

2024



ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS



| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Board of Regents | 2 |
| President’s Message | 3 |
| SSC Educational Foundation | 4 |
| Spring Banquet | 6 |
| Sports Complex | 7 |
| Fiscal Affairs | 8 |
| Academic Affairs | 10 |
| Graduation | 12 |
| Nursing Pinning | 14 |
| President’s Leadership Class | 15 |
| Campus Events | 16 |
| Grant Programs | 18 |
| Higher Ed Day | 20 |
| Government Relations | 21 |
| Athletics | 23 |
| Achievements | 26 |
| Community | 30 |
| Milestones | 31 |
| In Memoriam | 32 |

2023-2024

Administrative Council

Lana Reynolds, President

Dr. Amanda Estey, Vice President for Academic Affairs • Dr. Bill Knowles, Vice President for Student Affairs

Melanie Rinehart, Vice President for Fiscal Affairs • Marc Hunter, Director of Information Technology & Chief Information Security Officer

Annual Report Publication Team

Design, Layout, and Copy: Josh Hutton

Photography: Brooks Nickell

BOARD OF REGENTS



Kim Hyden
Chair

Regent Hyden concluded her seven-year term on the Board of Regents on June 30, 2024.



Bryan Cain



Marci Donaho



Curtis Morgan



Ryan Franklin



Robyn Ready



Ryan Pitts



New Regent Appointed to SSC Board

Governor Kevin Stitt has appointed Teresa Burnett to serve as a Regent for Seminole State College. Her appointment was confirmed by the Oklahoma State Senate Education Committee on May 21. She was sworn in at the SSC Board of Regents meeting in July of 2024.



Board of Regents Approves Wellness Center Bid

The Seminole State College Board of Regents approved a bid to repurpose the former site of the natatorium to a wellness center in August of 2023. As construction neared its conclusion, the Regents toured the facility in February of 2024.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



When Fixico Number One, a discovery well for the Greater Seminole Oil Field, sent up a six-thousand-barrel gusher in 1926, Seminole rapidly transformed from a quiet town of 854 residents into a booming city with a population of nearly 30,000. Seminole became, famously, a sea of mud as cars, trucks and heavy equipment outpaced the ability of our town to provide infrastructure.

As the town began to find its footing at the start of the 1930s, its citizens wanted to create more educational opportunities for its residents. And so, on Sept. 7, 1931, classes began at what was then called Seminole Junior College. It served as an extension of Seminole High School and in its first year had an enrollment of 57 students.

The economic boom subsided. The population of Seminole stabilized to approximately 11,000 by 1935. But Seminole Junior College remained a path to higher education and greater job opportunities.

In 1969, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education recommended that state-supported junior colleges be separated from local high schools. In this time of uncertainty for our college, Seminole stepped up. A 40-acre tract of land was donated by the city. A \$250,000 public school bond to finance SJC's first building on its new campus was put to a vote, and the bond was approved by an eight-to-one margin.

The rich history of our college is inextricably linked to the history of Seminole. When our institution was in desperate need of help, the people of this city bet on us.

And we, in turn, bet on Seminole.

There is an indescribable feeling when you're on the cusp of a monumental

change, and I believe we are entering a period of revitalization and growth in Seminole.

A key catalyst in this transformation has been the construction of the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex by the SSC Educational Foundation. This state-of-the-art facility has not only enhanced our sports offerings but also spurred economic development in the region.

In the past two years, we've hosted countless little league tournaments, state high school championships and NJCAA regional and district tournaments. The facility has led to a substantial increase in sales tax and inspired new investments in the area. The complex has been complemented by the construction of much-needed housing, as well as ongoing projects such as a new hotel, a strip mall and an entertainment center. These developments will create jobs, stimulate local businesses and contribute to a vibrant and prosperous community.

As you will see as you turn the pages of our *2024 Annual Report*, we help our students not only grow academically but also personally. We encourage them to give back to their communities and chase goals they once believed to be out of reach. You will find stories of students and employees finding success locally, regionally and even nationally.

Our students and employees are at the forefront of all our administrative decisions. That is why – despite a flat budget – we awarded modest pay raises to all full-time employees for the upcoming year and did so without raising tuition costs for our students.

As the city changes around us, big changes are around the corner for our college too. We have launched a career center to assist students as they transition into

the workforce. We are looking to add new academic programs to meet the demands of a changing job market and are nearing the completion of a campus wellness center.

It is my sincere honor to serve as President of this institution. It is with pride that I look back at the accomplishments of students, faculty and staff over the past year. It is with eager optimism that I look forward to a renaissance – a new era of growth for our community and college.



SSC President

For 37 years, Lana Reynolds has worked at Seminole State College. She was named President in 2017. Over the course of the 2023-2024 academic year, Reynolds served as Chair of the Council of Presidents for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, received the Distinguished Service Award from Leadership Oklahoma and was named to the Seminole Hall of Fame.

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

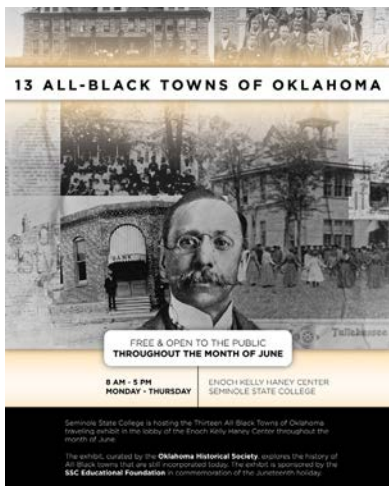
The College's Educational Foundation was established in 1972 to "supply aid for charitable, benevolent, educational, scientific and literary purposes," according to the organization's articles of incorporation. Foundation

scholarships are awarded according to guidelines established by donors.

During the 2023-24 academic year, nearly \$45,000 in scholarships were awarded to SSC students by the Foundation.



The Foundation raised funds to help with food and travel expenses for the soccer team (pictured) in the fall, as they traveled to Wichita, Kansas, for the NJCAA Division I National Tournament.



The SSC Educational Foundation also sponsored cultural events throughout the year, including the "13 All-Black Towns of Oklahoma" traveling exhibit curated by the Oklahoma Historical Society.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Lance Wortham
Chair

- Mark Schell, Vice Chair
- Rhonda McKee, Vice Chair
- Steve Bagwell
- Chairman Rocky Barrett
- Dan Boren
- Dr. Vickie Carter
- Brooke Case
- Haley Coates
- Steve Degraffenreid
- Darren Frederick
- Suzanne Gilbert
- Jim Hardin
- John Hargrave
- Douglas Humphreys
- Dr. Kathy Laster
- Tim Mathews
- Ray McQuiston
- Gordon Melson
- Angi Mohr
- Chris Moore
- Brian Nave
- Billy Norton
- Jeremy Rich
- Lance Ruffel
- Roy Sisco
- Jason Smalley
- Sue Snodgrass
- Bob Swearingen
- Andy Tucker
- Reggie Whitten
- David Wilson



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Golf Tournament

Funds Raised: \$40,033

The Foundation hosted its 27th annual golf tournament on Sept. 29 at the Jimmie Austin Golf Course in Seminole.

Holiday Reception

Funds Raised: \$29,433

The Foundation hosted its annual holiday fundraising event Dec. 11 at the Crossing Hearts Ranch in Tecumseh.

Spring Banquet

Funds Raised: \$48,590

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation hosted its 29th Annual Spring Banquet on Thursday, April 25 in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on campus. More than 400 people were in attendance.

SPRING BANQUET

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation hosted its 29th Annual Spring Banquet on Thursday, April 25 in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on campus. Alumni, current students, campus leaders, employees and retirees were recognized for their achievements.



Alumni Hall of Fame

Former SSC students Anthony Bowie (center left) and Doug Ogle (center right) were inducted into the SSC Alumni Hall of Fame. Vice President of Commercial Lending at First National Bank of NWA Kyle Kerwin (left) and Senior Associate Athletic Director of Development for OSU Athletics Larry Reece (right) presented the awards. Bowie was an outstanding basketball player at SSC and went on to play in the NBA. Ogle is presently the Superintendent of Perkins-Tryon Public Schools.



Distinguished Service

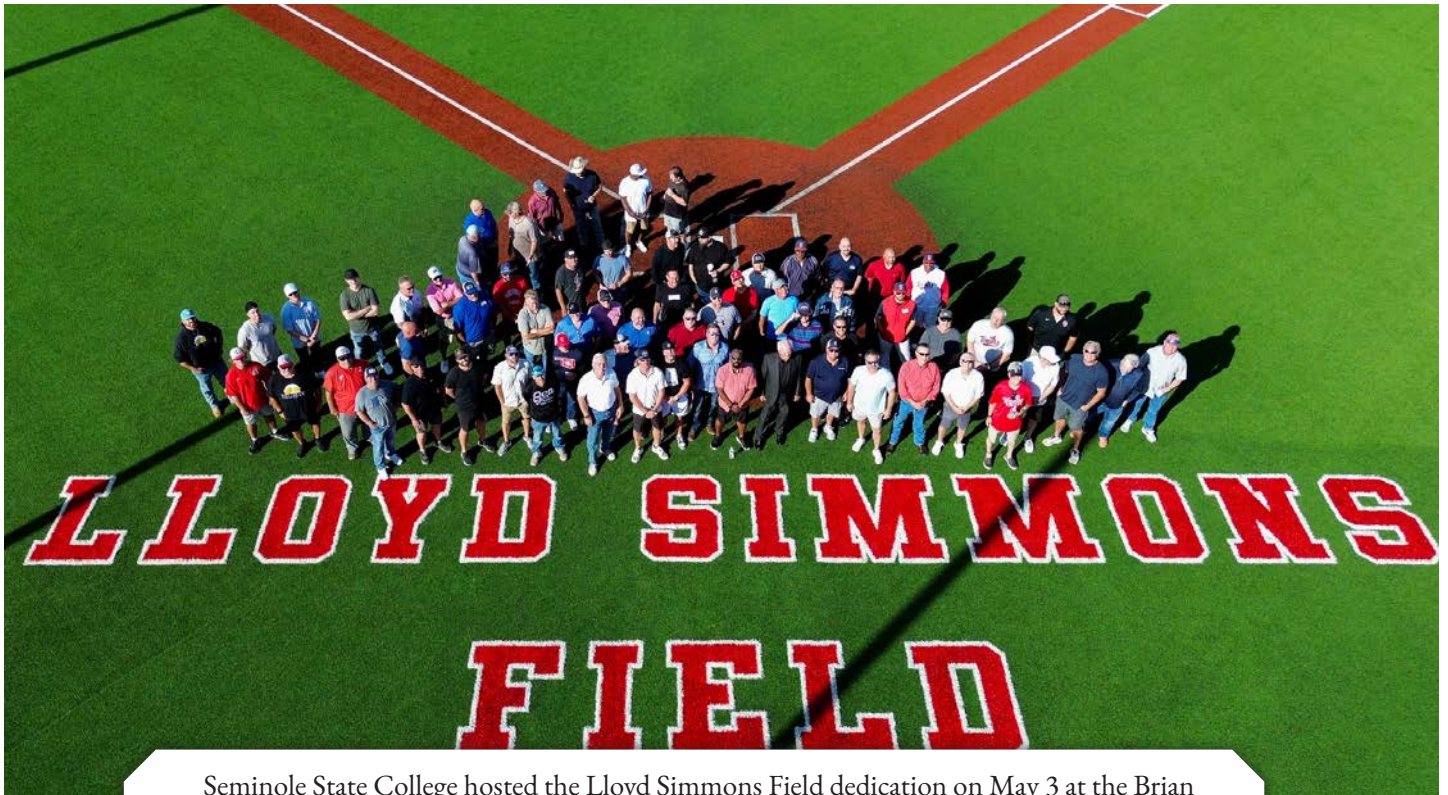
Former SSC Athletic Director Dr. Thurman Edwards (right) received the Distinguished Service Award. Edwards worked at SSC for 28 years. He held various roles, including Golf Coach, Division Chair and Athletic Director.



Outstanding Students

Each of the five academic divisions named one Outstanding Student of the Year. During the banquet, honorees sat down with SSC President Lana Reynolds to discuss their time at the College. Pictured (left to right): Reynolds, Dalton Fowble of Chandler, Tori Annanders of Macomb, Baylie Luschen of Chandler, Olivia Stevenson of Shawnee and Brett Griffith of Rocky.

SPORTS COMPLEX



Seminole State College hosted the Lloyd Simmons Field dedication on May 3 at the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex. Former Trojan baseball Head Coach Lloyd Simmons was presented with a plaque and customized baseball bat to commemorate the special occasion.



SSC Honors Longtime Baseball Coach

Beginning in October of 2023, Trojan baseball alumni spearheaded efforts to commemorate Simmons by raising funds to name SSC's home field in his honor. Simmons, whose coaching tenure spanned from 1976 to 2001 and 2012-2016, won 1,804 games. He led 13 teams to the NJCAA College World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado, and 43 of his former players made it to Major League Baseball.

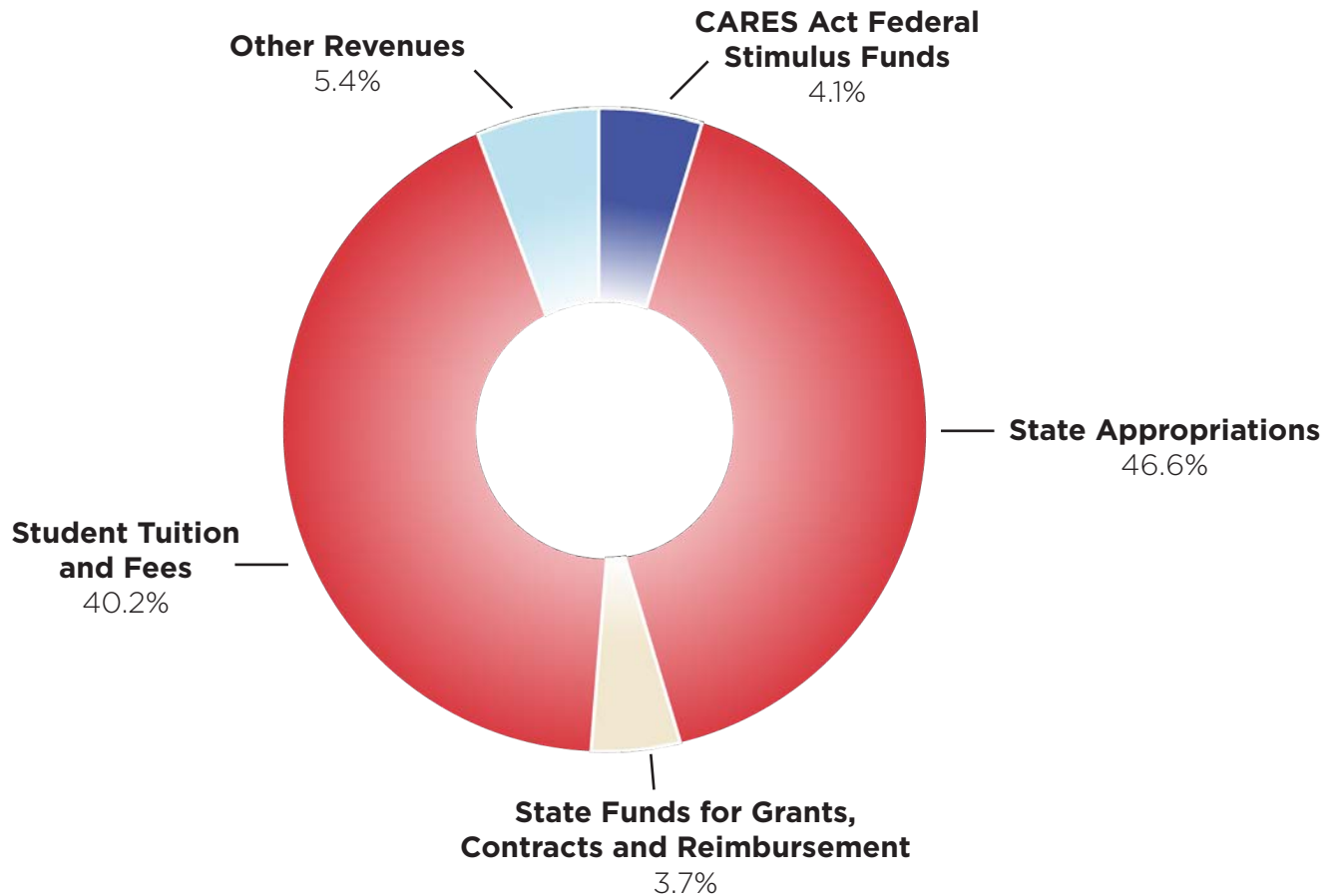
SSC Hosts Regional and District Tournaments

Seminole State College hosted the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region II Division I baseball tournament at the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex May 9-11. In the 50-plus years that the post-season tournament has been held, this was the first time for the event to come to Seminole. A week later SSC hosted the NJCAA South Central District title at the sports complex, where the Trojans faced Crowder College of Neosho, Missouri, in a best two-out-of-three series.



FISCAL AFFAIRS

FISCAL YEAR 2024 GENERAL REVENUE BY SOURCE



FISCAL YEAR 2024 EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTION

| Function | Amount | Percentage |
|------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Instruction | \$5,672,273 | 41.8% |
| Academic Support | \$639,771 | 4.7% |
| Student Services | \$2,049,133 | 15.1% |
| Institutional Support | \$2,023,331 | 14.9% |
| Operation and Maintenance of Plant | \$2,221,864 | 16.4% |
| Scholarships and Other Assistance | \$950,000 | 7% |



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024-2025

Revenue

- 1.57% increase in state appropriations for property insurance subsidy
- No tuition or fee increases for students
- Flat operational budget
- Increased enrollment for Summer 2024 of 11% in credit hours
- Streamlined payment options for student accounts
- Savings on administrative restructuring
- Deferred Maintenance appropriations

Expenses

- Fair Labor Standards Act salary requirement increases
- 1% cost-of-living raise for all full-time employees
- 30% increase in property insurance
- 7% increase in utilities
- New longevity schedule payments
- Division chair stipend increases



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

FLEXIBLE

The college offers a mix of online and in-person classes, allowing students to choose the learning format that best suits their preferences and schedules. We also offer 100 percent online degree programs, ensuring students can achieve their academic goals from anywhere. Furthermore, for students looking for an accelerated option, we offer 8-week courses.

AFFORDABLE

Delivering a high-quality education at an affordable rate is a central goal at SSC. In fact, the college was named the most affordable community college by [Intelligent.com](#) in 2023. On average, our students save \$1,000 per semester compared to higher education institutions across the state (Community College Review, 2023). Plus, 79% of our students are approved for grant aid, removing much of the worry associated with paying for college.



Explore Our Campus

Scan the QR code to embark on a virtual tour of the SSC campus.



SUPPORTIVE

SSC provides comprehensive support to its students through resources like the Help Center and Food Pantry. The Help Center offers counseling services and resources to assist students in navigating the challenges of college life. Additionally, the Food Pantry addresses the issue of food insecurity, ensuring that no student must face hunger while pursuing their education.

TRANSPORTIVE

We aim to offer students a truly transportive experience, propelling them toward a future full of possibilities. Whether pursuing a transferable degree to continue their education at a four-year university or selecting a career-ready program to directly enter the workforce, SSC prepares students for their next step. The expertise of our faculty, the wide range of resources and practical learning opportunities equip students with the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to excel in their chosen fields.



Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives Charles McCall addresses graduates and guests during SSC’s commencement ceremony.

GRADUATION 2024

Seminole State College honored graduates at its 91st Commencement Ceremony on May 3 in the Raymond Harbor Field House. The capacity crowd cheered on students as they received their diplomas. Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives Charles McCall delivered the keynote address. Degrees were then presented to candidates by Dr. Amanda Estey, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and conferred by President Lana Reynolds. The event was also live streamed to a full overflow crowd at the Jeff Johnston auditorium, as well as family and friends watching from home.





Before the ceremony began, Oklahoma State Representative Kevin Wallace (R – District 32), who delivered the invocation; and Speaker of the House Charles McCall, who delivered the keynote address, met with the SSC Regents. Pictured (left to right): Speaker McCall, Regents Curtis Morgan, Robyn Ready, Ryan Pitts, Bryan Cain, Chair Kim Hyden, Marci Donaho and Rep. Wallace.



Graduates, family and friends celebrate outside of the Raymond Harber Field House following the commencement ceremony.



December 2023 Graduates

NURSING PINNING

SSC held pinning ceremonies in both the fall and spring semesters for nursing students meeting degree requirements. On Dec. 7, 15 students graduated from the program, and, on May 5, 14 students graduated. Since the nursing program began in 1972, more than 1,100 nurses have graduated from SSC.



May 2024 Graduates



Oklahoma State University Challenge Course - Stillwater

PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP CLASS

The President's Leadership Class is a two-year scholarship program to help students enhance leadership skills. The program was developed to provide educational classroom and extracurricular activities to enhance the leadership skills of students. Responsibilities of PLC members include volunteering for the community and assisting with campus events.



Boys and Girls Club - Wewoka



The Gathering Place - Tulsa



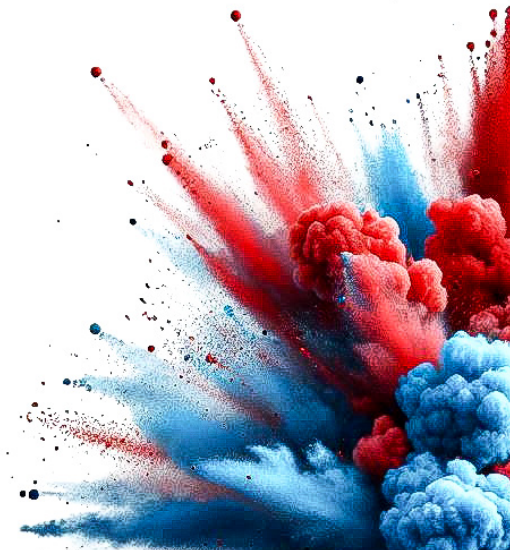
USA Softball Hall of Fame Stadium - OKC



Killers of the Flower Moon Author Speaks at SSC



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. Students, employees, tribal leaders and community members listened as the writer spoke about the journey of crafting the book.



CAMPUS



Welcome Week



Women in STEM

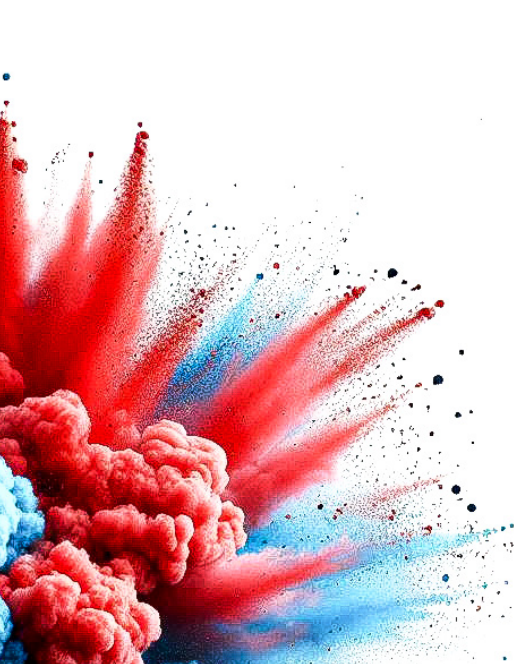
Seminole State College hosts a variety of campus events throughout the year, ranging from academic lectures and workshops to cultural festivals and student organization activities. Regular events include career fairs, wellness programs, and club meetings, providing students with opportunities for personal and professional development.



Students and Staff Plant Flags in Honor of Veterans' Day



SSC students and employees planted 3,000 American flags for an honor field on Oct. 30. The flags were planted in recognition of the upcoming Veteran's Day holiday and the College's Military and Veteran Resource Fair on Nov. 3.



Hundreds Visit Campus for Trick-or-Treat Trail



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.

EVENTS



Additionally, the college organizes community engagement activities, such as volunteer projects and partnerships with local organizations, enhancing the overall student experience. Social events like movie nights and sports competitions also play a significant role in fostering a vibrant campus life.



Aggie Interscholastic Meet



Solar Eclipse Watch Party

Lakota musician Frank Waln Performs at Tribal Fest



SSC hosted Tribal Fest on Nov. 1. The event was organized and sponsored by the College's federal grant programs. SSC students, community members, and hundreds of fifth through twelfth grade students from Butner, Justice, New Lima, Varnum and Seminole were in attendance.

GRANT PROGRAMS



Talent Search Hosts Rollercoaster Camp

SSC Talent Search/FOCUS federal grant program hosted an engineering “Coaster Camp” for eighth-grade students on June 5 and 6. As students worked together and problem solved to build their own roller coasters, Jenny Davidson, Wewoka High School Geometry and Trigonometry teacher, taught hands-on lessons related to force, motion, and energy.



Student Support Services and GEAR UP Visit Tinker AFB

SSC Student Support Services, Student Support Services STEM and GEAR UP toured Tinker Air Force Base. Students had the opportunity to explore career opportunities in the fields of business, engineering, health sciences and computer science.



TRIO Programs Attend “Wicked” Musical

During the month of March, all three Seminole State College TRIO programs – Talent Search, Upward Bound and Student Support Services – took groups of students to the OKC Civic Center to experience the musical “Wicked.”



GEAR UP Students Attend 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 Wewoka, joined 150 of their peers from across the country at the summit. The students and GEAR UP staff were able to experience and tour many cultural and historical sites.



NASNTI Spotlights Native Culture across Several Events

During the 2023-24 academic year, the Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions federal grant program sponsored multiple events spotlighting Native American culture, including the Osage Ballet, a presentation by “Killers of the Flower Moon” author David Grann, a dis-

cussion on Native language and culture by photographer Matika Wilbur a screening of the documentary “Searching for Sequoyah,” a performance by the Cherokee National Youth Choir and a roundtable discussion on Native Language in the Workplace.



Upward Bound Program Inspires Students on Journeys to LA and Houston

In July, the Seminole State College Upward Bound program took students on an educational exploration of Houston and Los Angeles. More than 100 participants in Upward Bound traveled to Houston. The group was comprised of students

representing 20 area high schools, including those who had just completed the 9th, 10th, and 11th grades. Later in the month, high school graduates in the program visited iconic sites across Los Angeles.

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. 8. 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 community supporters joined students for Higher Ed Day activities at the Capitol. Pictured left to right are: Larry Smith, Lana Reynolds, Doug Humphreys, Kim Hyden, Robyn Ready, Dr. Bill Knowles, Melanie Rinehart, Dr. Donna Hardin, Jim Hardin, Dr. Rebecca Kennedy, Harrel Kenedy, Karel Brewster, and Andy Tucker.



Several legislators and dignitaries attended Seminole State College's luncheon at the Capitol, including: (seated left to right) Rep. Dell Kerbs of Shawnee and Rep. Danny Williams of Seminole; (standing) State Regent Jack Sherry of Holdenville, Rep. Kevin Wallace of Wellston and Rep. Danny Sterling of Tecumseh.



Members of the SSC President's Leadership Class and the Trojan baseball team present Oklahoma State Senator Darcy Jech with an SSC goodie basket at the Capitol. Sen. Jech is a member of the SSC Alumni Hall of Fame and played baseball for the Trojans during his time at the college.



President's Leadership Class members Cole Girard of Oklahoma City and Olivia Stevenson of Shawnee listen to presentations on the House Floor.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



Congresswoman Bice Visits SSC

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. After meeting with students, Congresswoman Bice attended a luncheon with local community leaders.

Rep. Hilbert Tours Campus

Speaker Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State House of Representatives Kyle Hilbert (R-Bristow) visited the Seminole State College campus on Oct. 26. During his tour, the legislator stopped in on a nursing class in the Haney Center.



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. The group also heard about financial assistance provided to area businesses through the RBRC and the economic impact of the SSC Foundation's new sports complex.

Speaking with the Speaker: McCall Visits 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 Participates in Southeast Oklahoma Legislative Briefing

Seminole State College hosted area colleges at the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Southeast Oklahoma Legislative Briefing at Pete's Place in Krebs on January 26. SSC attended the event with a delegation of state legislators and community supporters. SSC President Lana Reynolds welcomed attendees to the event and introduced Chancellor Allison Garrett of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

In her remarks, Chancellor Garrett discussed the importance of higher education in improving the economy and business climate of the state.



State Regents Meet at SSC, Tour Campus

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) held a regular meeting at Seminole State College (SSC) on Feb. 1. The meeting was part of the OSRHE's ongoing effort to visit and learn more about the state's public colleges and universities.

SSC Student Government Association President Benjamin Parker, of Shawnee, spoke to the state regents about his experiences at the college. Pictured (left to right) OSRHE Chair Jack Sherry, Parker and Oklahoma State System of Higher Education Chancellor Allison Garrett.



Attorney General Drummond Visits SSC

Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond was the featured speaker at the March Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on March 14. Drummond spoke about the priorities of his office to clamp down on the state's epidemic of illegal marijuana operations and associated criminal activities.



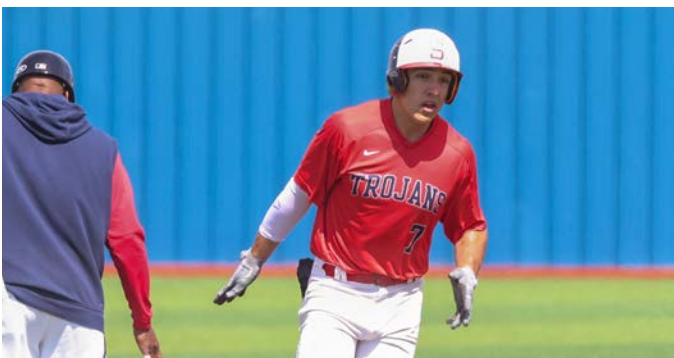
SSC Talent Search Attends TRIO Day at Capitol

Participants and staff with the SSC Talent Search/FOCUS Program attended TRIO Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol on Feb. 28. Attendees from throughout the state filled the House of Representatives Chambers and overflow rooms to raise awareness about the importance of educational opportunities for low-income, first-generation students. Talent Search students and staff met with Minority Floor Leader Andy Fugate during the event.



ATHLETICS

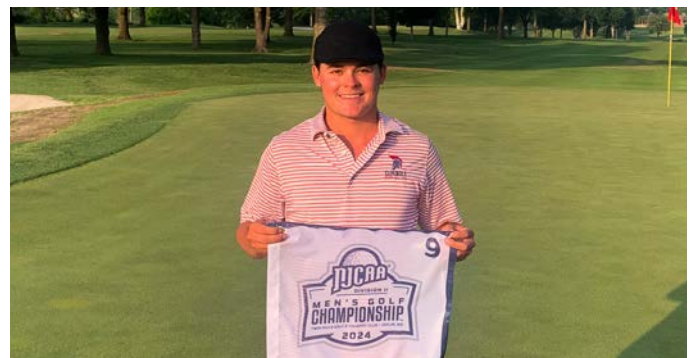
Student-Athletes Receive National Recognition for Their Performance



Caden Powell

Seminole State College infielder Caden Powell, of Clinton, was recently named the 2024 NJCAA Division I National Baseball Player of the Year. The last time the SSC Trojans had a national player of the year was in 2008.

Powell had a standout performance this season, achieving a batting average of .502 with 109 hits and 104 RBIs. In 217 at bats, he recorded 32 homeruns, 17 doubles and 7 triples. Powell led the Trojans in runs scored, hits, RBIs, doubles, triples, homeruns and total bases.



Carson Newton

Carson Newton, a spring 2024 graduate of Seminole State College, clinched a ninth-place finish in the Division II NJCAA Golf National Tournament held in Joplin, Missouri from May 21-24 at the Twin Hills Golf and Country Club. Newton's performance also earned him the honor of being named to the All-American Team, marking a milestone as the first SSC golfer to receive this distinction.

Newton competed against 130 of the best collegiate golfers. He played four rounds for a total of 72 holes with a seven-over par final score.

VOLLEYBALL



A group photo of the volleyball team and their head coach. The team consists of 17 players and one coach, all wearing white jerseys with "SEMINOLE" and their numbers. They are posed in two rows in a gymnasium.

Head Coach Hannah Killian // **Win-Loss Record** 19-16

WOMEN'S SOCCER



A group photo of the women's soccer team and their head coach. The team consists of 25 players and one coach, all wearing dark blue jerseys with "SEMINOLE" and their numbers. They are posed in three rows on a soccer field with a goal in the background.

Head Coach Dan Hill // **Win-Loss Record** 20-1-1

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



A group photo of the women's basketball team and their head coach. The team consists of 12 players and one coach, all wearing blue jerseys with "SEMINOLE STATE" and their numbers. They are posed in two rows on a basketball court.

Head Coach Rita Story-Schell // **WIN-LOSS RECORD** 13-15

MEN'S BASKETBALL



A group photo of the men's basketball team and their head coach. The team consists of 15 players and one coach, all wearing white jerseys with "SEMINOLE STATE" and their numbers. They are posed in two rows on a basketball court.

Head Coach Lucas Hunter // **WIN-LOSS RECORD** 6-23

SOFTBALL



Head Coach Amber Flores // **Win-Loss Record** 41-10

BASEBALL



Head Coach Mack Chambers // **Win-Loss Record** 39-16

WOMEN'S GOLF



Head Coach Ronnie Williamson

MEN'S GOLF



Head Coach Ronnie Williamson

ACHIEVEMENTS

Seminole Chamber of Commerce Recognizes SSC Personnel

Four times during the academic year, the Seminole Chamber of Commerce recognizes two outstanding SSC employees. Honorees are nominated by supervisors and co-workers across campus.

October 2023



PTA Director Shakira Stafford (left) and Financial Assistance Clerk Andrita Chavez (right).

December 2023



Coordinator of Distance Education Laura Votaw (left) and Assistant Professor of STEM Dr. Deanna Miles (right).

March 2024



Professor of Life Sciences Truitt Eubank (left) and Bookstore E-Commerce Specialist Lesley Ward (right).

April 2024



Assistant Professor of Nursing Ann Benson (left) and Head Baseball Coach and Academic Advisor Mack Chambers (right).

Former Trojan Softball Player Named Athletic Director

Leslie Sewell was named the SSC Athletic Director on July 1, 2023. When she began the role, she was the only female athletic director in all of the two-year colleges in Oklahoma. She previously served as Assistant Athletic Director for four years. She graduated from SSC in 2002 and completed her bachelor's degree in Social Work at East Central University in 2004.





Employees Honored 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, (pictured left to right) 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.

Reynolds Inducted into Hall of Fame

SSC President Lana Reynolds (center) was inducted into the Seminole Hall of Fame on April 19 at the Reynolds Wellness Center. President Reynolds has worked at SSC for 36 years. She was inducted alongside former SSC Booster Club President Hope Pickering (left), SSC Foundation Trustee Sue Snodgrass (right) and the Late Stu Phillips.



PTA and Nursing Achieve Perfect Pass Rates



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.

The PTA program is sequenced so that students take their prerequisite coursework first and are then admitted into the technical portion of the program. The technical portion consists of physical therapy coursework and on-site clinical education that can be completed in 11 months.



December 2023 graduates of the Seminole State College nursing program achieved a 100 percent pass rate on their National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

The NCLEX is an exam used to determine if recently graduated nursing students are safe to practice. Nurses are required to pass the NCLEX to earn licensure and legally practice nursing. In 2022, the Oklahoma Board of Nursing reported that the average pass rate of the NCLEX in the state was 78.67 percent, while the national average was 79.93 percent.



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. More than 500 entries were submitted in the competition from two-year and four-year higher education institutions, both public and private, across Oklahoma.



Student Attends Nigh Leadership Academy

Seminole State College sophomore Ryan Carlisle, of Arapaho, attended the Nigh Institute Leadership Academy held in Oklahoma City Feb. 3-6. Over the course of the event, students volunteered, visited cultural landmarks and learned about state politics.



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.



SSC Welcomes New Nursing Program Director

Dr. Misty Gray was named to the position of Nursing Director in December. Gray has 16 years of experience in home health and hospice, orthopedics, surgery, NICU, nursery, post-partum and emergency nursing.



Foundation Honored with Community Award

The SSC Educational Foundation received the David L. Boren Community Achievement Award at the Seminole Chamber of Commerce’s annual banquet in recognition of the economic impact their BCM Sports Complex had on the community of Seminole in 2023.



Professor Publishes Fifth Book

In the spring of 2024, Assistant Professor of English Paul Juhasz published his fifth book, a collection of poetry entitled *The Fires of Heraditus*. His previous collection of poetry, *Ronin: Mostly Prose Poems*, was finalist for the Oklahoma Book Award in 2022.



Admin Welcomes New SGA Officers

Student Government Association officers met with members of the college’s Administrative Council on Oct. 23. Pictured (left to right) seated on the couch are: SGA officers Vice President Trenton Stewart of Holdenville, President Benjamin Parker of Shawnee and Secretary Elizabeth Smith of Agra.



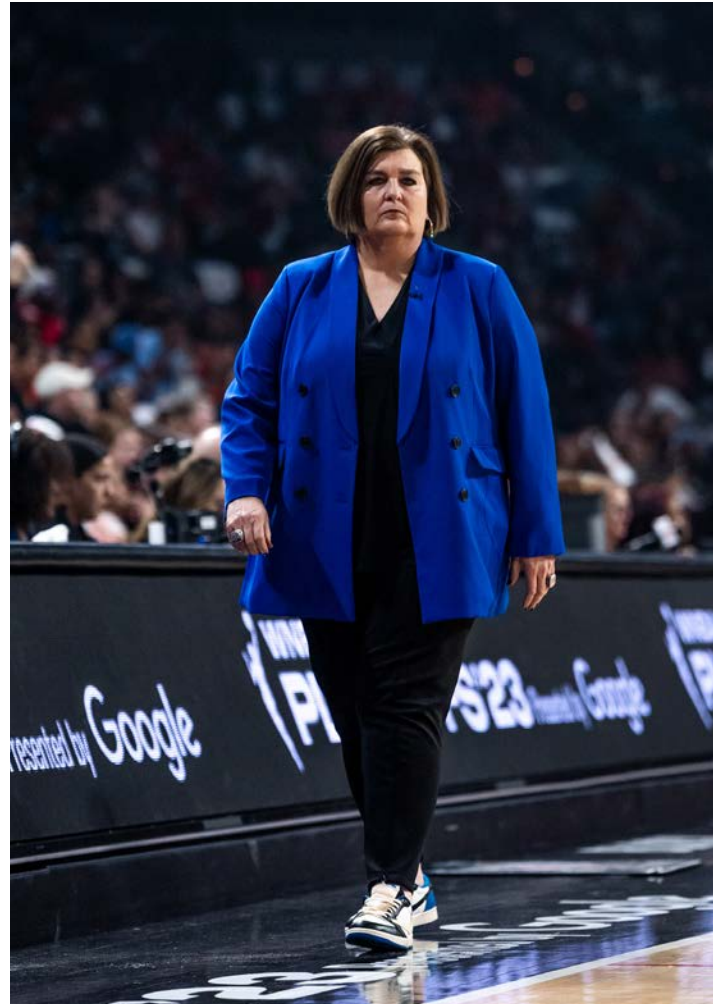
Emeritus Status Awarded to Former Vice President

The SSC Board of Regents awarded emeritus status to former Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Goeller at their meeting on March 28. Dr. Goeller worked at SSC for 12 years. Prior to serving as Vice President for Academic Affairs, she was a Professor of Mathematics, the Assessment Coordinator and chaired the STEM Division.



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. Nickell began working at SSC in January of 2021 as the Web and Multimedia Coordinator.



Former SSC Belles Basketball Player Named WNBA Coach

In June of 2023, Latricia Trammell was named Head Coach of the Wings, a WNBA team out of Dallas. She graduated from then Seminole Junior College in 1988 and would go on to coach high school and collegiate basketball for more than 30 years. Trammell was inducted into the SSC Alumni Hall of Fame in 2018.

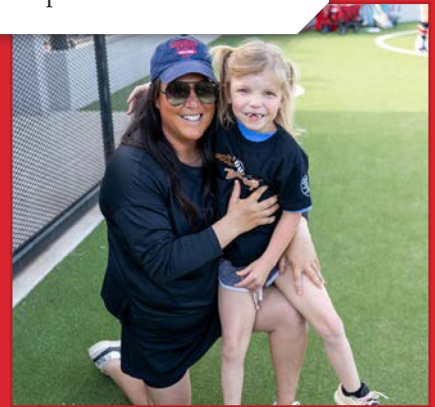
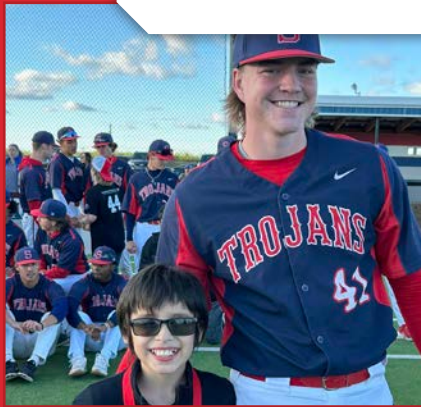


Local Students Honored at OACC Awards Ceremony

Two 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 26 at the Oklahoma State Capitol. SSC students Benjamin Parker, of Shawnee, and Ryan Carlisle, of Foss, were named to the All-Oklahoma Academic Team. Prague High School student Ethan Rich, Bowlegs High School student Dillon Sullivan and Seminole High School student Hannah Upchurch were recipients of the OACC President's Tuition Waiver.

COMMUNITY

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 2. The softball team volunteered the following week on April 8. The League is a co-ed softball league established to provide an avenue for individuals with cognitive or physical disabilities to enjoy the sport. This year 46 players participated.



Avedis Foundation Awards Grant to Enhance Adaptive Field

The Avedis Foundation awarded a \$70,000 grant to the SSC Educational Foundation to add a shade structure and update handicap-accessible seating to the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex's adaptive field. The shade structure provides protection from the sun and heat for volunteers and spectators. It also enhances the aesthetics and functionality of the complex.



SSC Hosts Military and Veteran Resource Fair

Seminole State College hosted its inaugural Military and Veteran Resource Fair on Nov. 3. at the Utterback Ballroom, located inside the Enoch Kelly Haney Center. The event featured more than 30 local and regional organizations on-site to assist active members of the armed forces, veterans and their dependents with information about services and available benefits. A veteran-owned-and-operated food truck was on site to provide food for guests.



SSC and Tourism Council Partnership Honored

Seminole State College and the Seminole Tourism Council were among colleges, organizations and businesses honored during a Business Partnership Excellence Awards Luncheon held March 7 at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. For the past 25 years, the Seminole Tourism Council has supported projects aimed at attracting visitors to Seminole and boosting the local economy. This includes funding more than 100 events, programs, building projects and marketing activities.



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. From Oct. 16-30, the class organized and collected donations. The Leadership class is taught by Professor of History and former Phi Theta Kappa advisor Marta Osby

MILESTONES

Years of Service



Damaris Haney

Talent Search Advisor
25 Years



Mark Spencer

Custodian
20 Years

Retirements and Farewells

Malinda Browning

MLT Professor 35 Years

Browning worked at SSC for 35 years. In that time, she has served as the Phlebotomy Program Director, the Medical Laboratory Clinical Coordinator, MLT Program Director and retired as a faculty member for the MLT Program.



Carol Landes

Fiscal Affairs Admin. Assistant 9 Years

Landes was employed at SSC for nine years as an Administrative Assistant for Fiscal Affairs. Her last day at SSC was March 29, 2024. Before working at SSC, she spent 17 years working for Wal-Mart as a store manager.



Dr. Amanda Estey

VP for Academic Affairs 2 Years

Dr. Estey accepted a position as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Southeastern Community College in Iowa. In her two years at SSC, Dr. Estey contributed to accreditation efforts and assisted with updating policies and procedures. A farewell reception was held for her on June 6.



IN MEMORIAM

Honoring the Lives of Two of the College's Most Instrumental Supporters



Dr. Jack Medlock (March 30, 1940 - October 5, 2023)

Dr. Jack Medlock graduated from then Seminole Junior College in 1960 when classes were held at the old Seminole High School. He went on to become an instructor in the College's Math, Science and Engineering Division in 1970 and would later serve as that division's chair for 12 years. In 1990, he was appointed as Vice President for Academic Affairs, a position he would hold until his retirement in 2004.

In 2012, Dr. Medlock received SSC's Distinguished Service Award at the College's annual Spring Banquet. Outside of his work on our campus, he was also a pastor at the Glad Tidings Assembly of God Church from 1994 to 2001, and a pastor of the Praise Center Assembly of God from 2004 to 2010.

Dr. Medlock was instrumental in shaping SSC into what it is today, he always gave back to his community, and his loss will be deeply felt.



Ben Walkingstick (October 29, 1930 - December 27, 2023)

Ben Walkingstick was a former Seminole State College Regent and Foundation Trustee. Ben and his wife Bonnie were great friends to SSC. Through their leadership and generous gifts, scores of students have received a college education as recipients of the Walkingstick Scholarship.

Additionally, the Walkingsticks have been constant financial supporters of the SSC Educational Foundation and its projects over the past 25 years. In particular, they provided the lead gift for the construction of the Walkingstick Student Services Center on campus. Their contributions were recognized as recipients of the SSC Founders Award.

Ben has also been recognized for his leadership in the banking and insurance industry, as well as in tribal affairs of the Cherokee Nation. He was a highly-respected community and civic leader in Lincoln County.

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