

# SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE COLLEGIAN

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# Submitting to The Collegian

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*Stay up-to-date with all campus news by visiting [sscok.edu/media](http://sscok.edu/media). You can also view our collection of archives, which includes past issues of The Collegian.*



## Learn more about 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](#).



### April 5

#### **Make and Take Activity - Student Activities and Events**

Stop by the Student Union to create moss artwork from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### April 11 & 12

#### **Reach Higher: Reconnect Week**

The College will host two evening events for working adults on April 11 from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. and April 12 from 5 to 6 p.m. Meet with advisors, financial aid, admissions and take a campus tour.

### April 13

#### **FFA Interscholastic Meet**

The SSC Aggie Club will host a variety of FFA contests for students from across the state on campus.

### April 18 & 19

#### **Native Language Conference**

SSC's NASNTI program will host a two-day Native Language conference entitled "How to Become a Native Language Ally." Sessions will take place in the Jeff Johnston Auditorium.

### April 27

#### **Spring Banquet**

The SSC Educational Foundation will host its annual Spring Recognition Banquet at 6:30 p.m. on April 27. The event honors alumni, campus leaders, outstanding students and retirees.

**For a full calendar of everything going on around campus, visit [sscok.edu/events](http://sscok.edu/events).**

# SSC Basketball's National Tournament Run Ends in Narrow Loss



*The Seminole State College men's basketball team's NJCAA National Championship Tournament run ended March 21 with a hard-fought game against Ranger College. SSC lost in the last few seconds with a final score of 78-75. This was the team's first appearance at the national tournament since 2007. The team is helmed by Head Coach Don Tuley and Assistant Coach Jayce Cravens. The team concluded the season with a final win-loss record of 25-8.*



*In their final game of the tournament, SSC freshman guard Deazhon Perkins, of Oklahoma City, led the team in scoring with 24 points.*



*The SSC campus community cheered on the team from afar as the College hosted a watch party of the game live in the E.T. Dunlap Student Union.*

# SSC Students Honored at Statewide Awards Ceremony

Three Seminole State College students and three area high school seniors were recognized at the All-Oklahoma Academic Team and Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Presidents' Tuition Waiver Awards Ceremony on March 28 at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

SSC students Jami Barkhimer, of Wewoka; Abigail Ridley of Tecumseh; and Hannah Ridley, of Tecumseh, were named to the All-Oklahoma Academic Team. Prague High School student Benjamin Foster, Holdenville High School student Carley Hunter and Shawnee High School student Olivia Stevenson were recipients of the OACC President's Tuition Waiver.

Barkhimer's career goal is to become a registered nurse. She is active on campus, lending a hand with the Food Pantry, Giving Tree and spends time volunteering at the nursing home. She has been a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society since 2020.

Abigail Ridley's career goal is to become a college professor. She serves as the PTK honor society Vice President of Leadership, the Psi Beta honor society Treasurer, and is a member of both the Sigma Kappa Delta honor society and the BancFirst Student Advisory Board. She is a member of the SSC Book Club and volunteers at the Friends Help Friends Food Pantry. She also has been a recipient of the President's Honor Roll.

Hannah Ridley also plans to become a college professor upon completion of her higher education. She serves as the



*Six students were honored by SSC at the All-Oklahoma Academic Team and OACC Presidents' Tuition Waiver Awards Ceremony at the State Capitol on March 28. Pictured (left to right): State Representative Danny Williams (R-District 28), Chancellor of Higher Education Allison Garrett, Prague High School student Benjamin Foster, Holdenville High School student Carley Hunter, Shawnee High School student Olivia Stevenson, SSC students Jami Barkhimer, Abigail Ridley, Hannah Ridley, SSC President Lana Reynolds, and State Senator Grant Green (R-District 28).*

PTK honor society Vice President of Scholarship, Psi Beta honor society Vice President, and a member of both the Sigma Kappa Delta honor society and the BancFirst Student Advisory Board. She is a member of the SSC Book Club and volunteers at the Friends Help Friends Food Pantry. She has also been named to the President's Honor Roll.

Foster's career goal is to work in project management. He is a member of the Prague High School band, where he is the percussion section leader. He is active in the school's FFA program, where he participates on their ceremonies team,

skeet shooting team and welding team. He serves on Student Council and has participated in SSC's GEAR UP program for four years.

Hunter aims to be an orthodontist when she completes her degree. She is a member of the Hawks Ambassadors, PTK, Student Council DECA, National Honor Society and is active in e-sports. She is a recipient of the Superintendent's Honor Roll.

Stevenson plans to work in politics and diplomacy when she completes her college degree. She is currently Vice President of Shawnee High School's

Student Council, a member of PTK, a Girl Scouts Gold Award recipient, a Girl Scouts Troop #240 member, plays on the tennis team, a Red Cross volunteer and a page in the Senate Page Program at the Oklahoma Capitol.

The honorees' families and other guests were welcomed to the House Chambers for the ceremony by Oklahoma Speaker of the House Charles McCall (R-District 22). They also were congratulated by Oklahoma State Chancellor of Higher Education Dr. Allison Garrett.

# Native Language Conference to Be Held at SSC

Preserving language is an intricate and vital part of Indigenous communities. Native communities are constantly seeking innovative ways to preserve their language. To continue championing Indigenous communities, the Seminole State College NASNTI Program has been awarded a supplemental grant to aid in the initiative of Native language revivification.

To foster engagement, learning, and promoting Native language, the Seminole State College NASNTI Program will host various events throughout the year. During the month of April, the program will host a Two-Day Native Language Conference. The conference, “How to Become a Native Language Ally,” will be held Tuesday, April 18, and Wednesday, April 19, at 11:00 a.m.

on the campus of Seminole State College in the Jeff Johnson Auditorium and will feature some of the most influential people to discuss language preservation.

On Tuesday, April 18, the panelists include the Supervisor for the Cherokee Language Master/Apprentice Program and event Moderator Kristen (Smith-Snell) Thomas, Chickasaw Citizen, Ezra Johnson, Absentee Shawnee Tribe Language Coordinator, Scott Miller, Director of the Sauk Language Department, Katie Thompson, and English Professor for the University of Georgia, Jim Wilson.

The panelists for Wednesday, April 19, include, Language Director for the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Language Program, Jeremy Fultz, Director of the Osage Language Department, Braxton Redeagle, and Associate Professor and Department



Chair of Cherokee and Indigenous Studies at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, Dr. Candessa Tehee. Also, Chickasaw Princess, Winter Wolfe will begin

the program with a traditional dance. Sign Language interpreters and live captioning services will be available.

## PLC Visits Bureau of Narcotics



*The Seminole State College President's Leadership Class toured the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs in Oklahoma City on March 9. Mark Woodward (left), OBN Public Information and Education Officer, and Agent Anthony Moore (right) spoke with the students about a wide array of activities the OBN tackles, including the monitoring of marijuana grow operations in the state, safe disposal of prescription and illegal substances, as well as various training for officers within OBN.*



*Agent Shaun Manes (left) demonstrated how OBN utilizes drones in investigations.*

# Strategic Plan Approved by Board of Regents

The Seminole State College Board of Regents met for a special meeting on March 27 to review a bid on repairs to the Walkingstick Student Services Center and approve the College's 2023-2028 Strategic Plan.

The meeting opened with a review of the College's financials by Vice President for Fiscal Affairs Melanie Rinehart.

Following the financial report, President Lana Reynolds updated the Board on campus events and personnel changes.

With the first action item on the agenda, the Board discussed repairs needed to the Walkingstick building. Rinehart discussed a bid from Midwest Commercial, LLC for repairs on the building. The repairs focus on the building's doors and foyers. The Board awarded the bid to Midwest Commercial, LLC for \$121,603.

The College's 2023-2028 Strategic Plan was presented to the Board for approval as the second action item on the agenda. In the fall of 2022, the College began work on updating its institutional plan for the next five years. Campus employees, regents, and students met

at a retreat in January to help shape the final plan. With feedback from those meetings and some input from Faculty Senate and the Administrative Council, the College developed its proposed plan for the Board of Regents. The plan includes a renewed focus on stability and sustainability through program expansion and human and capital investment; more service area engagement with local communities, schools and businesses; enhancing the student onboarding process; and bolstering enrollment and retention rates. While the Strategic Plan does not outline every goal for the future of the College, it will serve as a roadmap for strengthening the institution.

On the consent agenda, the Board ratified a contract with TransAct for student payment services. The Board also approved several routine degree program modifications.

Board members present at the meeting were: Marci Donaho, Ryan Franklin, Kim Hyden, Curtis Morgan and Robyn Ready. The next meeting of the SSC Board of Regents is scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2023.



*On- and off-campus stakeholders met in January to shape Seminole State College's 2023-2028 Strategic Plan. The Board of Regents approved the plan at their meeting on March 27.*

## Interscholastic Meet Held on Campus



Students from 31 schools across the state competed in Seminole State College's 49th annual Interscholastic Meet on March 23. Nearly 700 students attended the event.

A trophy was awarded to the top school in each division based on accumulation of points and medal placing.

Preston High School was the winner of the Division I trophy. This year the runner-up was Plainview High School. In Division II, there was a one-point difference between first and second, with Allen High School taking the Division II trophy and Liberty Academy claiming runner-up.

**ENROLL FOR SUMMER AND FALL COURSES TODAY.**

**SET UP AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR ADVISOR.**



## President and Student Read at Elementary School



*Seminole State College President Lana Reynolds and SSC President's Leadership Class student Hailey Wallace, a sophomore from Wellston, were among several community guest readers to visit Wilson Elementary School. Reynolds and Wallace stopped by Mrs. Sonia Scott's third grade class to read "If I Ran the Zoo" by Dr. Seuss on March 2. The reading was part of the national birthday celebration of the children's book author and "Read Across America" week.*

## Honor Society Inducts New Members

Twelve Seminole State College students were inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges on March 22.

Students were selected based on their scholarship, leadership and commitment to the community. The chapter facilitates leadership and scholarship opportunities for its members and organizes campus and community service activities.

Requirements for membership in the honor society include: enrollment at an accredited two-year college with a Phi Theta Kappa chapter and an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher, with a minimum

of 12 credit hours completed.

SSC Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Amanda Estey served as the ceremony's keynote speaker. Dr. Estey is an alumna of Phi Theta Kappa and spoke of the organization's role in her academic and professional journey.

Current student officers Emillia Gates, Abby Ridley, Scotlyn Green, Lorelei Grills, Hannah Ridley, Rya'Lynn Simons and Emily Carpenter spoke of the history and mission of Phi Theta Kappa, and formally inducted the newest members, alongside advisors Dr. Andrew Davis, Associate Professor of Language Arts and Humanities, and Edith

## Trojans Player Welcomes Family and Friends from Netherlands



*Seminole State College freshman pitcher Gio DeGraauw, of Hilversum, Netherlands, was reunited with his father, uncle and two family friends this week. His biggest fans made the long trip to watch a few games in person and experience the sights and sounds of Oklahoma. The group posed for a photo following the Trojan baseball team's 14-4 victory over Cowley County Community College of Arkansas City, Kansas on March 21. Pictured (left to right): Wynand DeGraauw, Gio's uncle; Henk Rosendal, family friend; Gio DeGraauw; Edwin DeGraauw, Gio's father; and Harald Bartleds, family friend.*



Cathey, Director of Financial Assistance.

SSC students inducted at the ceremony were: Wylder Dawn Coleman, of Holdenville;

Kaylee Edwards, of Bridgecreek; Brasen Hackler of Kiowa; Avery Lowe of Ardmore; Taryn Naas of Shawnee;

Bethaney Noble of Amarillo, TX; Macy Marianne Proffer of Shawnee; Olivia Stevenson of Shawnee; Kaitlyn Grace Tate of Murfreesboro, Tennessee; Zarai Velazquez of Holdenville; Hailey Wallace of Wellston; and Brent White of Shawnee.

## High School Counselors and Administrators Visit SSC for Workshop



*Seminole State College welcomed local high school counselors and administrators to campus for a workshop on March 29. During the event, a panel of SSC employees spoke and answered questions regarding academic placement, transcripts and financial aid. The panel featured (pictured left to right) Assistant Professor of Agriculture Wendy Rich, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Amanda Estey, Registrar Sheila Morris, Director of Financial Aid Edie Cathey and Vice President for Fiscal Affairs Melanie Rinehart.*



*Chair of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and former Oklahoma State Attorney General Mike Turpen served as the event's keynote speaker. Following his speech, he met with attendees. Pictured (left to right): Seminole Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Bob Gragg, Carney and Wanette Counselor Val Gokey, Mike Turpen, Varnum Public Schools Superintendent Monte Thompson and Varnum High School Principal Jon Marc Hadley.*

## Nursing Students Present at Wewoka High School

Seminole State College nursing students recently visited Wewoka High School to present to students about general wellness and personal care. This was an opportunity for the nursing students to practice the skills involved with educating the public.

"This can be a hard skill to master and teaching in a public setting can be very

scary. Being able to teach in a variety of settings is important for nurses to learn," Assistant Professor of Health Sciences Ann Benson said. "We are so appreciative of Wewoka Public Schools and for allowing us to come."

Each high school student in attendance was provided a goodie bag of wellness items from the nursing students.



*SSC Nursing students who presented at the Wewoka High School were (pictured left to right): Courtney Mathis, Connor Martin, Dusten Lancaster, Gisela Williams and Christy Bailey.*