



# Year in Review





# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**January 19, 2023**

Dear Friends of SSC,

It is easy to get lost in the rush of an academic year. Time gets caught in a whirlwind of events, sports activities, and awards ceremonies. And yet, I couldn't help but notice the sensation of time standing still at various moments in the last year.

This sensation is a temporal illusion called chronostasis. It has likely happened to you - maybe when looking at an analog clock and the second-hand appears to pause for a beat.

For me, time seemed to stand still this year when I watched graduates celebrate with their friends and pose for photos with their families, following our Commencement Ceremony. Commencement was pushed back a

few weeks after the destruction of the May 4th tornado in Seminole. I found the joy of accomplishment, the hope of a better future in the faces of our students moving after weeks of our community trying to recover from the fallout of the storm.

I also valued the moment I informed our team that the Board of Regents had approved a five percent, across-the-board raise for all of our full-time employees.

Time stood still again as we cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the BCM Sports Complex. The sports complex has been a multi-year project, helmed by the SSC Educational Foundation. We know this complex will be a huge boost to our local economy as competitive teams and their supporters visit Seminole for games and tournaments.

I want to express my gratitude

to the ongoing commitment and dedication to SSC by our Regents, our Trustees, alumni, parents and friends.

While the slowing of time may be an illusion, this Year in Review serves as our attempt to bottle time - to reflect on and celebrate the accomplishments of our students, faculty and staff in 2022. I'm so proud of what we've achieved in the last year and can't wait to see what 2023 has in store for SSC.



**Lana Reynolds**  
SSC President

# STORIES OF THE YEAR STORIES OF THE YEAR STORIES OF THE YEAR

## SSC ASSISTS WITH RECOVERY FOLLOWING TORNADO, RESCHEDULES COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



On the evening of May 4, Seminole was hit by an EF-2 tornado that spanned a mile wide with winds consistently reaching 125 miles per hour. Homes and downtown businesses were heavily damaged and more than 12,000 people in the region were left without power. The tornado occurred two days before the College's scheduled Commencement Ceremony. Campus leadership decided to postpone the ceremony and lend a hand with the relief effort. In the immediate aftermath of the storm, the Enoch Kelly Haney Center was utilized as a shelter for displaced families. Working alongside the American Red Cross, supplies were given out to those in need. Campus parking was used as a staging area for crews aiding the power restoration efforts. Later the campus would provide space for both FEMA and the Small Business Administration to set up offices to directly assist those in need. A rescheduled Commencement Ceremony was held on June 11.

## BOARD APPROVES PAY INCREASES FOR ALL FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

At their meeting on June 15, the SSC Board of Regents approved a five-percent salary increase for all full-time employees. This increase in employee pay marked the largest across the board salary increase in more than two decades. It was also the largest percentage pay increase given at any public college or university in the state during 2022.

"We feel very fortunate that our finances are stable enough that we were able to propose this action," President Reynolds said. "The hard work, passion, and commitment of our employees drives the success of our students. We greatly appreciate the Board's support of our employees with these salary increases. The raises will help us retain and attract employees by becoming more competitive in a tough job market."



## HUNDREDS ATTEND GRAND OPENING OF SPORTS COMPLEX



On Thursday, Oct. 20, hundreds of people gathered to celebrate the grand opening of the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex. The construction of the seven-field complex has been a major undertaking by the Seminole State College Educational Foundation. To kickoff the event, major donors, Foundation trustees, community partners, SSC employees and student athletes gathered at the entrance for a ribbon cutting. The complex includes baseball fields, a soccer field and an adaptive field for individuals with cognitive or physical disabilities. The adaptive field was made possible through a donation from the Avedis Foundation. The complex is located just west of campus on Highway 9, adjacent to Seminole High School.

# JANUARY

## Board of Regents Renews President's Contract

The Seminole State College Board of Regents met Jan. 20 to consider a resolution to support current gun restrictions on college campuses and to review the terms of President Lana Reynolds' employment. When the Board returned to public session, President Reynolds' contract was renewed. Chairman McQuiston noted that President Reynolds declined a salary increase, given that the College was unable to provide a raise to faculty and staff last summer when employee contracts were renewed.



## Spring Semester Begins

The spring semester began Jan. 10 at Seminole State College. Students filled the halls as they met their instructors and attended their first courses sessions.

# FEBRUARY

## Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their hard work and dedication during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum. Assistant Professor of English Paul Juhasz was honored as Faculty Member of the Month, and Testing Center Coordinator Lauren Earley was honored as Staff Member of the Month.

## SSC Releases 90-Year Retrospective

The College released Seminole State College: A 90-Year Retrospective at the beginning of February. The publication follows the institution's journey from an extension of Seminole High School to its modern achievements.

## SSC Delegation Attends Higher Ed Day

A large delegation of campus and community leaders representing Seminole State College attended "Higher Education Day" at the Capitol in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, Feb. 15. 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 freshman Hailey Wallace, of Wellston, was selected to speak at the event.



## Social Sciences Division Hosts Presidents' Day Presentation

Professor of Government Jeffrey Christiansen gave a presentation in honor of Presidents' Day on Feb. 18 in the Utterback Ballroom. The title of the presentation was "Theodore Roosevelt: The First Modern President." Professor Christiansen discussed Roosevelt's childhood and personal life, as well as his military and political careers.



## Foundation Trustees Tour Sports Complex

Several Trustees of the Seminole State College Educational Foundation toured the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex following their quarterly Board meeting on Feb. 16. The Trustees toured indoor facilities and the Trojan baseball field.

# MARCH

## **SSC Honor Society Inducts New Members**

Thirty-one Seminole State College students were inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges on March 8.

## **SSC Participates in Southeast Oklahoma Legislative Tour**

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 March 4. SSC attended the event with a delegation of state representatives.



## **SSC and Kontoor Brands, Inc./Wrangler Brands Partnership Honored**

Seminole State College and Kontoor Brands, Inc./Wrangler were among colleges, schools and businesses honored during a Business Partnership Excellence Awards Luncheon held March 9 at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

## **SSC Host Event for Working Adults Looking to Finish Their Degrees**

Seminole State College hosted a Reach Higher: Reconnect event to help working adults learn more about completing their degrees on March 26, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Boren Library on campus. The theme of the event was "Your Road to 60." Working adults with some college credit will have access to several resources to help them reach the 60 credit hours needed for an associate degree.

## **SSC Program Director Receives Outstanding Instructor Award**

Seminole State College Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) Program Director and Assistant Professor Kelly Hankal was honored with the Outstanding Instructor award at the 2022 Making It Work Day Awards held by the Oklahoma Career and Technical Education Equity Council. Hankal received the award for her impact with non-traditional students.

## **High School Students from Across the State Compete in SSC Interscholastic Meet**

More than 640 students from 35 high schools across the state competed in Seminole State College's 48th annual Interscholastic Meet on March 24. The last time the competition was held was in March of 2019. Due to the pandemic, the event was cancelled in 2020 and 2021.



## **Board of Regents Honor Past and Current Employees and Adopt Diversity Statement**

The Seminole State College Board of Regents granted tenure to a Professor Yasmina Choate, approved emeritus status for four former employees and adopted a diversity statement at their meeting on March 24. Choate has worked at SSC for nearly 10 years. In addition to teaching English courses on campus, she was the 2020-2021 President of the SSC Faculty Senate.

## **Emeritus Status Granted to Four Former SSC Employees**

Four former Seminole State College employees were granted emeritus status by the College's Board of Regents at their meeting on March 24. Brenda Cates, Carol Hartman, Susan Walker and Frank Washington were recognized during the Board meeting and, following the meeting, a reception was held in their honor in the Utterback Ballroom.

## **President's Leadership Class Tours Greenwood District**

Members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class toured Tulsa's Greenwood District on March 24. During the tour, the group learned about the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, the deadliest act of racial violence in U.S. history. PLC students visited the Greenwood Rising Black Wall St. History Center.



## **Students Honored at Statewide Awards Ceremony**

Two SSC students and one area high school senior were recognized at the All-Oklahoma Academic Team and Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Presidents' Tuition Waiver Awards Ceremony on March 29 at the State Capitol. SSC students Elizabeth Thomlison, of Shawnee, and Jessica Waddell, of Earlsboro, were named to the Academic Team. Tecumseh High School student Jordan Jones, of Tecumseh, was the recipient of the OACC President's Tuition Waiver.

# **APRIL**

## **Exotic Animals Prowl SSC for Campus Event**

Seminole State College's Student Activities welcomed exotic animals to campus on April 6. Extreme Animals, of Oklahoma City, brought in various animals, including a wallaby, a bearded dragon, a python and many others. Students were able to interact with the animals, under the supervision of Extreme Animals staff.

## **Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel**

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their hard work and dedication during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on April 14. Assistant Professor of Chemistry Dr. Nilmini Senaratne was honored as Faculty Member of the Month, and Director of Residential Life and Student Activities Melinda Sims was honored as Staff Member of the Month.

## **Senator Lankford Visits with Constituents at SSC**

U. S. Senator James Lankford was in Seminole April 19 to tour local business, meet with community leaders and visit with constituents at a "Meet and Greet" at Seminole State College.

### Chancellor for Higher Education Visits SSC

Members of the Seminole State College President’s Leadership Class attended the Seminole Chamber April Forum, which featured guest speaker Oklahoma State Chancellor for Higher Education Allison Garrett on April 14. The Chancellor also visited classes, met with community supporters of the college, students and administrators.



### SSC Holds Disability Awareness in Education Conference

Seminole State College’s Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions grant program hosted the Disability Awareness in Education Conference on April 15. Brenda Hoefar the Interim Director of the Oklahoma Office of Disability Concerns, took to the Jeff Johnston Fine Arts Center stage to deliver the keynote address on the Americans with Disabilities Act and supporting individuals with disabilities in higher education.

### Senator Lankford Visits with Constituents at SSC

U. S. Senator James Lankford was in Seminole April 19 to tour local business, meet with community leaders and visit with constituents at a “Meet and Greet” at Seminole State College.



### SSC Aggie Club Hosts Annual FFA Interscholastic Contest

The SSC Aggie Club hosted its fourth annual SSC FFA Interscholastic Contest on Thursday, April 14. Nearly 700 students from across the state of Oklahoma participated in the event.

### Students Attend Oklahoma Promise Day at State Capitol

Seven Seminole State College students attended Oklahoma Promise Day at the State Capitol on April 20. Students had the opportunity to meet with legislators and state regents to discuss the scholarship program.

### SSC President’s Leadership Class Visits Lake Thunderbird

Seminole State College President’s Leadership Class students ventured out on a 1.5-mile hike at Lake Thunderbird on April 21 as an Earth Day observance. Forester Riley Coy of the Oklahoma Forestry Services provided insight about trees and other flora in the area, as well as the state.



## SSC Holds Employee Appreciation Luncheon

Members of the Seminole State College Educational Foundation Board of Trustees cooked hot dogs, brats and hot links for SSC faculty and staff Friday at an Employee Appreciation Earth Day Cookout on April 22.

## SSC Students Inducted into Sigma Kappa Delta Honor Society

Seven Seminole State College students were inducted into the Sigma Kappa Delta honor society on April 26 at the Virtual Learning Lounge, located in the Boren Library on campus. Sigma Kappa Delta is a national honor society recognizes outstanding English students.

## SSC Students Visit Sports Photography Exhibit

Several Seminole State College students recently attended the Walter Iooss photography exhibit at the Oklahoma City Museum of Modern Art. Iooss is often considered the world's most influential sports photographer and dubbed "the Rembrandt of sports photography" due to his use of light and shadow, color and composition.

### Foundation's Annual Spring Banquet Draws Large Crowd

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation hosted its 27th Annual Spring Banquet on Thursday, April 28 in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on campus. Nearly 350 people were in attendance. Accomplishments by alumni, employees and students were recognized at the event. Former students Reggie Bibb, Angi Mohr and Matt Rose were inducted into the SSC Alumni Hall of Fame.



# MAY

## SSC Postpones Commencement Service, Helps with Recovery Effort following Tornado

Seminole State College postponed its annual Commencement Ceremony set to be held on May 6 because of the tornado in Seminole on May 4. Emergency response coordinators advised the College to not host the event due to the potential for intermittent loss of power and general safety issues. The campus was utilized as a shelter for the American Red Cross and a staging area for OG&E and others involved in the power restoration process.

## State Regents' Council for Online Learning Excellence Honors SSC Administrator

The State Regents' Council for Online Learning Excellence (COLE) recognized a Seminole State College administrator for her outstanding work in online education during the State Regents meeting on April 28. SSC Interim Executive Director of Business Service Melanie Rinehart was honored with the Oklahoma Online Excellence Award for Individual Leadership.

## Wallace Attends Nigh Leadership Academy

Seminole State College freshman Hailey Wallace, of Wellston, was selected for the Nigh Institute Leadership Academy held in Oklahoma City. Wallace joined college students from across the state for the three-day academy. Over the course of the event, Wallace and her peers toured the Oklahoma City Memorial, visited the Bob Funk Ranch and experienced the First Americans Museum.



### SSC Board of Regents Appoints New Vice President

The Seminole State College Board of Regents appointed Dr. Amanda Estey as Vice President for Academic Affairs at a special meeting on Thursday, May 5. Before accepting the role at SSC, Dr. Estey has served as the Dean of Academic Affairs at Ellsworth Community College (ECC) in Iowa Falls, Iowa since 2018.

### SSC Professor Attends National Mathematics Forum

Seminole State College Assistant Professor of Math and STEM Division Chair Emily Carpenter attended the Conference Board of Mathematical Sciences (CBMS) Forum in Reston, Virginia. The theme of the forum was High School to College Mathematics Pathways. She, alongside other educators, administrators and advocates, worked together to develop an action plan for the state and form the Oklahoma Math Alignment Group.

### SSC Softball Coaches Named Coaching Staff of the Year

Seminole State College’s softball coaches Amber Flores, Head Coach, and T.J. Webb, Assistant Coach, were named Coaching Staff of the Year by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. The SSC coaches were selected as the best in the Midwest region of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I.

### SSC Softball Punches Ticket to National Tournament

The Seminole State College Trojan Softball team won the NJCAA Region II Championship in Piedmont on May 15. The Trojans went undefeated during the four-day tournament and won the championship game 8-0 against Connors State College. They advanced to the JUCO national tournament May 24-28 in Yuma, Arizona.



### Ready Appointed to SSC Board of Regents

Robyn Ready, of Chandler, was appointed by Governor Kevin Stitt to serve as a Regent for Seminole State College. The appointment was confirmed by the Oklahoma State Senate Education Committee on May 10 and was sent to the Oklahoma State Senate for final approval. The nomination was carried by Senator Zack Taylor (R-District 28). Ready’s seven-year term will began on July 1, 2022. She will replace current SSC Regent Ray McQuiston, whose term ends in June.



## **Streater Makes Large Donation to Leadership Program at SSC**

Seminole businessman and real estate developer Brandon Streater donated a gift of \$10,000 to support the President's Leadership Class program. Streater was a former member of the PLC group and credits it as instrumental in his success.



## **Graduates of SSC's Nursing Program Recognized at Pinning Ceremony**

Seminole State College held a pinning ceremony at the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on May 23 for nursing students expected to meet degree requirements in the spring semester. This semester marked the 50th year the College has offered its nursing program. Since 1972, 1018 nurses have launched their careers at SSC.

## **SSC Hosts All-Black Towns of Oklahoma Historical Exhibit**

Seminole State College hosted an All-Black Towns of Oklahoma historical exhibit from May 26 to June 9 on the first floor of Enoch Kelly Haney Center. The exhibit follows the story of black communities that were established following the 1889 Oklahoma Land Run. As many as 50 communities arose where only African Americans lived and governed themselves.

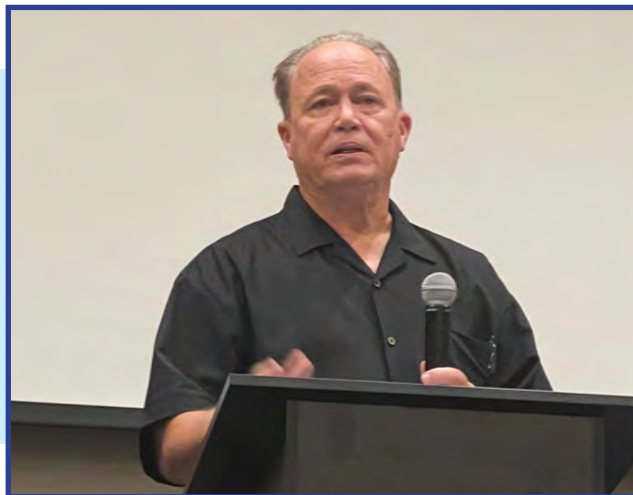
# **JUNE**

## **SSC Upward Bound Programs Receive Grant Renewal**

Seminole State College recently received notification from the U.S. Department of Education of the renewal of two federal Upward Bound grants. Together, Upward Bound I and Upward Bound II will receive over \$3.4 million in grant money over the next five years, beginning in September.

## **Basketball Coach Inducted into Hall of Fame**

Seminole State College Head Men's Basketball Coach Don Tuley was inducted into the Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame on June 4 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Edmond. Tuley has been coaching for 43 years, nine of the years at SSC. His overall record is 708 wins and 308 losses.





## SSC Board of Regents Approves Employee Pay Raises

The Seminole State College Board of Regents approved a five percent salary increase for all full-time employees, alongside the budget for the upcoming fiscal year at their meeting on June 15. This marks the largest across the board salary increase in more than two decades at the College and the largest increase given at any Oklahoma community college this year.

## SSC Student-Athletes Receive Academic All-American Honors

Fifty-two student-athletes and six athletic teams at Seminole State College were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements by the National Junior College Athletic Association. The NJCAA also recognized six SSC athletic teams for ending their seasons with a 3.0 GPA or above. Softball held a 3.55 GPA, women's golf held an overall team GPA of 3.54, the volleyball team held a 3.47 GPA, soccer achieved a 3.24 GPA, baseball held a 3.12 GPA, and men's golf reached a 3.08 GPA.

## SSC Hosts Retirement Reception for Dr. Linda Goeller

Seminole State College hosted a retirement reception for Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Goeller on June 15. 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.



## Rescheduled Commencement Takes Place at SSC

Seminole State College hosted its 2022 Commencement Exercises Saturday, June 11, at the Enoch Kelly Haney Center. The ceremony was rescheduled from early May. Plans for the May 6 graduation ceremony were cancelled due to issues related to the tornadoes that hit Seminole and the subsequent power outages throughout the community.

# HONORING THE LIVES OF THREE OF THE COLLEGE'S MOST INSTRUMENTAL SUPPORTERS



## **Jasmine Moran** (*May 7, 1934 - March 5, 2022*)

Jasmine Moran and her husband, Melvin, demonstrated support for the College over the years in numerous ways – from offering political support of the institution to providing scholarships for nursing students and financial support for virtually every endeavor undertaken to improve the educational opportunities offered to our students. Their influence was a catalyst for the growth and development of the College.

She also played a vital role in the organization and founding of the Seminole Humane Society.



## **Enoch Kelly Haney** (*Nov. 12, 1940 - April 23, 2022*)

Throughout his time in the Legislature – serving as a State Representative, Senator and Chair of the powerful Appropriations Committee – as well as in tribal government, Enoch Kelly Haney was a strong friend and supporter of Seminole State College.

The Haney Center carries his name as a tribute to his efforts to bring funding to SSC. His incredible talent as an world-renowned artist enhances our campus with paintings and sculptures that provide a strong tie to our Native American heritage.

His leadership had an immeasurable impact on our college, employees and students.



## **Kenneth Henderson** (*July 7, 1946 - Nov. 6, 2022*)

Former SSC Regent Kenneth Henderson and his wife, Rose, were largely responsible for the creation, landscaping and statuary around campus ponds in Henderson Park. They assisted with numerous other efforts, including the donation of a bus – to help the institution, our students, faculty and staff.

Mr. Henderson was also a great benefactor to the community. He was a former president of the Seminole Chamber of Commerce and was recognized as Citizen of the Year. His impact on our community, campus and students will be felt for generations.

# JULY

## **SSC Employee Completes Leadership Academy**

Seminole State College Director of Advisement and Recruitment Britney Honsinger was honored at a Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education reception on July 7 for completing the Council on Student Affairs' Leadership Academy.

## **SSC Public Relations Team Wins Awards in Statewide Competition**

Two members of Seminole State College's Public Relations team won awards at the annual Oklahoma College Public Relations Association conference on July 11, held at the Artesian Hotel in Sulphur. The team members, Web and Multimedia Coordinator Brooks Nickell and Communications Coordinator Josh Hutton, won awards in three categories, cover design, video feature and campaign.

## **New Regent Takes Oath of Office**

The Seminole State College Board of Regents welcomed Robyn Ready as a new member and named SSC employee Melanie Rinehart to the position of Vice President for Fiscal Affairs at their meeting on July 21.



## **National Disaster Relief Official Visits Seminole**

The Associate Administrator for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) National Office of Disaster Assistance was in Seminole at the end of July to meet with various disaster relief agency representatives and community leaders. Francisco Sanchez, Jr. and those attending discussed ways to better coordinate and complement services offered to Seminole following the May 4 tornado, as well as how to improve all response efforts following disasters.

## **Five SSC GEAR UP Students Attend Summit in Washington, D.C.**

Five Seminole State College GEAR UP students – Giulietta Cook of Konawa, Quennett Grieve from Holdenville, Sydney Robinson from Holdenville, Richard Tubbesing from Asher and Jonathan Wiseman from Holdenville – were selected alongside 145 other students from across the United States to attend and participate in the 2022 Youth Leadership Summit (YLS) during the annual National GEAR UP conference July 17-20, 2022, in Washington, D.C.

## **SSC Hosts Two STEM Summer Camps**

Seminole State College hosted two Summer Academies for Mathematics, Science and Multidisciplinary Studies funded by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education from July 17 to July 22. In the Engineering and Construction Management camp, 16 students built a "tiny house." The Peek into Engineering camp had 30 students building Underwater Remote Operated Vehicles (ROV).

## SSC Hosts Retirement Celebration for Employee

Seminole State College IT Technician Robbie Lindsey was honored at a retirement reception on July 27 in the E.T. Dunlap Student Union on campus. Lindsey worked at SSC for six years. He received both his bachelor's degree in Engineering and his master's degree in Computer Science at the University of Oklahoma. He and his wife, Jerrie, reside in Holdenville.



## Upward Bound Program Travels to Colorado and Illinois

The Seminole State College Upward Bound program recently took students on trips to Colorado and Illinois. Freshman, sophomore and junior participants in the Upward Bound program traveled to Colorado July 4-8. A group of 12 Upward Bound students visited Chicago, Illinois, July 11-14.

# AUGUST

## SSC Jumpstarts New Year with Employee In-Service

Seminole State College hosted its in-service event for all employees on Aug. 10 in preparation of the fall semester, beginning Aug. 15. This year's theme was "SSC Cares About Me," and presentations centered on mental and physical wellness.



## SSC Welcomes Students Back with Campus Activities

The fall semester began Monday, Aug. 15 at Seminole State College. Campus Activities and Events hosted a number of events and giveaways as part of the College's Welcome Week tradition, including a game show, movie night, free air brush t-shirts, free snow cones and a dodgeball night.

## Upward Bound Math/Science Programs Receive Grant Renewal

Seminole State College recently received notification from the U.S. Department of Education of the renewal of two federal Upward Bound Math/Science grants. Together, Upward Bound Math/Science I and Upward Bound Math/Science II will receive over \$2.9 million in grant money over the next five years, beginning in September.



### Flores Named Head Coach of Oklahoma City’s New Professional Softball Team

Seminole State College softball Head Coach Amber Flores was named the Head Coach of the Oklahoma City Spark for the June 2023 season. Flores will continue to lead the SSC Trojan softball team, as the two teams’ seasons do not overlap.

### SSC Announces New President’s Leadership Class

Seminole State College selected 29 freshmen students for Class XVI of the President’s Leadership Class. PLC is a two-year scholarship program created to help students develop leadership skills and provide personal and professional growth opportunities.

### Former Belles Basketball Coach to Be Featured in Docuseries

Former Seminole State College Belles Head Basketball Coach Dixie Woodall was recently interviewed by TV sports analyst Brenda VanLengen for her upcoming docuseries “If Not for Them.” The series focuses on the women who grew the sport of women’s basketball before Title IX, which ensured the right for young women to participate in collegiate athletics.



# SEPTEMBER

### SSC Student Government Association Names New Officers

The Seminole State College Student Government Association selected its officers for the 2022-2023 academic year. The three officers named were: President Georgia Ledford, of Tecumseh; Vice President Danielle Sullivan, of Holdenville; and Secretary Katherine Nicole Cheatwood, of Seminole.

### SSC Named Certified Healthy Campus

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







### College Hosts Constitution Day Event

Seminole State College hosted its annual Constitution Day event on Sept. 20 at the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on campus. This year's event featured Constitutional Jeopardy, a trivia game testing students' knowledge. The trivia game was hosted by event organizer and Social Sciences Vice Chair Jeffrey Christiansen. Attendees also had the opportunity to register to vote at a station set up by the SSC Student Government Association.

### SSC Softball Coach Honored by NJCAA

Seminole State College Head Softball Coach Amber Flores was honored Sept. 12 at the NJCAA Region II Athletic Dinner at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Tulsa. Flores was recognized as the 2020-2021 NJCAA Region II Coach of the Year.

### SSC Creativity Symposium Showcases Talent from Across the State

Seminole State College's Language Arts and Humanities division hosted its Howlers and Yawpers creativity symposium on Sept. 28 and 28. The event featured professional artists, dancers, writers and musicians from across the state. Area middle school, high school and SSC students attended the event.



# OCTOBER

### SSC President's Leadership Class Tours State Capitol

The Seminole State College President's Leadership Class toured the newly-renovated Oklahoma State Capitol on Sept. 29. During the group's visit, they had the opportunity to meet Rep. Kevin Wallace (R-District 32), Oklahoma Administrative Director of the Courts and former Lieutenant Gov. Jari Askins and Sen. Zack Taylor (R-District 28).

### SSC Helps Students Complete FAFSA at October Events

Seminole State College helped students understand their financial aid options and complete their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) throughout Oct. From Oct. 3 through Oct. 6, the Financial Aid Office, in a partnership with Student Support Services, held "FAFSA Days." Financial Aid specialists set up in the Student Union to answer questions and assist students throughout the process. The office hosted a Halloween-themed event later, dispelling the "hocus pocus" of the FAFSA process.

## Educational Foundation Hosts 26th Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation hosted its 26th Annual Golf Tournament at the Firelake Golf Course in Shawnee on Oct. 3. This year’s event raised more than \$20,000 for student scholarships and campus capital projects. A total of 104 players, comprising 26 corporate teams, took to the links to show their support for the College.



## SSC Students Attend Production of “Hairspray”

Several Seminole State College students recently attended the Broadway production of “Hairspray” at the Oklahoma City Civic Center. The Student Support Services and STEM Student Support Services Projects sponsored the event. The purpose of the trip was for participants of the programs to have an opportunity to experience a performing arts event that is not typically accessible to them and to be exposed to an enriching cultural performance.

## College Transfer Fair Held at SSC

Seminole State College SSC hosted a College Transfer Fair on Oct. 5. Students were able to speak with representatives from the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Cameron University, Oklahoma Christian, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, East Central University, Grand Canyon University, Oklahoma City University and the U.S. Army.

## SSC Employees Recognized at Statewide Conference

Two Seminole State College employees were honored at the 54th annual Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Conference held on Oct. 7 at Oklahoma City Community College. During the event, SSC Human Resources Director Holly Wilson-Byrd was recognized as Professional Staff Member of the Year and Professor of Psychology Christal Knowles was named Faculty Member of the Year for the College.



## SSC Educational Foundation Appoints Three New Trustees

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation welcomed three new trustees during their quarterly meeting on Oct. 19. President and CEO of the Avedis Foundation Dr. Kathy Laster, Director of Kontoor Brands-Wrangler Fulfillment Center Ray McQuiston and Arvest Community Bank President of Shawnee Brian Nave have all been selected to serve as members on the Foundation Board. All were appointed to serve three-year terms. Nine trustees were reappointed during the meeting: Steve Bagwell, Dr. Vickie Carter, Haley Coates, Darren Frederick, Jim Hardin, John Hargrave, Gordon Melson, Roy Sisco and Lance Wortham.

## SSC Receives Clean External Audit

The Seminole State College Board of Regents met Oct. 20 to review the College's annual external audit report and approve a new responsible use information technology policy. The audit conducted by Hinkle and Company, P.C. of Tulsa. The firm issued an unqualified — or clean — audit.

## Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their hard work and dedication during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on Oct. 20. Professor of History and Student Success Coordinator Dr. Steve Bolin was honored as "Faculty Member of the Month" and Admissions Clerk and VA School Certifying Officer Stacey Foster as "Staff Member of the Month."



## Hundreds Attend Grand Opening of Sports Complex

On Thursday, Oct. 20, hundreds of people gathered to celebrate the grand opening of the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex. The seven-field complex has been a major undertaking by the Seminole State College Educational Foundation. To kickoff the event, major donors, Foundation trustees, community partners, SSC employees and student athletes gathered at the entrance for a ribbon cutting.

## SSC Hosts Reach Higher Events

Seminole State College hosted two evening events as part of their Reach Higher: Reconnect Week programming from Oct. 24-28. The two events were catered to working adults who are looking to complete their degrees and featured light refreshments and presentations from campus employees.



## International Concert Pianist Performs at SSC

Concert pianist Dr. Peter Simon entertained area residents at a free public concert Tuesday, October 25, 2022, on Seminole State College's campus. The "Music and Poetry of Love" program took place in the Utterback Ballroom of the Enoch Kelly Haney Center. The event was presented by the SSC Educational Foundation and dedicated to the memory of Jasmine Moran for her love and support of the arts in Seminole.

## Women's Soccer Clinches Regional Title

The Seminole State College women's soccer team won their fourth consecutive NJCAA Regional II title Saturday, Oct. 29. The Trojans defeated Northern Oklahoma College 5-2 in championship game at the Advance Soccer Complex in Enid.

### Trick or Treat Trail Draws Large Crowd

Hundreds of little ghosts and goblins (and other fascinating costumed trick-or-treaters) visited Seminole State College to load up on candy on Oct. 27 alongside the trails in Henderson Park on campus.



### SSC Hosts Business Skills Seminar

Members of the Seminole State College chapter of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) held a business skills seminar on October 27 in the Utterback Ballroom on campus. The event was attended by more than 100 students from local schools, including Seminole High School, Seminole Junior High, Butner, Konowa, and Prague. Members of the Seminole Youth Council attended as well.

# NOVEMBER



### SSC Hosts Tribal Fest for Native November

Seminole State College grant programs observed National Native American Heritage month by hosting Tribal Fest – an educational and cultural celebration – on Nov. 2. The College’s Student Support Services (SSS) and Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) programs provided informational booths, a pow wow sweat demonstration, free healthy snacks and “fancy dancing” in an effort to provide a robust cultural experience for all students.

### Reynolds Named to 55 Over 55 Inspiring Oklahomans Inaugural Class

Seminole State College President Lana Reynolds was recognized at a reception Nov. 4 honoring the inaugural class of “55 Over 55” Inspiring Oklahomans. The program was sponsored and coordinated by ion Oklahoma Magazine to recognize individuals who are investing in the future growth of the State and involved in projects that are improving the lifestyles for all Oklahomans.

### SSC Leadership Class Makes Large Donation to Food Pantry

The Seminole State College Leadership Development Class recently donated dozens of canned and packaged food goods to the SSC Food Pantry. From Nov. 8 to Nov. 21, the class organized and collected donations. The pantry is overseen by Dr. Bill Knowles, Vice President for Student Affairs.

### **SSC Receives Clean External Audit**

The Seminole State College Board of Regents met Oct. 20 to review the College’s annual external audit report and approve a new responsible use information technology policy. The audit conducted by Hinkle and Company, P.C. of Tulsa. The firm issued an unqualified — or clean — audit.

### **Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel**

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their hard work and dedication during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on Oct. 20. Professor of History and Student Success Coordinator Dr. Steve Bolin was honored as “Faculty Member of the Month” and Admissions Clerk and VA School Certifying Officer Stacey Foster as “Staff Member of the Month.”

### **SSC Hosts Send-Off Event for Soccer Team**

Seminole State College students, employees, community supporters, family and friends lined the walls of the E.T. Dunlap Student Union on Nov. 10 to wish the women’s soccer team well as they head to the NJCAA Division I National Tournament in Evans, Georgia.



### **SSC Soccer Team Returns Home Following National Tournament Play**

The Seminole State College women’s soccer team competed in the NJCAA National Soccer Championship in Evans, Georgia. The team was eliminated from the tournament following a close loss to Polk State College with a final score of 3-1 on Nov. 15. The Trojans ended the season with an overall record of 18-4 and a conference record of 13-1.

### **SSC Nursing Division Holds Health Fair**

The Seminole State College Nursing Division hosted a health fair on Nov. 30 in Tanner Hall on campus. Students enrolled in the Leadership in Nursing course, taught by Professor Ann Benson, were stationed at informational booths. Nursing students provided information on diabetes, hypertension and many other subjects.

### **De-Stressor Week Helps SSC Students Prepare for Finals**

Seminole State College Campus Activities and Events is hosting De-Stressor Week from Nov. 28 through Dec. 2. The week features giveaways and relaxing activities as students prepare for their final semester exams, which will begin on Dec. 5. On Nov. 30, students enjoyed free chair massages at a recovery station operated by Turbo Sports Recovery.

### **SSC Employees Complete Healthy and Happy Challenge**

The Seminole State College Wellness Committee organized a Healthy and Happy Challenge throughout the month of November for employees. The challenge was comprised of daily tasks to encourage a healthier lifestyle.

# DECEMBER



**SSC Welcomes Retirees Back to Campus**  
Seminole State College welcomed 25 retirees back to campus for a luncheon in their honor on Dec. 1 in the Utterback Ballroom of the Enoch Kelly Haney Center.

## Chamber of Commerce Honors Two SSC Employees

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their hard work and dedication during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on Dec. 8. Assistant Professor of Art Lynette Atchley was honored as “Faculty Member of the Month” and NASNTI Student Support Specialist Kay Wallace as “Staff Member of the Month.”

## Board of Regents Approve Micro-Credentialing Agreements with Local Businesses

The Seminole State College Board of Regents approved a number of memorandum of understanding documents with businesses participating in the College’s new micro-credentialing program and approved the 2023-2024 academic calendar at their meeting on Dec. 15.

**Night at the Lights a Success**  
Seminole State College hosted its annual Night at the Lights event on Dec. 5 at Magnolia Park in Seminole. Local families enjoyed the community Snowman Wonderland light display, as well as free holiday crafts, cookies and hot chocolate provided by the College.



## Athletes Wrap Gifts for Rotary Dinner

Seminole State College student-athletes and coaches volunteered their time to wrap more than 200 gifts for the annual Earl Knowles free community Christmas dinner, organized by the Seminole Rotary Club.



### Shooting Sports Club Hosts Fundraiser

The Seminole State College Shooting Sports Club hosted its Second Annual Fundraiser Shoot on Dec. 2. The event took place at Clay Bird Sports in Bethel Acres and featured more than 40 teams, competing in High School Junior, High School Senior, and Open divisions for Sporting Clays. Seminole State Agriculture Assistant Professor Wendy Rich and Social Sciences Professor Jeffrey Christiansen serve as the club's faculty sponsors and organized the event.

### Nursing Program Graduates Recognized at SSC Pinning Ceremony

Seminole State College held a pinning ceremony at the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on Dec. 8 for 25 nursing students expected to meet degree requirements this semester. Due to the program's continued growth, this marked the fourth year the College has hosted a pinning ceremony in the fall.

### SSC Provides Christmas Gifts to Local Children

Seminole State College employees provided gifts to 26 children participating in the Angel Tree programs sponsored by the Salvation Army and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. The Angel Tree program connects donors with children in need. SSC employees purchased clothing and toys and donated the items. Providing gifts to children in the Angel Tree program has been an annual tradition at SSC since 1997.

### SSC Delivers Holiday Cards to VA Hospital

Starting on Veterans Day, November 11 through Nov. 30, SSC students, faculty, staff, community supporters, and administration signed holiday greetings and notes of appreciation on festive cards, which in turn were delivered to veterans in the VA Hospital in Oklahoma City.



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

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