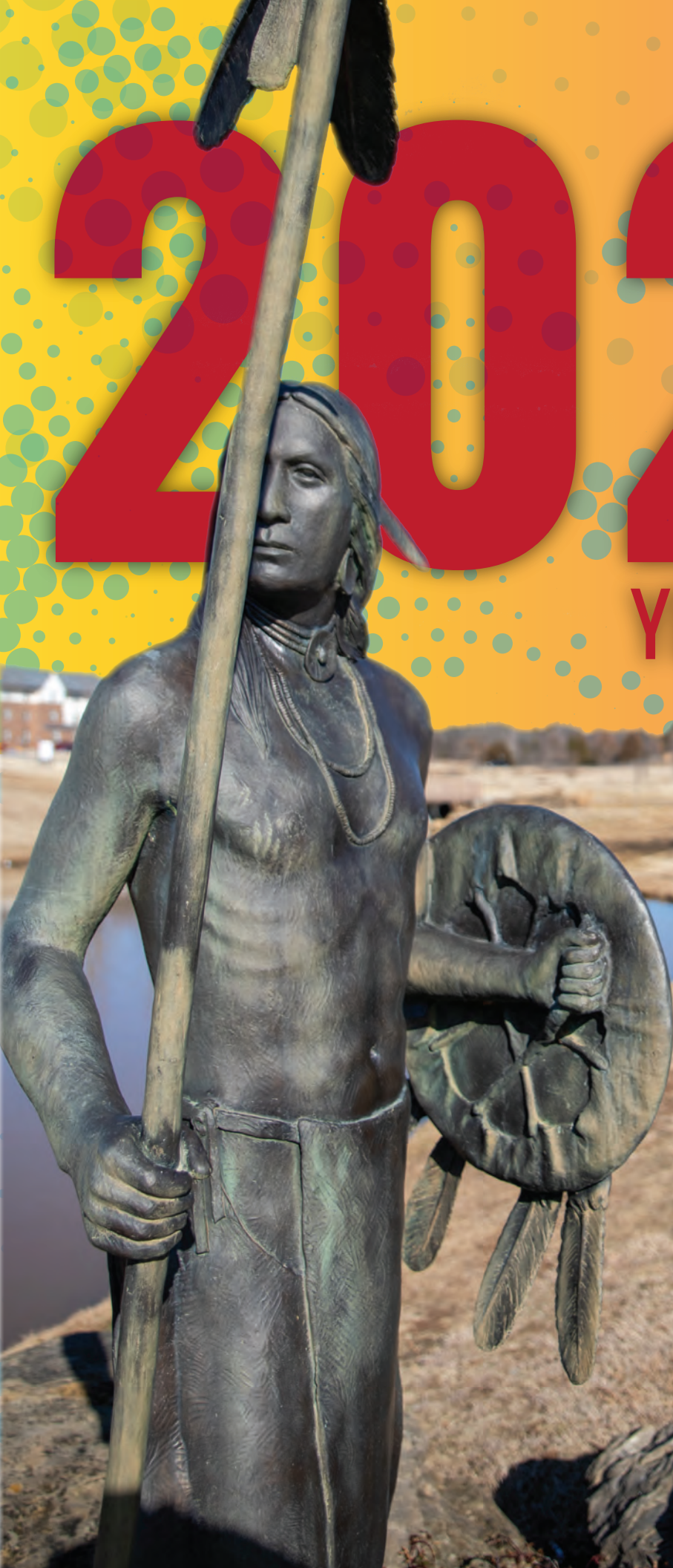


# 2020

## YEAR IN REVIEW



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

January 21, 2021

Dear Friends of SSC,

As we begin a new year at Seminole State College, I am renewed with a sense of optimism and hope. Although this past year has been extremely challenging, and we have faced many obstacles, we have also seen many successes. Difficult times have forced us to work harder and be more intentional as we prepare for the future.

The year began on a high note as SSC experienced excitement and pride with the renewal of our accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission in March. Faculty, staff and students worked with extreme dedication to showcase our wonderful institution.

As our spring semester continued, COVID-19 arrived. There were some true disappointments on campus – several athletic seasons were cancelled and graduating sophomores were unable to participate in traditional commencement exercises. Though times were tough, the employees on this campus were true champions for our students and the college. In a short period of time, we were able to transition our spring semester to a completely online operation. This continued throughout the summer.

As fall arrived, we worked diligently to open campus to the public once more. SSC provided a clean and safe work and learning environment for our students, employees and visitors. We also adopted special procedures for general health, safety and sanitation. I can never thank our faculty and staff enough for their flexibility, creativity and patience during this past year.

I also want to thank you for your role as a Regent, Foundation Trustee, employee, student or community supporter in making 2020 a good year at Seminole State College. I look forward to the year ahead and working with each of you toward our ultimate goal - helping our students find their passion and providing them with the knowledge and skills for a bright future.

Best wishes to all!



**Lana Reynolds**  
SSC President

# STORIES OF THE YEAR

## SSC RECEIVES TEN-YEAR ACCREDITATION



SSC Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Goeller, President Lana Reynolds and Coordinator of Accreditation and Language Arts and Humanities Division Chair Jessica Isaacs cut the HLC Appreciation Celebration cake on March 2.

Seminole State College received official notification May 11 from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of its “Reaffirmation of Accreditation” that will continue until 2029-2030. This ten-year accreditation was the result of a multi-year preparation of a self-study Assurance Review. The process culminated in a site visit by an HLC team in late February. Additionally, the accreditation announcement required no mid-cycle reviews or special reports. No interim monitoring was recommended.

## CAMPUS MAKES PLAN IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19



Since March, the College has pinned COVID-19 updates and information on its homepage, including a safety procedure manual created by campus leadership.

Following Spring Break, the College shifted instruction to online delivery methods. SSC welcomed students back to campus in the fall. In an effort to safeguard student and employee health, masks were required on campus. A COVID-19 Safety Procedure Manual was published on the College’s website to guide students on safety precautions and provide information on testing. The College also implemented a number of measures to protect people on campus, including clear protective barriers in areas commonly accessed by the public, restrictions on the number of students in the Bookstore and in classrooms, and bolstered sanitation efforts.

# JANUARY

## **SSC Installs Greenhouse to Enhance Science and Agriculture Courses**

Seminole State College installed a greenhouse on campus to provide a hands-on experience for students enrolled in Botany, Agriculture, Environmental Science and Plant and Soil Science. The 12' x 36' greenhouse was manufactured by Yoderbilt and paid for by the College's Title III Grant.

## **SSC Hosts Higher Education Briefing**

At their meeting on Jan. 17, the Seminole State College Board of Regents approved a resolution to maintain local board governance for the College and reviewed the terms of President Lana Reynolds' employment.

## **SSC Delegation Attends Legislative Briefing**

Seminole State College hosted the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Southeast Oklahoma Legislative Briefing at Pete's Place in Krebs on Jan. 15. SSC attended the event with a delegation of 24 College and community representatives.



## **Honoring MLK Day**

In honor of Martin Luther King Day, Seminole State College hosted a special program on Jan. 16, featuring guest speaker Judge Tammy Kemp of the Texas 204th District Court. During her presentation, "My Journey to the Courtroom," Judge Kemp discussed her journey from being an SSC student from Wewoka to her service as a judge.

## **SSC Hosts Speech and Debate Tournament**

The Seminole State College Trojan Speech and Debate Tournament welcomed 16 area high schools to the SSC campus on January 24 and 25 to an Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association qualifying tournament. The tournament was held under the supervision of Assistant Professor of Speech John Bolander.

## **SSC Hires Interim Nursing Program Director**

Seminole State College named Linda Brown the Interim Nursing Program Director for the spring 2020 and fall 2020 semesters. Brown was hired at the College through a partnership between SSC and SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital - Shawnee.



# FEBRUARY

## **Former Trojans Return Home to Kick-Off Baseball Season**

Former Seminole State College baseball players, along with community supporters and members of the 2020 Trojan squad, gathered on the SSC campus Saturday evening, Feb. 1 for the annual Trojan Season Kick-Off Banquet. Over 250 guests attended the event.

## **Utterbacks Make Donation to Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex**

Seminole State College President Emeritus Dr. Jim Utterback and his wife Karrie donated \$25,000 to the SSC Educational Foundation to assist with the construction of the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex.

## **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 Feb. 13. Business and Education Instructor Dan Hill was honored as “Faculty Member of the Month” and Business Services Coordinator Melissa Marshall as “Staff Member of the Month.”



## **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 on Feb. 11. The event, sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, is held annually to demonstrate grassroots support for Higher Education funding.

## **Regents Approve Social Media Policy and Tenure for Professor**

At their meeting on Feb. 20, the Seminole State College Board of Regents approved tenure for Assistant Professor of Life Science Theran Hernandez and adopted a social media policy for the College.

## **Ashcraft Attends Nigh Leadership Academy**

Seminole State College student Cale Ashcraft of Seminole attended the Nigh Institute Leadership Academy held in Oklahoma City. During the leadership academy, students visited several state landmarks and attended sessions related to Oklahoma’s local government.

## **SSC Undergoes Accreditation Site Visit**

Seminole State College underwent an Accreditation Site Visit by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) on February 24 - 25. The site visit was a regular part of the College’s ongoing accreditation processes, representing a culmination of efforts over the last ten years. SSC received full accreditation status in 2010 after its previous HLC Accreditation Site Visit.

# MARCH



## **SSC Hosts HLC Appreciation Celebration Event**

Seminole State College hosted the HLC Appreciation Celebration event on March 2 at the E.T. Dunlap Student Union. Faculty, staff, students and community supporters gathered to commemorate the conclusion of the Higher Learning Commission site visit. The site visit marked the last step of the College's recent accreditation process.

## **Tijah Johnson Named Newman Civic Fellow**

Campus Compact, a Boston-based non-profit organization working to advance the public purposes of higher education, announced that Seminole State College's Tijah Johnson, a sophomore studying Health Sciences, was one of the 290 students from across the nation who made up the organization's 2020-2021 cohort of Newman Civic Fellows.

## **Local Women Work to Revitalize and Expand Gill Scholarship**

Five local Board Members of the Donald E. Gill Scholarship Foundation honored the memory, legacy and wishes of long-time Seminole educator and community volunteer Don Gill by expanding and revitalizing a scholarship program he established to support high school students who plan to attend Seminole State College. Gill served as a long-time administrator and speech instructor at the College.

## **SSC and Gordon Cooper Technology Center Partnership Honored**

Seminole State College and Gordon Cooper Technology Center were among colleges, schools and businesses honored during a Business Partnership Excellence Awards Luncheon held March 12 at The University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

## **PTK Honor Society Inducts New Members**

Fifty Seminole State College students were inducted into the Alpha Theta Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges at the Jeff Johnston Fine Arts Center on March 13. SSC Educational Foundation Vice Chair Jeramy Rich served as the event's guest speaker. Rich is an investor and entrepreneur. He is the owner of Capitol Resource Group, a legislative consulting firm.

## **SSC Announces Plan in Response to Coronavirus**

Following its Spring Break, the Seminole State College campus shifted to the online delivery of instruction through the summer session. The campus continued to provide core services with a limited number of employees on campus and many working from home.

## **SSC Postpones Spring Banquet and Emeritus Reception**

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation Executive Committee decided to cancel its Annual Spring Recognition Banquet, which was originally scheduled to occur on April 30. Additionally, the campus reception scheduled to honor former employees being recommended to the SSC Board of Regents to receive Emeritus status was also postponed.

## ***Nursing Program Makes Donation to SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital of Shawnee***

Seminole State College recently donated medical supplies to SSM Health St. Anthony – Shawnee to assist with COVID-19 preparations at the hospital. The donation included 26 boxes of DemaAssist synthetic powder-free exam gloves, 3 boxes of Nitrile gloves and 30 packets of disposable gowns from the College's Nursing Program.

# APRIL

## ***SSC Recognizes Outstanding Students***

Seminole State Educational Foundation annually honors one student from each of the College's five divisions at its annual Spring Recognition Banquet. Due to restrictions on large gatherings in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's honorees were recognized in the media. The five students and their divisions were: Jaxon Cooper, Health Sciences; Connor Buchanan, Language Arts and Humanities; Ronnie Trout, Business and Education; Taryn Washburn, Social Sciences; and Kimberly Cotter, STEM.

## ***Regents Approve Emeritus Status for Four Former Employees***

At their meeting on April 9, the Seminole State College Board of Regents revised a policy regarding administrative leave and approved emeritus status for four former employees.

The four former employees recognized were Maintenance Services Coordinator Kelly Chastain, Associate Professor of Life Sciences Dave Helseth, Enrollment Management Advisor Cynthia Yerby and the late Paula Rutledge, who served the College as the Math, Science and Engineering Division Chair and a Math Instructor.

## ***Student Support Services Hosts Online Discussions to Assist Students During Distance Learning***

The closure of the SSC campus, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, forced student programs such as Student Support Services (SSS) and STEM Student Support Services (STEM SSS) to adjust the delivery of their services. The programs offered online group discussions called "Coffee Talks" and "Grub Club" each week. Program participants joined these discussions regarding success strategies while learning online.

## ***Nursing Program Receives Continued Accreditation***

The Seminole State College Nursing Program was granted continuing accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The Board of Commissioners granted this accreditation to the College's associate nursing program and scheduled the next evaluation visit for Fall of 2027.



## ***SSC Bids Farewell to Vice President for Fiscal Affairs***

Seminole State College Vice President for Fiscal Affairs Tony Crouch accepted an administrative position at a four-year private college in Kansas. Crouch began working at SSC in March of 2018. His career spans more than 20 years in higher education.

## **College Offers Relief Funds to Students through CARES Act**

Seminole State College received an allocation of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund provided by the U.S. Department of Education through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to assist students in the amount of \$580,000.

## **Students Named to All-Oklahoma Academic Team**

Three Seminole State College students were named to the All-Oklahoma USA Academic Team by the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges. SSC students Paige Brown of Seminole, Kristy Lively of Bethel Acres and Crystal Smith of Wewoka were named to the All-Oklahoma Academic Team.



## **SSC Set Holds Virtual Commencement Ceremony**

Seminole State College hosted its' 87th Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 8, for students completing coursework requirements for their degree programs. Due to the Campus' response to the COVID-19 pandemic, traditional Commencement Exercises scheduled in the Raymond Harber Field House on the campus of Seminole State College were cancelled. Instead, the graduation ceremony was held virtually on the College's website, [sscok.edu](http://sscok.edu).

## **SSC Receives Ten-Year Accreditation**

Seminole State College received official notification May 11 from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of its "Reaffirmation of Accreditation" that will continue until 2029-2030. This ten-year accreditation was the result of a multi-year preparation of a self-study Assurance Review. The process culminated in a site visit by an HLC team in late February. Additionally, the accreditation announcement required no mid-cycle reviews or special reports. No interim monitoring was recommended.

## **Morgan Reappointed to SSC Board of Regents**

Seminole County Resident Curtis Morgan was reappointed by Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt to serve on the Seminole State College Board of Regents. The appointment was confirmed by the Oklahoma State Senate Education Committee on May 12 using video conferencing software and sent to the Oklahoma State Senate for final approval. The nomination was carried by Senator Joe Newhouse (R-Broken Arrow). Morgan's new seven-year term as a Regent will conclude on July 1, 2027.

## **College Recognizes Employees for 20 Years of Service**

Seminole State College recently recognized six employees for 20 years of service: Mechell Downey, Teresa Norman, Carol Parker, Tina Savage, Rita Story-Schell and Susan Shumaker. The employees were set to be honored at the Seminole State Educational Foundation's annual Spring Recognition Banquet, but the event was postponed due to restrictions on large gatherings in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.



### **Honoring Three Campus Leaders**

Seminole State College recently recognized three employees for their campus leadership: Faculty Senate President Jeff Cheng, Classified Staff President Dana Denwalt and Professional Staff President Caitlin Brown. The employees held their leadership positions throughout the 2019-2020 academic year. The leaders received plaques from the SSC Educational Foundation.

### **Regents Appoint Goeller as Vice President for Academic Affairs**

At their meeting on May 21, the Seminole State College Board of Regents appointed Dr. Linda Goeller as the Vice President for Academic Affairs and approved the holiday schedule for the 2020-2021 academic year. Dr. Goeller had been serving as Interim VPAA since November 2019.

### **Former SSC Educational Foundation Board Trustee Appointed as New State Regent**

Holdenville resident and SSC Foundation Trustee Jack Sherry was appointed by Gov. Kevin Stitt as a member of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE). His appointment was recently confirmed by the Senate, and he will be sworn in at the State Regents' June 25 meeting. Sherry will serve a nine-year term that expires in May 2029, replacing Regent Toney Stricklin.



### **Upward Bound Program Provides Meals to Students**

Seminole State College's Upward Bound program provided weekly meals to students enrolled in the program from late-May through June. Upward Bound coordinators Anna Skender, Amber Cooper, Ronnie Williamson and Matt Kappele delivered the meals to homes and local schools. The program served meals to 250 participants.

## **JUNE**

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

Forty-seven student athletes and five athletic teams at Seminole State College were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements by the National Junior College Athletic Association. The NJCAA All-American Student Athlete Awards were divided into the three groups based on GPA – First Team required a 4.0 GPA, Second Team required a GPA between 3.80 and 3.99, and Third Team required a GPA between 3.60 and 3.79.

### **SSC Unveils New Logo**

Seminole State College unveiled a new logo as part of a multi-faceted campaign to modernize and improve institutional images. The Media Relations Office and Administrative Council – along with input from other SSC employees and students – spent many months brainstorming and planning how the design would represent the College.

### **Donahos Make Donation to Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex**

Seminole residents Marci and Dale Donaho donated \$3,000 to the Seminole State College Educational Foundation in support of the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex. Marci Donaho serves as the Executive Director of the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum, a member of the Seminole Public School Board and as a Regent for SSC. Dale Donaho retired from Gordon Cooper Technology Center, where he served as the Coordinator of the Central Oklahoma Tech Prep Consortium.

### **Reynolds Named Chair of Leadership Oklahoma**

Seminole State College President Lana Reynolds was named Chair of *Leadership Oklahoma*, a state-wide organization dedicated to educating and inspiring leaders to work for the betterment of Oklahoma. Reynolds, who became the first female president of Seminole State College on July 1, 2017, served in several administrative roles at the College over the past 30 years.



### **SSC Reopens to the Public, Outlines Safety Measures for the Fall Semester**

Seminole State College reopened its campus to students and prospective students on June 29 to aid with the enrollment process. The College was closed to the public in March in an effort to safeguard student and community health during the COVID-19 pandemic. While all summer classes were conducted online, the College planned to offer face-to-face instruction in the fall, as well as additional online and blended format classes. Several precautions were implemented to meet Center for Disease Control recommendations.

## **JULY**

### **Volunteers Restock Campus Food Pantry**

A group of community supporters and Seminole State College employees spent the morning of July 17 restocking the SSC Food Pantry with more than 3,000 pounds of food. Volunteers included Shane Marshall, Heather Marshall, Christal Knowles, Carol Parker, Christine McKee, Dan Hill, Rita Story-Schell and Beckham Schell.

### **Regents Approve Mask Requirement Amid COVID-19 Concerns**

The Seminole State College Board of Regents approved a measure that would make the wearing of face coverings mandatory on campus at their meeting on July 23.

## **Pitts Appointed to SSC Board of Regents**

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

## **SSC Names New Chief of Police**

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

## **Former Student to Speak on Diversity at SSC In-Service**

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

## **College Awarded \$2.86 Million in Federal Grants**

The U.S. Department of Education awarded Seminole State College two grants totaling approximately \$2.86 million. The programs that received the grants were Student Support Services and STEM Student Support Services. The College was officially notified of the awards Aug. 7 by the offices of U.S. Senator James Lankford and U.S. Congresswoman Kendra Horn.



## **Foundation Donates Face Coverings for Employees and Students**

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation donated more than \$6,000 for the purchase of over 1,500 branded face coverings for employees and students at SSC. The face coverings are part of the College's ongoing commitment to safeguarding student, employee and community health.

## **SSC Welcomes Students Back to Campus**

Seminole State College began its fall semester on Aug. 17. This marked the first time students have met for face-to-face instruction since March. As students arrived on campus, they were greeted by employees who provided free face coverings.

## **SSC Welcomes Presidential Leadership Class XIV**

Seminole State College selected 18 students for Class XIV of the SSC Presidential Leadership program. PLC is a two-year scholarship program created to help students develop leadership skills and provide personal and professional growth opportunities.



### ***New Regent Sworn in at August Board Meeting***

Newly appointed Regent Ryan Pitts was sworn in at the Seminole State College Board of Regents meeting on Aug. 20.

## **SEPTEMBER**

### ***College Names COVID-19 Officer***

At the beginning of the fall semester, Dr. Deanna Miles was selected to serve as the campus's COVID-19 Officer. Dr. Miles previously served the College as an Assistant Professor in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Division and a Curriculum Specialist through a Title III grant.

### ***SSC Educational Foundation Provides Lawn Chairs***

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation provided free, branded lawn chairs to students residing on campus on Sept. 18. The chairs were distributed to encourage safe-socially distanced, outdoor activity.

### ***SSC President's Leadership Class Attends Voter Engagement Event***

Members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class attended a voter engagement event held in the Utterback Ballroom on campus Sept. 17. The event featured a pre-recorded interview with U.S. Congresswoman Kendra Horn, a pre-recorded video from State Regent and former State Attorney General Mike Turpen and a virtual panel discussion featuring State Labor Commissioner Leslie Osborn, State Senator Zack Taylor (District 28) and State Representative Jason Dunnington (District 88).



### ***PLC Visits St. Crispin's Conference Center***

Seminole State College President's Leadership Class students completed teambuilding exercises at St. Crispin's Conference Center on Sept. 3. The students participated in puzzle solving, group jump rope activities and rock climbing.

### **SSC Student Support Services Hosts Pictionary Event**

Student Support Services and STEM Student Support Services sponsored an outdoor Pictionary event for SSC students, faculty and staff on Sept. 29. Several students stopped by to enjoy friendly competition, meet new friends and share some laughs.

### **SSC President's Leadership Class Registers Students to Vote**

Members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class helped students register to vote in honor of National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 22. PLC students set up six tables across campus, encouraged their peers to participate in the upcoming election and gave away t-shirts to anyone who registered.



### **Educational Foundation Hosts Golf Tournament**

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation hosted its 24th annual Golf Tournament on Sept. 11 at the Jimmie Austin Golf Course in Seminole. The event serves as a fundraiser to provide scholarships to students and support capital projects at the College. The event raised more than \$20,000.

## **OCTOBER**

### **Ed Lemmings Hired as New Director at SSC**

Long-time Seminole civil servant Ed Lemmings was named the Director of Physical Plant and Campus Safety at Seminole State College. Lemmings, who mostly recently worked as the Facility and Operations Manager at Seminole High School, was hired at the College to monitor campus safety, oversee maintenance and custodial efforts, and help with projects related to COVID-19 responses at the College.

### **Softball Players Recognized for Accident Response**

Seminole State College softball players demonstrated a team effort off the field when they quickly responded to help a fellow student who had a car accident on Highway 9, near their practice area Oct. 2.

### **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. 8. Assistant Professor of English Yasmina Choate was honored as "Faculty Member of the Month" and GEAR UP Office Manager Sherri Dykes as "Staff Member of the Month."

### **NASNTI Program Launches Native Art Exhibit**

The Seminole State College Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) grant program completed a permanent Native American art exhibit in the David Boren Library on campus.

### **President's Leadership Class Attends Financial Literacy Event**

Members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class attended a financial literacy event on Oct. 5 in the Utterback Ballroom, located in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center. Students engaged with two speakers through the videoconferencing platform Zoom. The guest speakers were Elaine Dodd, Executive Vice President/Fraud Division for the Oklahoma Bankers Association, and Melanie Rinehart, Director of Financial Assistance at SSC.

### **BancFirst Makes Large Donation to SSC Food Pantry**

BancFirst employees donated hundreds of non-perishable food items and bottles of water to the Seminole State College Food Pantry on Oct. 14. BancFirst employees at the Seminole branches, located at 1500 N. Milt Phillips Ave. and 206 N. 2nd St., held a donation drive to ensure the Food Pantry was well stocked in anticipation of the holiday season.

### **Seminole County Health Department Provides Flu Shots at SSC**

The Seminole State College nursing program assisted the Seminole County Health Department as they administered free flu shots on campus on Oct. 20.

### **SSC Educational Foundation Appoints Four New Trustees**

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation welcomed four new trustees during their quarterly meeting on Oct. 21. Former Oklahoma State Senator Jason Smalley of Stroud, Darren Frederick of Seminole, Haley Coates of Seminole and Rhonda McKee of Prague were all selected to serve as members on the Foundation Board.



### **Avedis Awards Grant for Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex**

The Avedis Foundation awarded a \$250,000 grant to the Seminole State College Educational Foundation's sports complex project for the addition of an adaptive field for persons with special needs. The adaptive field, designed specifically for special kids and adults, will be the first of its kind in the State of Oklahoma.

### **Board of Regents Reviews Audit and Approves Academic Calendar**

The Seminole State College Board of Regents met Oct. 22 to review the College's annual external audit report and approve the 2020-2021 academic calendar. The audit, conducted by Finley & Cook, Certified Public Accountants of Shawnee, found no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. The accounting firm issued an unqualified – or clean – audit.

### **Educational Foundation Purchases New Assessment Software for the College**

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation purchased new testing software for student assessment developed by the Aurora Learning Community Association (ALCA), a nonprofit based in Fairview, Okla.

# NOVEMBER

## ***Employee Recognized at Statewide Conference***

Seminole State College hosted the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Support Staff Conference, held virtually this year on November 5. During the event, SSC Payroll Clerk Susan Shumaker was recognized as Support Staff Member of the Year for the college.

## ***SSC Celebrates First-Generation Students***

Seminole State College joined colleges across the nation in celebrating first-generation students Nov. 16-20. Led by the SSC's Student Support Services federal grant program, a variety of activities and virtual events occurred to recognize the success of these students. The event concluded with an essay contest on Friday, Nov. 20. The theme of the essay was "I Am First-Gen and I Am Exceptional." SSC Student Tema Yargee, of Okemah, won the contest and a \$50 prize. Yargee is a sophomore at SSC and is majoring in Criminal Justice.



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

The Seminole State College Leadership Development Class donated dozens of canned and packaged food goods to the SSC Food Pantry.

# DECEMBER

## ***SSC Hosts "No-Show" Holiday Event***

With the holiday season, the Seminole State College Educational Foundation took a creative approach to celebrate the end of the year with a "No-Show" fundraising event on Monday, Dec. 7. More than \$25,000 was raised in support of the Foundation.

## ***SSC Life Sciences Professor to Retire at the End of the Semester***

Seminole State College Assistant Professor of Life Sciences Susan Walker retired at the conclusion of the fall semester. Walker first began working at the College as an adjunct in 2007 and took on a full-time role in 2014. Upon retirement, Walker planned to spend time with her family on their farm southwest of Konawa, completing home projects and taking more hiking trips.

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

Seminole State College Campus Activities and Events hosted "De-stressor Week" from Dec. 1-Dec. 4. De-Stressor Week featured giveaways and relaxing activities for students as they prepared for their final exams.



**SSC Holds Pinning Ceremony for Nursing Graduates**  
Seminole State College held a pinning ceremony at the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on Dec. 10 for nursing students expected to meet degree requirements this semester. Due to the program's continued growth, this marked the second time the College has hosted a pinning ceremony in the fall.

**SSC Employees Provide Christmas Gifts to Local Children**

Seminole State College employees provided gifts to 30 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.

**SSC Board of Regents Hires Jones as Vice President for Fiscal Affairs**

The Seminole State College Board of Regents met Dec. 17 to approve a number of degree program modifications and to name Courtney Jones the permanent Vice President for Fiscal Affairs. Jones had been serving as the Interim Vice President for Fiscal Affairs since April of 2020.

