

# SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE

## COLLEGIAN

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

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## Submitting to The Collegian

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## Leadership Class Makes Large Donation to SSC Food Pantry



The Seminole State College Leadership Development Class recently donated dozens of canned and packaged food goods to the SSC Food Pantry. The SSC Food Pantry provides resources to students facing food insecurity issues. "This is such an important project because it provides vital food and other supplies to those in our campus community. We hope this act can alleviate stress stu-

dents in need may be feeling during the holiday season. I'm so proud of the students for stepping up and lending a hand to their peers," SSC President Lana Reynolds said. If you are interested in giving to the SSC food pantry or volunteering, you may contact Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Bill Knowles at [b.knowles@sscok.edu](mailto:b.knowles@sscok.edu) or 405-382-9272.



Stay up to date with campus COVID-19 safety precautions at SSC's Coronavirus Response page.

Here you'll find important updates, CARES Act scholarship information, mental health resources and links to Centers for Disease Control data.

Explore the Response Page [here](#).

[CLICK TO VIEW](#)

**SPRING ENROLLMENT OPEN NOW**

**SPEAK TO AN ADVISOR TODAY**

SECURE YOUR SPOT IN THE CLASSES YOU WANT.

# 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.

Shumaker began working for the College in February, 2000. She is responsible for all employee and student payroll. She is also a member of the Classified Staff Association on campus. She and her husband, Daniel Shumaker, reside in Seminole. They have one daughter, Hannah. In her spare time, Shumaker enjoys spending time with her family.

The event's guest speaker was Becky Wood, who spoke on resilience during a time of many changes. Wood serves as an Adjunct Corporate Trainer at Rose State College. Two Creative Staff Innovation awards were also given during the conference this year – one to Rose State College and one to Murray State College. The CSI Award is a program in which full-time and part-time staff members have the opportunity to share their great ideas and demonstrate how these ideas have brought about positive change on their campus.

Every year, OACC's 13 member institutions select three employees to honor – a support staff member, a professional staff member and a faculty member. The professional staff and faculty members will be announced at the full annual conference in January, 2021. This event is being held complimentary and details can be found on the OACC website at <http://okcommunitycolleges.com>.



SSC President Lana Reynolds (right) congratulates SSC's 2020 Outstanding Staff Member of the Year Susan Shumaker as part of the Oklahoma Community Colleges Association Support Staff conference on Nov. 5.

## FALL FINAL EXAMINATIONS

DEC. 8 - 11, 2020

## Students Make Planters in Botany Competition



Students enrolled in Seminole State College's General Botany course competed in an autumn planter design competition in late October. The event was organized by Associate Professor of Life Science Theran Hernandez. From Oct. 19 to Oct. 26, students and employees across campus cast votes for their favorite arrangement. The winning arrangement incorporated Halloween elements and was designed by Andrew Terrell of Prague (left), Emily Winn of Wetumka (right) and Brandelynn Mendoza of Ada (not pictured).



# SSC Recognizes First-Generation Students



*As part of Seminole State College's weeklong celebration of first-generation students, posters featuring photographs and quotes from first-generation students were displayed in Tanner Hall*

Seminole State College joined colleges across the nation in celebrating first-generation students Nov. 16-20.

This month marks the 55th anniversary of the historic Higher Education Act, which was signed into law on November 8, 1965. The Act is credited with helping millions of first-generation, low-income and under-resourced students persist to degree completion. For the last four years, a celebration of first-generation students has been a part of this national anniversary observation. A student is recognized as first generation when they attend college although their parents have not done so.

Led by the SSC's Student Support Services federal grant program, a va-

riety of activities and virtual events are occurring to recognize the success of these students.

In a video message sent to first-generation students, SSC President Lana Reynolds said, "I congratulate you for your initiative and drive in being at Seminole State College. You may actually be the first in your family to pursue a college degree – but, through the example you are setting, I feel confident that you will not be the last."

Reynolds said she hoped these students were finding support, encouragement and inspiration from their family and friends, and from people on campus.

"I know that the staff in Student Support Services are always willing

to help you during this educational journey – and so are the faculty, admissions clerks, financial aid advisors, Bookstore employees, residence hall assistants – and everyone else on this campus. We are here to help you be successful," she said.

The video kicked off the celebration and featured comments from several former and current first-generation students. Additionally, testimonials from faculty member Kelli McBride and student Sierra Springer were shared on social media. Posters featuring photographs and quotes from first-generation students associated with SSC were on display in Tanner Hall. Stickers showing support for the students were available to the campus community to wear.

A virtual roundtable featuring SSC employees Dr. Kenny Roe, Kelly Hankal and Holly Wilson-Byrd was held. Students were able to ask the employees about their experiences being the first in their families to attend college. The event concluded with an essay contest. The topic of the essay was "As a First-Gen, I am Exceptional." The winner received a \$50 cash prize.

For more information about the College's Student Support Services grant program, contact SSS Director Janna Wilson-Byrd at [j.wilsonbyrd@scol.edu](mailto:j.wilsonbyrd@scol.edu) or 405-382-9642.

# First-Generation Student Wins Essay Contest

Seminole State College Student Support Services hosted a variety of activities recognizing first-generation students Nov. 16-20. 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. Her essay is included below:

## My Journey as a First-Generation Student by Tema Yargee

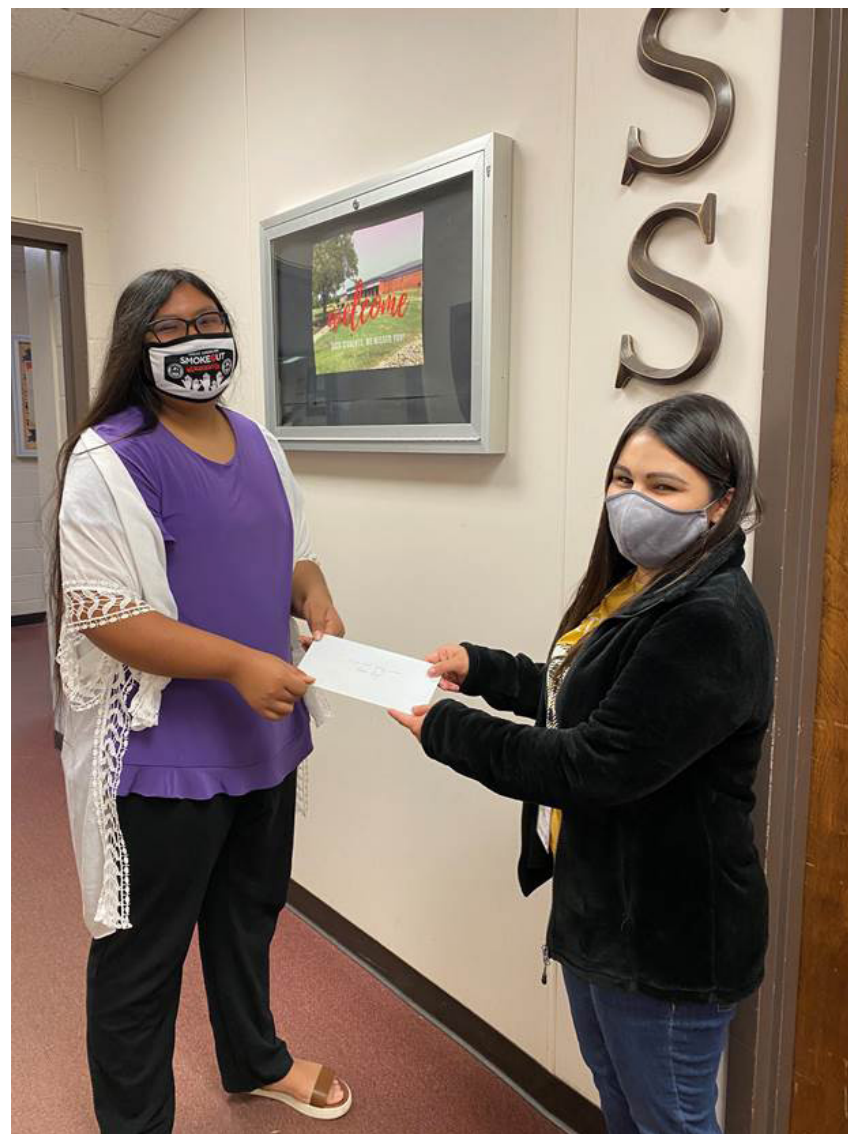
I have learned the values of determination and perseverance throughout my whole life. I have used these skills to become academically successful. I have a birth injury called Erb’s Palsy. I spent most of my early life in physical therapy. I can still remember how tedious and frustrating the exercises were and how I would always want to give up. However, when I was in middle school, I became intrigued with basketball and wanted to join my middle school basketball team. This meant I would have to strengthen my arm enough to play normally and to get my mom’s approval.

At last, I reached my goal through weeks of therapy and being committed to doing my exercises at home. I was able to play with the other girls and this brought me a sense of joy that I would have never been able to feel if I had given up. From this experience, I learned an important lesson of hard work and to keep trying and working towards my goal, even if it feels hopeless. This kind of mindset helped me when I was taking my college math class. I failed my first math test with a D, and I was very disappointed in myself. Nevertheless, I refused to fail the next test, and I planned to become better prepared for the second one. I spent hours and hours doing the same type of math problem until I could figure

it out. I spent late nights in front of my computer watching YouTube videos showing me how to solve the problems. I also asked for help from the tutors in the SSS lab. I am happy to say that I never flunked another math test.

Next, I made one of the biggest mistakes of my life in my freshman year at Seminole State College. I enrolled in 6 classes for my first semester as a full-time college student and I accepted a job as a work-study. I felt very overwhelmed from the stress of finishing assignments for my classes and having to do work-study. I wanted to withdraw from one of my classes when I could not keep up with it because of how much time it demanded, but I am a very stubborn person. I refused to let my transcript have a W for my first freshman semester. As a result, I had to sacrifice my social life and weekends from watching basketball games and other activities and instead dedicate it to my studies. This semester was the toughest and most draining one I have ever had to endure, but I would have to say that I am very proud of how I was able to overcome it. In the end, I was able to do well in all my classes.

All in all, I believe I am an exceptional first-generation student from overcoming the obstacles in my academic career with the determination



SSC Student Tema Yargee (left) is named the winner of the “I Am First-Gen and I Am Exceptional” essay contest. She receives her prize from her Student Support Services Advisor Laura Votaw.

and persistence I learned from the challenges in my life. I hope to continue to use these lessons to do well in my future classes and when I transfer to a four-year university. Truthfully, there are some days where I wish I had been born without Erb’s Pal-

sy and had a regular right arm. My right arm is still weak, and I struggle to use it fully. However, I will never regret the lessons it taught me of determination in my years of physical therapy and I will carry them in my life as a college student.

# Educational Foundation Purchases New Assessment Software

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.

ALCA's software, valued at over \$9,000, is called Arch. Arch allows instructors to establish proficiency scales, tests, benchmarks, organize curriculum and compare data within the institution.

SSC began the implementation of the software this semester, starting with a survey developed for the Learning Strategies course, a class designed to help students acclimate to higher education. At the end of the fall semester, SSC will utilize the software to input the results of all course-embedded assessments. Course-embedded assessments are methods of gauging student learning in the classroom using course goals, objectives and content. This method helps instructors track proficiency in core concepts within each class.

Beginning in the spring, instructors will learn to use Arch for course-embedded assessments. This will allow instructors to see how their students are performing compared to the campus average.

"It's important for us to use this software for the ease it brings in tracking and compiling data," SSC Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Goeller said.

When the need for new testing software became increasingly apparent and institutional funding was strapped due to effects of COVID-19 on the annual budget, Dr. Goeller requested help from SSC President Lana Reynolds. President Reynolds spoke to the SSC Educational Foundation about the matter.

"The SSC Educational Foundation has always been very supportive of our educational endeavors at SSC, so it's no surprise that they wanted to help by supplying this software during this time," Dr. Goeller said.

The SSC Educational Foundation was established in 1972 to supply aid. According to the organization's bylaws, the Foundation solicits voluntary financial gifts to address the academic and student services priorities of the College. Annually, the Foundation provides approximately \$125,000 in scholarships to SSC students. Additionally, they support faculty and staff initiatives and sponsors campus program.

The Foundation is led by a 27-member Board of Trustees representing communities throughout the College's five-county service area. The Executive Committee is comprised of Chair Lance Wortham of Shawnee, Vice Chair Mark Schell of Seminole and Vice Chair Andy Tucker of Okemah.

Wortham said, "We have been proud to help support the employees and students of SSC in sponsoring some special projects this fall. We have purchased protective face masks for everyone on campus and provided SSC lawn chairs for students in the residence halls to be able to socialize within safety protocols. Meeting this need from the academic area for specialized software was just another way we felt we could provide assistance."

For more information or to make a tax deductible donation to the 501(c)(3) charitable organization, contact the SSC President's Office at 405-382-9200 or mail contributions to the SSC Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 351, Seminole, OK 74818.



*Seminole State College has begun implementing Arch testing software on campus. The software was provided to the College by the SSC Educational Foundation.*

**SELL YOUR BOOKS BACK**

**RETURN YOUR RENTALS**

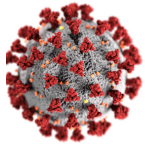
**SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE BOOKSTORE**  
**BUYBACK, RENTAL AND SCHOLARSHIP RETURNS**

Monday, December 7th -  
Thursday, December 10th  
8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Friday, December 11th  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

**\*\*STUDENT ID REQUIRED\*\***

# What you should know about COVID-19 to protect yourself and others



## Know about COVID-19

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person.
- The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world.
- COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness.



## Know how COVID-19 is spread

- You can become infected by coming into close contact (about 6 feet or two arm lengths) with a person who has COVID-19. COVID-19 is primarily spread from person to person.
- You can become infected from respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- You may also be able to get it by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then by touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.



## Protect yourself and others from COVID-19

- There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to protect yourself is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Stay home as much as possible and avoid close contact with others.
- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth in public settings.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



## Practice social distancing

- Buy groceries and medicine, go to the doctor, and complete banking activities online when possible.
- If you must go in person, stay at least 6 feet away from others and disinfect items you must touch.
- Get deliveries and takeout, and limit in-person contact as much as possible.



## Prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick

- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Avoid public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.
- Separate yourself from other people and pets in your home.
- There is no specific treatment for COVID-19, but you can seek medical care to help relieve your symptoms.
- If you need medical attention, call ahead.



## Know your risk for severe illness

- Everyone is at risk of getting COVID-19.
- Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more severe illness.



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[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

**HAVE A  
SAFE  
AND HAPPY  
HOLIDAY**

*Please remember to take precautions as you enjoy time with your family this holiday season.*



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