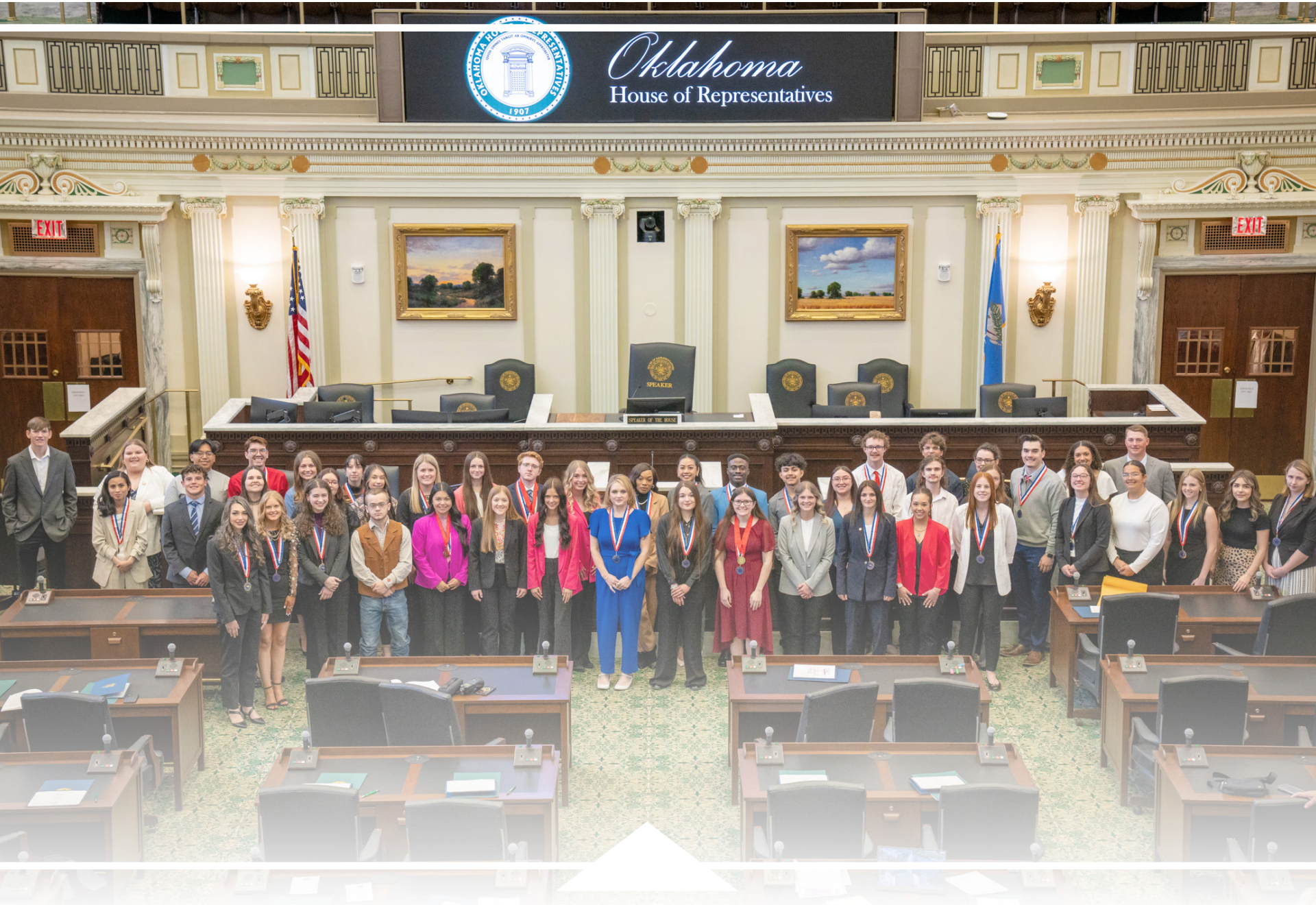


SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE COLLEGIAN

APRIL 2024 | SEMINOLE, OKLA. | VOL. LIII • ISSUE 8



SPRING BANQUET

The Educational Foundation will host its annual event on April 25. [Page 5](#)

ON THE COVER

Local students are recognized at the Capitol. [Page 4](#)

INTERSCHOLASTIC MEET

Students from across the state compete at Interscholastic Meet. [Page 7](#)

Submitting to The Collegian

"The Seminole State Collegian" is published during the fall and spring semesters by the Seminole State College Office of Media Relations, under the direction of Josh Hutton. The staff reserves the right to edit submitted material for spelling and style. Consideration is given to all submitted material, but submission does not ensure publication. No anonymous material will be considered. All views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of Seminole State College. "The Collegian" is distributed on the SSC campus and mailed to more than 300 friends of

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EVENTS MIND OVER MATTER: STRESS MANAGEMENT SEMINAR HELD AT SSC



Seminole State College hosted a stress management seminar on March 27 in the Jeff Johnston Fine Arts Center. More than 70 students, faculty and staff learned tips and tricks for coping with stress and managing mental health challenges. The event featured guest speaker Stephanie Hassell (pictured), a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor and SSC grad who currently works at Hope Revealed Behavioral Health Center, Inc. The event was sponsored by the SSC Help Center, which provides mental health resources and counseling services on campus.



SSC, THE ARTS, & ME

**A showcase of
SSC, Seminole,
and
surrounding
area artists.**

**Wednesday
April 17, 2024**

9:00am - 1:00pm
SSC Cook Commons
(SSC Courtyard)
Indoors if inclement weather

Featuring a recent gift of
Native American art to the SSC Campus.

Sponsored by:
Student Support Services
STEM Student Support Services
SSC Art Club

For More Details
Sarah Ledford
s.ledford@sscok.edu
Pieces for show & sale.



SHS STUDENT TO GRADUATE WITH ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Originally published in the March 12, 2024 edition of The Seminole Producer. Reprinted with permission.



Seminole High School senior Naomi Holden will be the first SHS student to graduate high school and earn her associate degree at SSC simultaneously.

In an outstanding achievement, Seminole High School Senior, Naomi Holden, is set to make his-tory by graduating not only from high school but also from Seminole State Col-lege with her Associ-ate de-gree this May.

Naomi will become the first student from Seminole High School to accom-plish this incredible feat, show-casing her dedication and hard work. Juggling high school and college courses simulta-neously is no easy task, making Naomi's suc-cess even more commend-able.

Naomi's journey as a concurrent high school and college student at Seminole State College of Oklahoma has been a

transformative experience for her. Pur-su-ing an Associate of Arts in Sociology, Naomi is on track to graduate in May 2024. Her passion for creating a safe and inclusive environ-ment for all individu-als drives her educational pur-suits.

With plans to further her studies at the University of Oklahoma in Socio-logy/Criminology, Naomi aims to uti-lize her knowledge to advocate for policy chang-es, raise awareness, and establish support systems to empower victims and communities for a brighter future. Her aspirations re-lect a deep commitment to making a positive impact on society.

PANEL DISCUSSES NATIVE LANGUAGE AT SSC EVENT



Seminole State College hosted "Native American Language in the Workplace: A Roundtable Discussion" on March 26 in the Jeff Johnston Fine Arts Auditorium. The event was sponsored by SSC's Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) grant program, which is 100 percent federally funded in the amount of \$450,000 annually. Pictured (left to right): Director of the Sac & Fox Language Department Katie Thompson, Matriarch Co-Creator Sarah Adams, Miss Indian Oklahoma Faithlyn Seawright, U.S. Department of State Foreign Service Officer Jennifer Barnes-Kerns and MICA Group CEO Della Warrior.

PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM READS TO KINDERGARTEN CLASS



Seminole State College Communications Coordinator Josh Hutton (left) and Web and Multimedia Coordinator Brooks Nickell (right) read "The Bad Seed" by Jory John to Danielle Morgan's kindergarten class at the Prague Early Childhood Center on March 11. Bringing readers into classrooms is part of a national effort to raise awareness about the importance, value and fun of reading. Such reading programs are designed to motivate kids to read and celebrate the diversity in communities and across the country.

LOCAL STUDENTS HONORED AT STATEWIDE AWARDS CEREMONY



Five 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): Chancellor of Higher Education Allison Garrett, SSC sophomore Benjamin Parker, Prague High School student Ethan Rich, Bowlegs High School student Dillon Sullivan, Seminole High School student Hannah Upchurch and SSC President Lana Reynolds. Not pictured but also named to the All-Oklahoma Academic Team was SSC sophomore Ryan Carlisle.

Two 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 26 at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

SSC students Benjamin Parker, of Shawnee, and Ryan Carlisle, of Foss, were named to the All-Oklahoma Academic Team. Prague High School student Ethan Rich, Bowlegs High School student Dillon Sullivan and Seminole High School student Hannah Upchurch were recipients of the OACC President's Tuition Waiver.

Parker is a sophomore at SSC, majoring in History and Government. He is the President of the Student Government Association and a member of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) honor society.

Upon graduation, he plans to pursue a degree in Political Science at the University of Central Oklahoma.

Carlisle is a sophomore at SSC, majoring in Business. He is a member of the men's golf team, President's Leadership Class and the PTK honor society. When he completes his bachelor's degree, he plans to coach and teach with the ultimate goal of becoming a school administrator.

Rich will graduate from Prague High School this May. He plays baseball and is a member of the National Honor Society and the Vice President of Prague's FFA chapter. He also was a member of BancFirst's Student Board, a HOBY leadership camp delegate and a Boys State Delegate. After completing his bachelor's degree, he plans to have his own cattle operation.

Sullivan is a senior at Bowlegs High

School. He is active in athletics and drama. He was named Salutatorian of his class. His career goal is to become a teacher and coach.

Upchurch is a senior at Seminole High School. She is the captain of the tennis team and has served as a Goddard Youth Camp counselor for four years. Her career goal is to become a teacher.

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.

The All-Oklahoma Academic Team recognizes high achieving college students who demonstrate academic excellence and intellectual rigor combined with leadership and service. The

All-Oklahoma Academic Team Program provides statewide recognition to outstanding two-year college students. To be eligible, students must be nominated by their college president. Nominees must be eligible to graduate during the 2023-2024 academic year and have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5.

The OACC Tuition Waiver Award is a separate award from the All-Oklahoma Academic Team. The selection process for the OACC Tuition Award winners is at the sole discretion of the college president or their designee. Each year presidents select deserving students from across the state to receive a \$1,000 tuition waiver, which may be applied to tuition for the upcoming academic school year at \$500 per semester. Nominees may be a graduating high school senior or attend a community college.

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION TO HOST ANNUAL SPRING BANQUET

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation will host its 29th Annual Spring Banquet on Thursday, April 25, at 6:30 p.m. in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on campus. The event recognizes accomplishments by alumni, employees and students.

Former students Anthony Bowie and Doug Ogle will be inducted into the SSC Alumni Hall of Fame. Recipients are selected for their achievements while attending the College, as well as the contributions they have made in their professional careers. Nominations for inductees are accepted each year from faculty, staff, SSC Educational Foundation trustees and the public.

In addition to the Alumni Hall of Fame, former longtime SSC employee Dr. Thurman Edwards will receive the Distinguished Service Award.

Bowie attended then Seminole Junior College from 1982 to 1984. While at the College, he was an exceptional basketball player. Bowie, alongside teammates Ray Alford and William Childs, were known as the “ABC Gang” and led the Trojans to second-place finish in the 1983 NJCAA National Tournament.

Bowie then played basketball for the University of Oklahoma and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Communications in 1986. He would be drafted by the Houston Rockets in the third round of the NBA draft that year.

He would go on to play eight years in the NBA, playing for the Houston Rockets, San Antonio Spurs, New Jersey Nets and most notably the Orlando Magic. He spent five seasons with the Magic. Bowie provided the Magic with a reliable, high level of play off the bench, and he was often used to guard the op-

ponent’s top offensive player. He was part of the Magic’s 1995 run in the NBA Finals, where the team fell short against the Rockets.

He also played professional basketball in Europe for 8 years, playing for teams in Greece, Italy, Spain, Lithuania and Russia.

Following his retirement, Bowie worked as an educator for nine years. Now he is enjoying retirement, spending time with his grandchildren and playing in several charity golf tournaments throughout the year. He resides in Orlando, Florida.

Ogle graduated from Seminole High School in 1989 and attended SSC until 1991. While at SSC, he was the President of the Baptist Student Union from 1989 to 1991 and a manager for the men’s basketball team. He completed his bachelor’s degree in Physical Education at Oklahoma State University. He earned his master’s degree in Educational Administration in 2005 at Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

From 1996 to 2013, Ogle worked as a teacher, coach and administrator at Blackwell Public Schools. He went on to serve as the Assistant Superintendent of Guthrie Public Schools from 2013 to 2023. In 2023, he was named the Superintendent of Perkins-Tyron Public Schools.

He is a 2022 graduate of the Oklahoma State School Boards Association Emerging Leaders program. He is a three-time winner of the District 3 Assistant Superintendent of the Year in 2018, 2020 and 2023. He is also actively involved in the community. He is a past President of the Guthrie Chamber of Commerce, a board member for the

United Way and the Greater Oklahoma City YMCA and a facilitator of Leadership Guthrie. He resides in Guthrie.

Dr. Edwards worked at SSC for 28 years. He graduated from Seminole High School in 1962 and earned his bachelor’s degree at Kansas University. He completed his Master of Education at Northeastern State University in 1969 and his Doctorate of Education at OSU in 1974.

Prior to joining the staff at SSC, he worked for three years in OSU’s wellness department and was a Wellness Instructor and Physiology Lab Assistant for four years at Northern Oklahoma College. He held various roles at SSC, including Golf Coach, Wellness Chairperson and spent 19 years as the Athletic Director.

He is an inductee of the Seminole High School Hall of Fame. He is a past Vice President of the State of Oklahoma Advisory Board on Health and Wellness, and is the current President of T.A.E. Oil Inc.

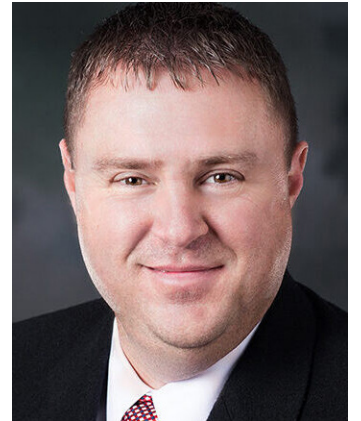
He previously served on the City of Seminole’s Park Board, and he was a member of the Seminole Lions Club and the Grand National Quail Club of Enid. He is also a past President of the Seminole High School Alumni Association. He currently resides in Jones.

Campus organizational leaders, outstanding students, faculty and staff reaching milestone years of employment and retirees will also be recognized at the event.

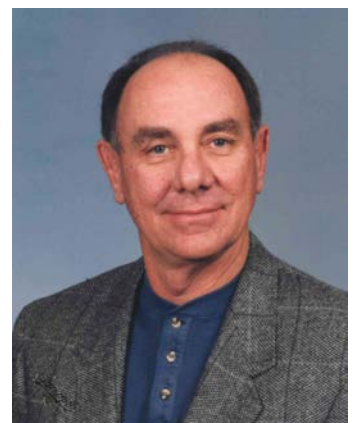
For information on sponsorships or to purchase individual tickets to the event, contact the SSC President’s Office at 405-382-9200.



Anthony Bowie



Doug Ogle



Dr. Thurman Edwards

ATTORNEY GENERAL DRUMMOND VISITS SSC



Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond was the featured speaker at the March Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on March 14. Drummond spoke about the priorities of his office to clamp down on the state's epidemic of illegal marijuana operations and associated criminal activities.



Members of the local legal community Associate District Judge for Seminole County Brett Butner, Seminole City Attorney Brad Carter and Attorney Ryan Pitts visit with Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond following his presentation at Forum.

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 March 14. Assistant Professor of Life Sciences Truitt Eubank was honored as Faculty Member of the Month and Bookstore E-Commerce Specialist Lesley Ward as Staff Member of the Month.

The Seminole Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, along with the Lions Club and Kontoor Brands/Wrangler, recognize SSC employees several times during Forum each year. Individuals are nominated from across the campus and chosen by SSC administrators to receive the honor.

Eubank has worked at SSC for two years. He teaches Principles of Biology, General Biology, Environment Science and Botany.

Eubank received a bachelor's degree in

Biology from Howard Payne University, a bachelor's degree in Agronomy from Texas A&M University, a master's degree in Education from Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASA) and a master's degree in Chemistry from SFASU.

He serves on the Social Committee within the SSC Faculty Senate. He is a five-time campus and county Teacher of the Year in Angelina County, Texas, a two-time Regional Teacher of the Year finalist in Region 7, and Texas Teacher of the Year finalist.

Eubank resides in Shawnee with his wife, Maggie. They have two children, Kirsten and Kirbe, and eight grandchildren.

Ward has worked at SSC for two years. As the E-Commerce Specialist for the bookstore, she maintains the bookstore website and assists with departmental and merchandise purchasing for campus



The Seminole Chamber of Commerce recognized Assistant Professor of Life Sciences Truitt Eubank (left) as the Faculty Member of the Month at their Forum on March 14. SSC President Lana Reynolds (right) presented the award.



President Reynolds (left) presents Bookstore E-Commerce Specialist Lesley Ward with the Staff Member of the Month award at the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on March 14.

needs.

She resides in Tecumseh. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, writing, painting and gardening.

"I really appreciate my daughter, Kay-

la, and her husband, Sadge, for taking me in after moving here three years ago until I found a home to buy. That's how I found my job at SSC," Ward said.

INTERSCHOLASTIC MEET HELD AT SSC



Nearly 600 high school students from 28 schools across the state competed in SSC's 50th annual Interscholastic Meet on March 28.



In between rounds, participants enjoyed making graffiti art on displays in the Cook Commons. The graffiti art was organized by the SSC Art Club and the Seminole Arts Council. SSC Assistant Professor of Art Lynette Atchley assisted students as they made their own works of art.

Students from 28 schools across the state competed in Seminole State College's 50th annual Interscholastic Meet on March 28. Nearly 600 students attended the event.

Individual entries were separated into two divisions. Division I was composed of students from schools classified as 3A, 4A and 5A. Students from 2A and A class schools competed in Division II.

Exams were administered to students in 12 different subject areas during morning and early-afternoon testing sessions. Four art categories were offered as well:

sculpture, painting, drawing and best in show. The top three winners within each subject were awarded medals.

A trophy was awarded to the top school in each division based on accumulation of points and medal placing. Preston High School was the Division I Sweepstakes Champion. This year the runner-up was Morris High School. In Division II, Paden High School was the Sweepstakes Champion, and Bowlegs High School clinched runner-up.

A full list of winners can be found at sscok.edu/news.

LEADERSHIP STUDENTS TOUR USA SOFTBALL COMPLEX



Seminole State College President's Leadership Class members toured the USA Softball Hall of Fame Stadium on March 14 in Oklahoma City. Concessions and Special Events Manager Molly Greene (left) showed students the field as well as the USA Softball Hall of Fame and Museum.



While at the stadium, Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell met with students and informed them about sports tourism in the state.



Students also heard from Dr. Tina Floyd (left), the owner of the professional softball team the OKC Spark. Dr. Floyd spoke about gender equity and opportunities in professional sports. SSC President Lana Reynolds (right) presented Dr. Floyd with an SSC softball shirt following the owner's presentation.

SSC AND TOURISM COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP HONORED

Seminole State College and the Seminole Tourism Council were among colleges, organizations and businesses honored during a Business Partnership Excellence Awards Luncheon held March 7 at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

For the past 25 years, the Seminole Tourism Council has supported projects aimed at attracting visitors to Seminole and boosting the local economy. This includes funding more than 100 events, programs, building projects and marketing activities. Over the last decade, the Council has directed funds to support the creation, development, operation and improvements for SSC's Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex. This \$12 million facility has been a catalyst for other economic development –

including helping stimulate the building of a new housing addition, a hotel, two restaurants and a family fun center.

Initially, the Council matched college funds to support a position designed to help plan the complex and recruit tournaments and events. On subsequent occasions, the Council funded specific projects at the field, such as enhancing the soccer field, fencing the property, purchasing sod for walkway areas and purchasing materials for additional parking lots.

“We are so honored to have our partnership with the Seminole Tourism Council recognized through this awards program. They have been an integral part to the success of the sports complex,” SSC President Lana Reynolds said.



The partnership between Seminole State College and the Seminole Tourism Council was honored at the Regents Business Partnership Excellence Awards held on March 7 at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. Pictured (left to right): SSC Rural Business and Resources Director Danny Morgan, SSC Director of Community Relations Kim Pringle, Tourism Council Member Marci Donabo, CEO of the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Amy Britt, Chancellor for Higher Education Allison Garrett, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Regent Ann Holloway, OSRHE Chair Jack Sherry, SSC President Lana Reynolds, Seminole City Manager Steve Saxon and Tourism Council Member Mitch Enos.

SSC HOSTS RETIREMENT RECEPTION FOR FISCAL AFFAIRS EMPLOYEE



Seminole State College hosted a retirement reception for Fiscal Affairs Administrative Assistant Carol Landes in the E.T. Dunlap Student Union on March 28. Co-workers, family and friends gathered to celebrate her career and wish her well on her retirement. Landes' last day at SSC was March 29. She was employed at SSC for nine years in her role as the Administrative Assistant for Fiscal Affairs. She is a graduate of Shawnee High School and currently resides in Shawnee with her husband, Rick. Prior to working at SSC, she worked for Wal-Mart for 17 years, serving as a store manager. She looks forward to traveling and gardening more during her retirement.



BOARD OF REGENTS AWARDS EMERITUS STATUS TO FORMER VP



Dr. Linda Goeller was awarded emeritus status at the SSC Board of Regents meeting on March 28. Pictured (left to right): SSC Board of Regents Chair Kim Hyden, Former Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Goeller and President Lana Reynolds.

The Seminole State College Board of Regents approved two bids for construction projects on campus, approved entering a contract for fleet management and awarded emeritus status to former Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Goeller at their meeting on March 28.

During her report to the Board, President Lana Reynolds discussed campus events and personnel changes.

With the first item of business, the Board deliberated on a proposal from Dave Haynie LLC for the renovation of a classroom in the Haney Center. This renovation will establish a simulation nursing lab and is made possible through a federal Congressionally-directed appropriation awarded to the College in support of its nursing program. The Board approved the bid for the amount of \$199,850.

The second item on the agenda pertained to the review of a bid for an addi-

tional construction project on campus. The College administration recommended a \$53,323 bid from Affinity Corp. to develop a secure parking area dedicated to the College's motor pool.

Then the Board approved a contract with Enterprise FM Trust for fleet management, addressing the institution's transportation needs. Enterprise will help the College liquidate its aging vehicle fleet and purchase new vehicles. Through the agreement the College will be able to replace vehicles approximately every five years. The contract includes roadside assistance and all new vehicles will be under warranty reducing SSC's maintenance costs.

Concluding the meeting's action items, the Board awarded emeritus status to former Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Linda Goeller.

"Dr. Goeller's tenure, marked by her significant contributions as a faculty member, Division

Chair, and administrator, made such a positive impact on our institution. We appreciate the Board awarding emeritus status to this deserving past employee," President Reynolds said.

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.

She earned her Ph.D. in Professional Studies/Mathematics Education from Oklahoma State University, her M.Ed. in Mathematics Education from Northeastern State University, and her B.S. in Accounting from Oklahoma State University.

For three years, she served on the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Council on Instruction. On the Oklahoma Council of Teachers of Mathematics Board, she represents community colleges. She served on a number of committees on the

SSC campus, including the Mathematics Division Degree Program Evaluation committee, Student Success Committee, and she chaired the Assessment of Student Learning Committee from 2014-2021.

She also received the Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Award at the 2019 American Association of Community Colleges annual convention in Orlando, Florida. The award is given to outstanding instructors who demonstrate a passion for classroom learning, show a willingness to support students both inside and outside of the classroom, and go above and beyond what is required to ensure the academic success of their students.

Board members present at the meeting were: Chair Kim Hyden, Marci Donaho, Curtis Morgan, Ryan Pitts and Robyn Ready. The next meeting of the SSC Board of Regents is scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2024.

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