

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE COLLEGIAN

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Submitting to The Collegian

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NATIVE LANGUAGE IN THE WORKPLACE

A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

TUESDAY, MARCH 26TH, 2024

11:00AM - 12:15PM

JEFF JOHNSTON AUDITORIUM

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

NASNTI is 100% federally funded in the amount of \$450,000 annually.

EVENTS SSC TALENT SEARCH STUDENTS CHEER ON THE THUNDER



The SSC Talent Search/FOCUS Program attended the Oklahoma City Thunder vs. Sacramento Kings game on Feb. 11. Forty-four staff and students representing 10 different area high schools were able to enjoy the 127-113 Thunder win from the catered Sonic Patio suite. For more information about the Talent Search Program, please visit sscok.edu/sponsored-grant-programs/talent-search or call 405-382-9709.



Seminole High School student Nebemiah Harge and SSC student Mahaylia Harge cheer on the Thunder on Feb. 11.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Stay up-to-date on campus events by visiting sscok.edu/events.

SSC DELEGATION ATTENDS HIGHER ED DAY



Seminole State College students, employees and community supporters joined colleges across the state at Higher Education Day at the State Capitol on Feb. 8.

A large delegation of campus and community leaders representing Seminole State College attended Higher Education Day at the Capitol in Oklahoma City Thursday, Feb. 8. The event, sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE), is held annually to demonstrate the value and importance of higher education in the state.

To begin the day, 21 SSC President's Leadership Class students visited the offices of several legislators and spoke with them.

At lunch, SSC President Lana Reynolds introduced elected officials who represent communities in the College's service area. State Senator Grant Green and Representatives Kevin Wallace, Dell Kerbs, Danny Sterling and Danny Williams spoke to the SSC delegation about their support of higher education and their outlook on the legislative session.

Students also heard from OSRHE Chair Jack Sherry and the Administrative Director of the Courts Jari Askins.

In the afternoon, students and personnel from higher education institutions across the state gathered to listen to Governor Kevin Stitt, Speaker of the House Charles McCall, Sen. Adam Pugh, Rep. Mark McBride, State Regents Chair Sherry and Chancellor Allison Garrett.

"Students, faculty and staff from Oklahoma's public colleges and universities came together at our State Capitol to highlight the value of a college degree," Garrett said. "Over half of the top 100 occupations identified as critical for our state require an associate degree or higher, including the top 29 highest paying jobs. Investing in higher education drives economic opportunity for individual Oklahomans and strengthens the workforce pipeline for our vibrant business community."



SSC community supporters joined students for Higher Ed Day activities at the Capitol. Pictured left to right are: Larry Smith, Lana Reynolds, Doug Humphreys, Kim Hyden, Robyn Ready, Dr. Bill Knowles, Melanie Rinehart, Dr. Donna Hardin, Jim Hardin, Dr. Rebecca Kennedy, Harrel Kenedy, Karel Brewster, and Andy Tucker.

SSC NURSING GRADS ACHIEVE PERFECT PASS RATE



December graduates of the Seminole State College nursing program achieved a 100 percent pass rate on their NCLEX exams.

December 2023 graduates of the Seminole State College nursing program recently achieved a 100 percent pass rate on their National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

The NCLEX is an exam used to determine if recently graduated nursing students are safe to practice. Nurses are required to pass the NCLEX to earn licensure and legally practice nursing. In 2022, the Oklahoma Board of Nursing reported that the average pass rate of the NCLEX in the state was 78.67 percent, while the national average was 79.93 percent.

“We are so proud of the hard work and determination of these students,” SSC President Lana Reynolds said. “Our nursing faculty equip our graduates with the knowledge, skills and values they need to provide high-quality care to

their patients.”

May graduates of the SSC nursing program achieved an 89 percent pass rate.

Despite the success of the last two cohorts, low pass rates in previous years resulted in the Oklahoma Board of Nursing placing the SSC nursing program on Conditional Approval in November of 2023. This means that the college cannot admit new students to its program until it can provide evidence that deficiencies have been corrected. The primary reason SSC was placed on Conditional Approval was three years of low NCLEX passage rates in 2020, 2021 and 2022. Like many programs across the state, SSC’s passage rates were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as high faculty turnover.

“We’ve taken several steps to bolster

employee retention and ensure student success,” President Reynolds said.

Those steps include increasing starting nursing instructor pay by 32.5 percent since 2022, reducing the teacher-student ratio to 1:16 to give each student more individualized attention and a substantial increase to the nursing program’s institutional budget for resources and supplies. Additionally, the program received a congressionally directed grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in the amount of \$1,050,000 in the fall of 2023. The grant, to be distributed over the next three years, is set to bring transformative changes to SSC’s nursing division, particularly focusing on the development and expansion of simulation labs.

Dr. Misty Gray, who was named SSC’s Director of Nursing in December,

said, “We are updating our curriculum to reflect the latest evidence-based practices and innovations in the field. We are also expanding our clinical partnerships to provide our students with diverse and meaningful learning opportunities in different settings.”

SSC is currently collecting data and working on an appeal to the Board of Nursing, with the aim to reopen admissions for prospective nursing students in the near future.

“Our current nursing students will not be affected, and we are grateful that our program is returning to those pre-COVID passage rates,” President Reynolds said. “We are very proud of Director Dr. Misty Gray and the faculty and staff in the nursing department for their commitment to provide professional and personal support for our students.”

NURSING PARTNERS WITH LOCAL AGENCIES FOR DISASTER TRAINING



SSC nursing students participated in a disaster response training on Feb. 28 at the softball field's parking lot. The students were joined by local and state agencies to learn how to assess, coordinate and treat victims.

Seminole State College nursing students got a hands-on experience in disaster response on Feb. 28 at the softball field parking lot on campus. Nursing students worked alongside local agencies to respond to a simulated school bus wreck.

The scenario was designed to test the students' ability to assess the situation and work alongside other first responders to triage and treat patients. The students acted as nurses, while volunteers played the roles of injured bus passengers.

The students were joined by SSC Campus Police, the Seminole County Sheriff's Department, Seminole Police Department, Seminole Nation Lighthouse Police, Seminole Fire, Seminole EMS, and the Oklahoma Health Department. The school bus utilized in the scenario was provided by Seminole Public Schools.

SSC Nursing Director Dr. Misty Gray said the simulation was a valuable learning opportunity for the students.

"They were able to practice their skills and critical thinking in a realistic and



stressful environment," she said. "They also learned how to collaborate with other agencies and professionals in a disaster situation."

The simulation was part of the SSC nursing program's curriculum, which aims to prepare students for real-world situations and challenges. In previous years, the nursing program has worked alongside campus police for training exercises, but this was the first time to incorporate so many local agencies to add to the realism of the effort.

SSC Campus Police Chief Rick Amos

said the College was appreciative of all the support.

"We had a larger than expected turnout of law enforcement, fire and EMS. It validated the incredible support we have at both the local and state level. We were honored to work alongside all of them."

Dr. Gray said the simulation was a success and that the students performed well under pressure. "We are proud of our students and their dedication to becoming competent and compassionate nurses," she said.

PROFESSORS PRESENT AT POPULAR CULTURE CONFERENCE

Four Seminole State College language arts and humanities professors presented at the 2024 Southwest Popular and American Culture Association (SWPACA) Conference during the week of Feb. 21-24 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

A panel consisting of Assistant Professor of English Paul Juhasz, Associate Professor of English Andrew Davis and Associate Professor English Yasminda Choate presented on pedagogical ap-

proaches to teaching writing composition through the lens of popular culture, titled "Aerosmith to Zombies: Using Pop Culture to Engage Students in First-Year Writing." Juhasz also read two short stories, "All American and "Where the Wild Things Were," from his most recent collection, "As If Place Matters." Associate Professor of English Jessica Isaacs read poetry from her manuscript "Mother Makes Potions."



(Pictured left to right) SSC language arts and humanities professors Paul Juhasz, Dr. Andrew Davis, Jessica Isaacs and Yasminda Choate recently presented at the Southwest Popular and American Culture Association Conference.

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION HONORED WITH COMMUNITY AWARD

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation received the David L. Boren Community Achievement Award at the Seminole Chamber of Commerce's recent annual banquet in recognition of the economic impact their Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex had on the community of Seminole during 2023. The award was presented on Feb. 6 at the Utterback Ballroom on the College's campus.

The award is bestowed upon individuals or organizations that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to community service and engagement. The award also honored the Foundation's longstanding efforts to raise funds for scholarships and campus capital projects and its operation of the SSC Rural Business and Resources Center, which provides economic development to communities throughout the College's service area.

The seven-field sports complex

has hosted a number of contests and brought thousands of visitors to the local area since its opening in October of 2022. In May of 2023, more than 3,500 people attended the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association Class 2A and Class 3A state baseball tournaments. Additionally, there were teams from outside the local area playing in tournaments every weekend from March through October. Teams came from Texas, Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas and New Mexico. The crowds drawn to these games led to a steady increase in sales tax revenue.

Chairman Lance Wortham and Vice Chair Mark Schell accepted the award on behalf of the Foundation Trustees.

Since 1972, the SSC Educational Foundation has served Seminole and the surrounding area.

"The SSC Educational Foundation has provided thousands of students fi-



Several members of the Board of Trustees of the Seminole State College Educational Foundation were present at the Seminole Chamber banquet to share in the honor given to their organization for its positive impact on the community. Trustees pictured (left to right) are: Jim Hardin, Roy Sisco, Lance Wortham, Chris Moore, Billy Norton and Mark Schell.

nancial assistance through its scholarship programs and assisted faculty and staff with professional development expenses," SSC President Lana Reynolds said. "Over the course of the last year, the

Foundation's positive impact extended far beyond the SSC campus to make a difference in our area."

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES LAUNCHES MENTAL HEALTH MONDAYS

Seminole State College grant programs Student Support Services (SSS) and SSS STEM are hosting "Mental Health Mondays" each first Monday of the month. The events feature informational presentations followed by discussions about different topics pertaining to mental health. The events take place at 12 p.m. in room 106 of the Scott Building. March's meeting centered on friendship. Students learned what to look for in a healthy friendship, how to recognize toxic friendships and the benefits of friendship on our mental and physical

health. Those in attendance shared stories and snacks and played Friendship Bingo.

All "Mental Health Monday" presentations are researched and presented by psychology major Shannon Bennett. "Mental Health Mondays" are not counseling services or an alternative to counseling services but are designed to boost positivity and generate peer connections.

Mental Health Mondays are sponsored by SSS and STEM SSS. The SSC SSS Project is 100% federally funded in the amount of \$294,725 annually. The



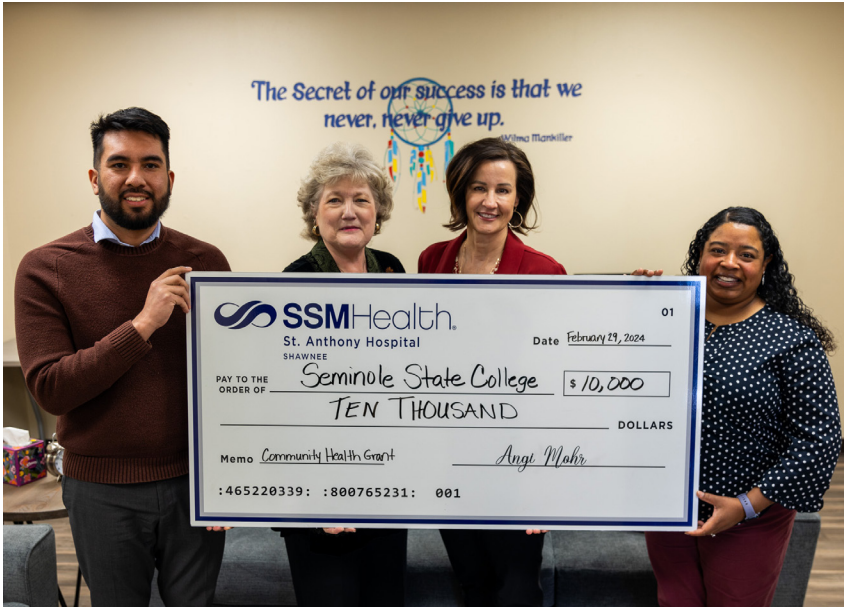
SSC psychology major Shannon Bennett, of Tecumseh, presents at "Mental Health Monday."

SSC STEM SSS Project is 100% federally funded in the amount of \$261,888 annually.

Both projects serve first-generation, economically disadvantaged, and dis-

abled students. For more information, contact Janna Wilson-Byrd, Director of Projects, at 405-382-9642. The Projects can also be viewed on the SSC website.

NEWS SSC RECEIVES COMMUNITY HEALTH GRANT FROM SSM HEALTH



Seminole State College recently received a community health grant from SSM Health St. Anthony – Shawnee in the amount of \$10,000. The grant will be used to continue offering free mental health counseling to students through the College’s Help Center. Pictured (left to right): SSM Health Senior Community Health Specialist Jose Rojas, SSC President Lana Reynolds, SSM Health St. Anthony – Shawnee President Ange Mohr and Psychology Professor and Help Center Coordinator Christal Knowles.

NEWS BAGWELL AND HORNE FAMILIES MAKE DONATION TO SSC



Seminole State College Educational Foundation Trustee and Vision Bank President and CEO Steve Bagwell (left) recently donated several prints of artwork by Kelly Haney and other items to SSC. SSC Talent Search Advisor Damaris Haney (center), the daughter of Kelly Haney, and President Lana Reynolds (right) accepted the donation on behalf of the College. The items donated were part of the late Bill Horne’s private collection. In addition to Haney’s work, the donated items included prints from artist George Montgomery, famous for his depiction of the American West, and a headdress that was gifted to Horne by Haney in the 1970s. Horne, Bagwell’s father-in-law, was a member of the Vision Bank Board of Directors and an honorary Chief of the Methodist Indian Mission of Oklahoma. Haney served as a State Representative, a State Senator and Chair of the Appropriations committee – as well as in tribal government. The Enoch Kelly Haney Center on SSC’s campus carries his name as a tribute to his efforts to bring funding to the College.

NEWS TALENT SEARCH ATTENDS TRIO DAY AT THE CAPITOL



Participants and staff with the SSC Talent Search/FOCUS Program attended TRIO Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol on Feb. 28. Attendees from throughout the state filled the House of Representatives Chambers and overflow rooms to raise awareness about the importance of educational opportunities for low-income, first-generation students. Pictured (left to right): Seminole High School sophomore Gabriella Factor, SSC Student Support Services student Mark Factor, SSC TRIO Accounting Clerk Yabnah Factor, McLoud High School senior Alyssa Sudduth, Talent Search Advisor Tina Savage, McLoud High School senior Madalynn Taylor, Minority Floor Leader Andy Fugate and Talent Search Advisor Rachelle Jones.

BOARD OF REGENTS RATIFIES NAME OF TROJAN BASEBALL FIELD

The Seminole State College Board of Regents approved a resolution to support the current law regarding firearm restrictions on college campuses and ratified the naming of the Trojan home baseball field at their meeting on Feb. 15.

During her report to the Board, President Lana Reynolds discussed campus events, personnel changes, progress on the Wellness Center Construction project and legislative activities.

President Reynolds introduced two staff members who gave special presentations to the Board: Director of Enrollment Management Edie Cathey and Director of Information Technology and Chief Information Security Officer Marc Hunter.

Cathey shared information about enrollment trends and strategies to increase student numbers. Hunter spoke about campus cyber security and the measures taken to protect the College's data and systems.

President Reynolds spoke about the nursing program's December graduates, who recently achieved a 100 percent pass rate on their licensure exams. This was a positive step for the program, which was placed on Conditional Approval by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing in November of 2023. The status was the result of three years of graduates receiving low NCLEX (board testing for the awarding of RN degrees) passage rates in 2020, 2021 and 2022. Conditional Approval means that the College cannot admit new students to its program until it can provide evidence that deficiencies have been corrected. However, President Reynolds stated she believes the College will have a strong case for their appeal considering the last two cohorts achieved pass rates of 83 percent and 100 percent.

With the first action item on the agenda, the Board approved a resolution supporting current restrictions on firearms on campus. The resolution reads: "The

members of the Seminole State College Board of Regents support maintaining the current law regarding weapons on campus, in which the President has the discretion to allow individuals to carry weapons on campus when the individual circumstances warrant it."

The Board then reviewed and ratified the naming of the SSC Trojans home baseball field "Lloyd Simmons Field" at the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex. SSC Educational Foundation trustees will also be asked to approve this effort to honor Simmons at their meeting later this month.

"The branding of the field is part of an effort by Trojan alumni to raise funds for several enhancements to recognize Coach Simmons' major contributions to our baseball program," President Reynolds said.

The Board then entered an executive session to discuss a pending legal matter with the College's legal counsel, Assis-

tant Attorney General Whitney Herzog Scimeca. Upon voting to return to open session, the board approved the terms discussed regarding an EEOC charge — numbered 564-2023-02134. The executive session is authorized by Section 307(B)(4) of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

On the consent agenda, the Board approved two program modifications for psychology and criminal justice.

Following the meeting, members of the Board toured the original site of the College's old natatorium and saw progress on the construction of the new campus wellness center.

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, March 28, 2024.

TWO SSC EMPLOYEES SELECTED FOR LEADERSHIP SEMINOLE



Two Seminole State College employees, MLT Director Kelly Hankal and Communications Coordinator Josh Hutton, alongside 15 other community members have been selected to participate in Class XXII of Leadership Seminoles. The program, created and coordinated by the Seminole Chamber of Commerce, is designed to provide professional development through information and training to individuals interested in serving in leadership roles in the community of Seminole. Pictured seated (left to right) are: Debbie Kuykendall, Starla Cullum, Kelly Hankal, Josh Edenborough, Tony Bruner and Ed Davis. Those standing (left to right) are: Josh Hutton, Zach McLemore, J.T. Seymour, Kristin Hill, Anthony Davidson, Chanteal Adams, Elena Johnson, Karen Barnhart, Leah Corum and Tonya Ricks.

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