

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE COLLEGIAN

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SPRING RECOGNITION BANQUET

More than 450 guests attended this year's event, celebrating alumni, current students, and employees.

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93rd COMMENCEMENT

Graduating students will be honored May 8 in the Raymond Harber Field House.

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NJCAA REGION II TOURNAMENTS

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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. You can also view our collection of archives, which includes past issues of *The Collegian*.



NEVER MISS A GAME OF **SSC SPORTS**

Students and employees can attend every SSC athletic event for free with a campus ID. View sports schedules at sscathletics.com.

Strong Showing at SSC FFA Interscholastic Meet



Seminole State College hosted its eighth annual SSC FFA Interscholastic Meet on Thursday, April 9, welcoming more than 1,800 high school students from 134 schools across Oklahoma. Associate Professor of Agriculture Wendy Rich and the SSC Aggie Club organized the event. Pictured, participants gather in the Raymond Harber Field House as the event begins.

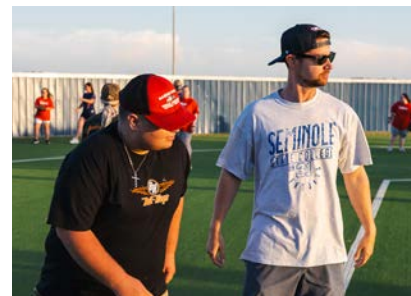


Students take part in the land judging competition at Duncan Farms during Seminole State College's FFA event.

SSC Student-Athletes Volunteer with A League of Their Own



Members of the SSC women's soccer and softball teams, alongside SSC employees, volunteered at A League of Their Own's game on April 27 at the Avedis Foundation Adaptive Field. The co-ed softball league provides individuals with cognitive or physical disabilities the opportunity to play baseball.





Spring Banquet Draws More Than 450 Guests

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation hosted its 31st Annual Spring Recognition Banquet on Thursday, April 30, in the Utterback Ballroom of the Enoch Kelly Haney Center. More than 450 guests attended the event, which serves as a major fundraiser and recognition ceremony honoring alumni, employees and students. The event raised nearly \$60,000.

This year, Victoria Brooks and Carole Carter were inducted into the SSC Alumni Hall of Fame. The Distinguished Service Award was presented to longtime SSC Medical Laboratory Technology Program Director Perthena Latchaw.

Latchaw devoted 30 years of service to Seminole State College, serving from 1982 to 2012 as Director of the Medical Laboratory Technology Program. During her tenure, she led the program's accreditation efforts, taught coursework and maintained clinical affiliate partnerships that helped prepare generations of students for careers in laboratory science. She also made an impact through professional leadership and global outreach, including work as a consultant with the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

Brooks, a Seminole State College alumna, attended SSC from 2010 to 2012 and earned an Associate of Applied Science with a healthcare focus. She currently serves as a Surgical Physician Assistant in the Congenital Heart Surgery Division at Oklahoma Children's Hospital – OU Health, where she is part of a specialized team providing care for infants, children and adults with complex structural heart disease.

Carter attended then Seminole Junior College from 1974 to 1976 and was a member of the 1976 national championship women's basketball team. She went on to build a career in education, coaching and service that spanned more than four decades. Carter served as a teacher, counselor and coach at schools across Oklahoma and was inducted into the Oklahoma Girls Basketball Hall of Fame in 2014.

Five students were recognized as Outstanding Students of the Year by their academic divisions: Savannah Averitt of Norman, Business and Education Division; Lilly Jones of Prague, Health Sciences Division; Braden Young of Holdenville, Language Arts and Humanities Division; Gavin Wil-

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Distinguished Service Award honoree Perthena Latchaw visits with former Seminole State College President Dr. Jim Cook prior to the Spring Recognition Banquet. Latchaw, retired Director of the SSC Medical Laboratory Technology Program, was honored for her 30 years of service to the College.



Seminole State College inducted Victoria Brooks (left) and Carole Carter (right) into the SSC Alumni Hall of Fame at the event.

Williams of Edmond, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Division; and Christian Herlehy of Shawnee, Social Sciences Division.

Campus organizational leaders were also recognized, including Faculty Senate President Paul Juhasz, Professional Staff Council Chair Alicia Ryan, Classified Staff Association President Tisha Simon and Student Government Association President Asia Johnson.

Employees honored for milestone service included Mechell Downey, Director of Board Relations and Administrative Operations, 25 years; Teresa Norman, IT Technician, 25 years;

Dr. Bill Knowles, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, 20 years; and Kelli McBride, Assistant Professor of English and Language Arts and Humanities Division Chair, 20 years.

Retirees recognized at the event included Julie Hix, Comptroller; Tina Savage, Talent Search Advisor; and Dr. Ricky Streight, Associate Professor of STEM.

The SSC Educational Foundation, established in 1972, supports scholarships, faculty initiatives and campus development. For more information or to make a contribution, visit ssok.edu/foundation.



Pictured left to right are: Savannah Averitt, Business and Education; Lilly Jones, Health Sciences; Braden Young, Language Arts and Humanities; Gavin Williams, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; and Christian Herlehy, Social Sciences.



SSC recognized campus organizational leaders during the event. Pictured left to right are: Paul Juhasz, Faculty Senate President; Alicia Ryan, Professional Staff Council Chair; Tisha Simon, Classified Staff Association President; and Asia Johnson, Student Government Association President.



SSC recognized employees for milestone years of service during the banquet. Pictured left to right are: Mechell Downey, Director of Board Relations and Administrative Operations, 25 years; Teresa Norman, IT Technician, 25 years; Kelli McBride, Assistant Professor of English and Language Arts and Humanities Division Chair, 20 years; and Dr. Bill Knowles, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, 20 years.



SSC honored three retirees during the event. Pictured left to right are: Julie Hix, Comptroller; Tina Savage, Talent Search Advisor; and Dr. Ricky Streight, Associate Professor of STEM.



Among the guests celebrating SSC at the Spring Recognition Banquet were (standing, left to right) former Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Brad Walck, former Trojan Baseball Coach Lloyd Simmons, former counselor Cynthia Yerby, former Athletic Director Dr. Thurman Edwards; and (seated left to right) 2026 Alumni Hall of Fame inductee Carole Carter, former Belles Coach Dixie Woodall and current Belles Coach Rita Story-Schell.

SSC Board Chair to Deliver Keynote at SSC's 93rd Commencement

Seminole State College will hold its 93rd Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 8 at 10 a.m. in the Raymond Harber Field House on campus. The event will recognize students completing coursework requirements for their degree programs.

Chair of the Seminole State College Board of Regents Marci Donaho will serve as this year's keynote speaker. Donaho is the former Executive Director of the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum, a position she held for over 25 years prior to her retirement in 2022. She also spent 28 years as elementary classroom teacher in public schools in Arizona and Oklahoma.

She recently completed 10 years of service as a member of the Seminole Public Schools Board of Education.

An active civic leader in community and state organizations, she has served

as President of the Seminole Chamber of Commerce and the Seminole Rotary Club.

She is a graduate of Leadership Seminole and of Class XII of the Leadership Oklahoma Program. She was a three-time finalist for the Journal Record's "Woman of the Year" recognition and was named Seminole's "Citizen of the Year" in 2002.

Donaho will be stepping down from the SSC Board of Regents on June 30, 2026 as her current seven-year term expires. She was appointed by three different Governors to serve on the SSC Board – giving her the distinction of being the longest-serving Regent in the history of the institution.

The ceremony will begin with an invocation by Ben Little, who serves as Student Success Specialist with the college's NASNTI (Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institution)



*Chair of SSC Board of Regents
Marci Donaho*

Grant. SSC President Lana Reynolds will deliver a welcome address. Following presentation of the degree candidates by Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Bill Knowles, President Reynolds will confer the degrees.

Due to venue capacity, overflow seating will be available in the Jeff

Johnston Fine Arts Center Auditorium. The ceremony will be livestreamed in the overflow area and on the College's official YouTube page.

Graduates of the Nursing Program will also participate in a Pinning Ceremony at 12 p.m. in the Utterback Ballroom, located in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center.

Campus offices will be closed to the public on the morning of May 8 to allow staff to assist with commencement preparations. The SSC Bookstore and The Flower Box will have pop-up shops on site before and after the event. Offices will reopen at 1:30 p.m.

For more information about SSC's commencement activities, contact the Office of Admissions at (405) 382-9230.

SSC Honors Denim Harris with Jersey Retirement



SSC Head Baseball Coach Mack Chambers and members of the baseball team present Denim Harris' parents, Toy Harper and David Harris, with a framed No. 4 jersey during a jersey retirement ceremony April 4 at Lloyd Simmons Field. Harris, an outfielder on the SSC baseball team and a graduate of Mansfield Timberview High School, passed away following a car accident on Oct. 16, 2025, at age 18.

SSC to Host NJCAA Region II Baseball Tournament



Seminole State College will host the NJCAA Region II Division I Baseball Tournament May 7-10 at Lloyd Simmons Field, located in the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex. This marks the third consecutive year SSC has hosted the tournament.

The Trojans enter the tournament as the No. 1 seed, with a 19-5 conference record. The Region II championship will advance to the South Central

District Championship, scheduled for May 14-16.

The tournament opens Thursday, May 7, with No. 4 Rose State facing No. 5 Eastern Oklahoma at noon. No. 2 Connors State will take on No. 3 NEO A&M at 3:30 p.m. SSC will play the winner of Game 1 at 7 p.m. Thursday.

Additional games will be held on Friday, May 8, and Saturday, May 9.

An if-necessary championship game is scheduled for 1 p.m. Sunday, May 10. The higher-seeded team will serve as the home team throughout the tournament.

Local support has once again been integral to hosting the event. SSC Business and Industry Director Danny Morgan has coordinated with the City of Seminole, local banks and the Seminole Chamber of Commerce

to organize volunteers and logistics. Local support has once again been integral to hosting the tournament. SSC's Business and Industry Director Danny Morgan has coordinated with the City of Seminole, local banks, and the Chamber of Commerce to organize volunteers and logistics.

For live updates and livestream information, visit sscok.edu.

Softball Earns Top Seed in Region II Tournament

The Seminole State College softball team will compete in the NJCAA Region II Division I Tournament May 13-17 at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Softball Complex in Shawnee.

The Trojans enter the tournament as the No. 1 seed after finishing conference play with a 21-1 record. SSC holds an overall record of 45-4 on the season and will not play until Thursday, May 14.

The full tournament bracket has not been finalized, as Region II teams are still completing regular-season competition this week. Other teams in the Region II standings include Rose State College, Eastern Okla-



homa State College, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Connors State College, Northern Oklahoma College-Tonkawa and Northern Oklahoma College-Enid.

SSC recently saw its 39-game winning streak come to an end on May 2 with a loss to Eastern Oklahoma State College. Despite the setback, the Trojans have remained among the

top programs in the region, posting a .918 overall winning percentage and a .955 conference winning percentage this season.

Through 49 games, SSC has scored 407 runs, hit 70 home runs and recorded a .394 team batting average, .458 on-base percentage and .640 slugging percentage. The Trojans are 22-3 at home, 19-1 on the road and 4-0 in neutral-site contests.

Updates to the Region II Tournament bracket and game times will be announced once finalized at sscok.edu.

Coates, Hooten Appointed to SSC Board of Regents

Seminole residents Haley Coates and David Hooten have been appointed by Governor Kevin Stitt to serve as members of the Seminole State College Board of Regents. Their appointments were presented by Senator Grant Green and confirmed by the Oklahoma State Senate Education Committee at the State Capitol on April 28.

Coates will begin her term immediately. Hooten will succeed current SSC Board of Regents Chair Marci Donaho beginning July 1, 2026.

“We are pleased to welcome Haley Coates and David Hooten to the Seminole State College Board of Regents,” SSC President Lana Reynolds said. “Both bring strong business backgrounds, deep community connections and a shared commitment to the continued growth of Seminole State College. Their leadership and service will be valuable assets as we continue to support and serve our stu-

dents, employees and community.”

Coates is the owner of HC Investments and Downtown Floral Co. in Seminole. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Central Oklahoma and is a graduate of Leadership Seminole Class of 2022. Coates is a member of the Seminole Chamber of Commerce, Fostering Little Angels and ESA. She previously served as a trustee for the SSC Educational Foundation. She and her husband, Harry Coates Jr., have eight children.

Hooten is the owner of Hooten Oil Co. He graduated from Seminole High School in 1979 and earned a degree in business administration and accounting from Anderson University in Anderson, Indiana, in 1983. He is a Certified Lubrication Specialist through the Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers. Hooten and his wife, Teri, have three children.



Gov. Kevin Stitt has appointed Haley Coates and David Hooten to serve as members of the Seminole State College Board of Regents. Their appointments were presented by Sen. Grant Green and confirmed by the Oklahoma State Senate Education Committee at the State Capitol on April 28. Pictured (from left): Former State Senator Harry Coates, Haley Coates, State Senator Grant Green, David Hooten, Teri Hooten and SSC President Lana Reynolds.

Chamber of Commerce Honors Two SSC Employees

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized during the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on April 9. Director of Physical Plant Clint Robertson was honored as Staff Member of the Month, and Language Arts and Humanities Division Chair Kelli McBride was named Faculty Member of the Month.

The Seminole Chamber of Com-

merce Education Committee, along with the Lions Club and Kontoor Brands/Wrangler, recognizes SSC employees several times during Forum each year.

Robertson has worked at SSC for nearly four years. As Director of Physical Plant, he oversees campus maintenance, coordinates improvement projects and helps ensure campus events are set up and ready to go.

Before joining SSC, he worked at TDK Ferrites Corp. in Shawnee for 32 years.

McBride has served SSC for 29 years, including nine years as an adjunct instructor. She has held several campus leadership roles and currently serves as Language Arts and Humanities Division Chair. She also co-sponsors Sigma Kappa Delta and advises The Muse literary anthology.



LAH Division Chair Kelli McBride (left) and Director of Physical Plant Clint Robertson (right)