and Humanities Division; Troy Edwards of Davenport, Social Sciences Division; and Bailey Galleciez of Seminole, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Division.

Campus organizational leaders were also recognized, including Faculty Senate President Dr. Deanna Miles, Professional Staff Council Chair Melinda Sims, Classified Staff Association President Tisha Simon and Student Government Association President Adisen Williamson.

Employees honored for milestone service included Rita Story-Schell, Head Women's Basketball Coach and HPER Division Director (25 years); Evan Lee, Campus Police Officer (20 years); and Tammy Kasterke, Business and Education Division Chair and Assistant Professor of Business (20 years).

Retirees recognized at the event included Katy Hall, Kitchen Staff and Banquet Coordinator; Mindy Stufflebeam, Financial Aid Specialist; Sam Rivera, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and Social Sciences Division Chair; and Mark Spencer, Custodian.

The SSC Educational Foundation, established in 1972, plays a vital role in supporting scholarships, faculty initiatives and campus development. For more information or to make a contribution, visit sscock.edu/foundation.



SSC President Lana Reynolds interviews this year's Outstanding Student honorees during the Spring Recognition Banquet. Pictured (left to right) are: President Reynolds, Cednei Hulbutta of Wewoka, Caitlin Nuttall of Midwest City, Caden Pothorst of Prague, Troy Edwards of Davenport, and Bailey Galleciez of Seminole.



The following SSC employees were honored for their retirement during the event, pictured (left to right): Katy Hall, Kitchen Staff and Banquet Coordinator; Mark Spencer, Custodian; and Mindy Stufflebeam, Financial Aid Specialist.



Three employees were honored for their years of service during the SSC Spring Recognition Banquet. Pictured left to right are: Rita Story-Schell, Head Coach of Women's Basketball and HPER Instructor, recognized for 25 years; Evan Lee, Campus Police Officer, recognized for 20 years; Tammy Kasterke, Assistant Professor and Division Chair of Business and Education, recognized for 20 years.



SSC recognized campus organizational leaders at the event. Pictured from left to right are: Dr. Deanna Miles, Faculty Senate President; Melinda Sims, Professional Staff Council Chair; Tisha Simon, Classified Staff Association President; and Adisen Williamson, Student Government Association President.



SSC President Lana Reynolds (center) is pictured with former SSC Presidents Dr. Jim Cook (left) and Dr. Jim Utterback (right). Cook and Utterback played a key role in the evening's program, offering reflections on the banquet's history, its importance to the College, and its lasting impact on the community as part of the special anniversary celebration.

SSC BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL TEAMS BEGIN POSTSEASON PLAY



The SSC softball team, ranked No. 1 in the Region II bracket, will face No. 8 seed NOC-Enid in their opening game of the NJCAA South-Central District Tournament on Wednesday, May 7, at 4 p.m. in Piedmont, Oklahoma.

Seminole State College's baseball and softball teams are set to compete in their respective NJCAA Division I postseason tournaments this week. For updates, brackets and live stream links, visit sscc.edu.

The SSC softball team, ranked No. 1 in the Region II bracket, will open play in the 2025 NJCAA South-Central District Tournament on Wednesday, May 7, at 4 p.m. against No. 8 seed NOC-Enid. The double-elimination tournament will be held at Piedmont High School

in Piedmont, Oklahoma, and continues through Saturday, May 10.

The Trojans enter the tournament with an overall record of 34-10, including a 22-2 mark in conference play. The team is currently riding a 20-game win streak, thanks to a strong offense (.351 batting average, 296 runs scored, 42 home runs) and steady defense. The tournament winner will advance to the NJCAA DI Softball World Series in Yuma, Arizona, May 19-24.

SSC will host the NJCAA Region II



The SSC baseball team, holding the No. 1 seed in the Region II bracket, will play the winner of Game One (Connors State vs. Rose State) on Thursday, May 8, at 7 p.m. at the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex in Seminole.

Division I Baseball Tournament at the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex in Seminole, Oklahoma, May 8-11. This marks the second consecutive year SSC has hosted the tournament.

The SSC baseball team, who hold the No. 1 seed, will face the winner of Game One (Connors State vs. Rose State) at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 8. SSC enters the postseason with a 33-18 record and has had a strong showing at the plate this season with 46 home runs and 405 runs scored.

The Region II champion will advance to the South Central District Championship, scheduled for May 16-19.

Local support has once again been integral to hosting the tournament. SSC's Business and Industry Director Danny Morgan has coordinated with the City of Seminole, local banks, and the Chamber of Commerce to organize volunteers and logistics.

STUDENTS COMPLETE PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP CLASS PROGRAM



Seven Seminole State College sophomores in the President's Leadership Class (PLC) were recognized for completing their two-year commitment to the scholarship program during a luncheon on May 5 with (pictured, standing) SSC President Lana Reynolds and Director of Community Relations and PLC sponsor Kim Pringle. The PLC program offers students opportunities to develop leadership skills through both academic and extracurricular experiences. Members of the program volunteer within the community and assist with numerous campus events throughout the academic year. Students completing the program (pictured, seated, left to right) are: Ricky McCullough, Del City; Daphne Lamoureux, Seminole; Cooper Hamilton, Tablequah; Amberlynn Mathews, Seminole; Logan Hill, Piedmont; Clayton Moore, Norman; and Cole Girard, Piedmont.

FOUR STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO PSI BETA HONOR SOCIETY



Pictured (left to right): Nicholas Johnson of Tecumseh, Lenny Davidson of Meeker, Cody Hisaw of Shawnee and Mackenzie Harris of Shawnee were inducted into the Seminole State College Psi Beta Honor Society for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Four Seminole State College students were inducted into the Psi Beta National Honor Society in Psychology for the 2024-2025 academic year during a special ceremony held Thursday, May 1.

The new inductees include Mackenzie Harris and Cody Hisaw of Shawnee, Nicholas Johnson of Tecumseh and Lenny Davidson of Meeker. Each student received a certificate of membership, an honor stole to wear at commencement, and SSC memorabilia to mark the occasion.

Throughout the academic year, Psi Beta members actively engaged with the campus and local community. The group participated in SSC's Trick-or-Treat Trail, where they sponsored a table and distributed candy to children and families. Members also attended the Careers in Psychology panel hosted by East Central University to explore various pathways in the field.

SSC Social Sciences faculty member and Psychology Professor Christal Knowles serves as the organization's faculty sponsor.

"The students inducted into Psi Beta this year have demonstrated exceptional commitment and resilience in their academic journey," Knowles said. "Their accomplishments reflect both hard work and passion for learning, and I look forward with great confidence to the continued success they are sure to achieve."

Harris, who served as Psi Beta president during the 2023-2024 academic year, said the experience was one of the most impactful parts of her time at SSC.

"Being Psi Beta president has been such a meaningful part of my time at Seminole State," Harris said. "I've learned a lot, made great friends, and really enjoyed getting to support and celebrate other students. It's been a highlight of my college experience."

STUDENTS GAIN INTERVIEW EXPERIENCE AT CAREER WORKSHOP



Pictured left to right: Danny Morgan, Rural Business and Resources Center Director; Kendi Cox, Manager of Human Resources for Canadian Valley Electric Cooperative; Meagan Hall, Teller for BancFirst; Mark Crowe, Seminole Center Manager for Lincare; Ashley Tilley, District Manager for Lincare; and Mickey Shaw, Manager of Human Resources for Ecoat.us. The group volunteered as interviewers during Seminole State College's mock interview workshop on April 30, offering students hands-on experience and professional feedback to help prepare them for the workforce.

Seminole State College students received real-world job interview experience during a mock interview workshop hosted on campus April 30. The event, themed "Be More Employable," was organized in partnership by SSC's Business and Industry program, the SSC Boren Library's Career Center, and the College's federally-funded Student Support Services, Upward Bound, and Talent Search grant programs.

Local employers were invited to share their expertise, offering students a chance to refine their resumes, improve networking skills and participate in up to five mock interview simulations. Students heard from speakers about the importance of resume writing, then rotated through interview stations for hands-on

practice and personalized feedback from professionals.

"We want to give our heartfelt thanks to the dedicated panel of interviewers who made the event possible," Business and Industry Coordinator Talina Lee said. Local business representatives who served as interviewers included Kendi Cox, Manager of Human Resources for Canadian Valley Electric Cooperative; Ashley Tilley, District Manager for Lincare; Mark Crowe, Seminole Center Manager for Lincare; Mickey Shaw, Manager of Human Resources for Ecoat.us; and Meagan Hall, Teller for BancFirst. Despite difficult travel conditions due to flooding, each volunteered their time to support SSC students in preparing for the workforce.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HONORS TWO SSC EMPLOYEES

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their dedication and service during the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on April 10. Director of Nursing and Health Sciences Division Chair Dr. Misty Gray was honored as Educator of the Month and Research Librarian Ashley Bagwell was named Professional Staff Member of the Month.

The Seminole Chamber of Commerce Education Committee along with the Lions Club and Kontoor Brands/Wrangler recognize SSC employees several times during Forum each year. Individuals are nominated from across the campus and chosen by SSC administrators to receive the honor.

Dr. Gray has worked at SSC for a year and a half. As Director of Nursing, she ensures the College's reports are submitted to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing and Accreditation Commission for Ed-

ucation in Nursing (ACEN) and plays a key role in maintaining program compliance and providing instruction.

She holds an LPN certification from Gordon Cooper Technology Center, an Associate of Science from Seminole State College, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from East Central University, a Master of Science in Nursing Education from Western Governors University and a Doctorate in Nursing from Grand Canyon University. Dr. Gray is a volunteer with the International Finals Youth Rodeo and FFA Booster Club and is a member of the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society and Alpha Chi. She resides in Tecumseh with her husband Donnie and daughter Tanna.

Bagwell has been with SSC for just over a year. As Research Librarian, she oversees the library and career center and provides instructional support to students on using academic resources.



The Seminole Chamber of Commerce recognized Director of Nursing Dr. Misty Gray (left) as Educator of the Month and Research Librarian Ashley Bagwell (right) as Professional Staff Member of the Month at their Forum on April 10.

She earned her bachelor's degree and master's degree from Northeastern State University is currently pursuing a Master of Library and Information Studies from the University of Oklahoma. She is a member of the American Library Association and the Association of College

and Research Libraries. Bagwell resides in Wetumka with her husband James. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, playing the piano, painting and reading.

HIGHER ED CHANCELLOR VISITS SSC



Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Chancellor Sean Burrage toured Seminole State College's campus on April 10. During his visit, he spoke to high school students participating in the FFA Interscholastic Meet, attended a reception with SSC employees, toured the BCM Sports Complex and met with representatives from the College's Board of Regents and the SSC Educational Foundation. (Pictured) Burrage spoke with SSC students during a classroom visit. To cap off his visit, Chancellor Burrage addressed community members at the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum held at SSC's Enoch Kelly Haney Center on April 10. Burrage highlighted statewide initiatives to strengthen Oklahoma's higher education system and the critical role of institutions like SSC in workforce development.

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