

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE COLLEGIAN

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Submitting to The Collegian

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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.

LIBRARY LAUNCHES FUNDRAISER



DAVID L. BOREN LIBRARY

BOOKS AND BUCKS

Fuel Minds, Fund Futures



Seminole State College's David L. Boren Library is hosting the "Books and Bucks" fundraiser through the month of March. Books can be donated by placing them in any of the blue bins throughout the library. The library will accept donations of lightly used fiction, young adult fiction or other appropriate level books. Financial contributions can also be made to the library by visiting the College's homepage, sscok.edu, or by check to the SSC Educational Foundation, designated to the David L. Boren Library. Checks can be mailed to PO Box 351, Seminole, OK 74818. Pictured: SSC Librarian Ashley Bagwell receives a donation from an SSC student on March 3.

LONG REPRESENTS SSC AT NIGH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



SSC freshman Melanie Long, of Mustang, meets with former Governor George Nigh and former First Lady of Oklahoma Donna Nigh during the four-day Nigh Leadership Academy in Oklahoma City.

Seminole State College freshman Melanie Long, of Mustang, attended the Nigh Institute Leadership Academy held in Oklahoma City from Feb. 1-4.

Long joined college students from across the state for the four-day academy, where she participated in a variety of leadership activities, networking events and community service projects. The academy's itinerary included a volunteer service project at the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank, a visit to the First Americans Museum, a tour of the Oklahoma

City National Memorial, a tour of the Express Personnel and the Clydesdale Ranch and an opportunity to attend an Oklahoma City Thunder game.

Throughout the academy, students engaged with prominent state leaders. Guest speakers included the Women's Legislative Caucus, Executive Director of the Association of Oklahoma General Contractors Bobby Stem and Former Gov. George Nigh and First Lady Donna Nigh.

"This experience really showed me a



Melanie Long joined other attendees of the leadership academy to lend a hand at the Regional Food Bank in Oklahoma City on Feb. 3.

lot about the aspects of leadership, its many paths, ways of connecting with others and how to have better conversations with people that have different views than I do," Long said. "I met so many remarkable leaders and took a piece of advice from each one. They have shown me that there is no one path to becoming a leader, and they aren't afraid to get what they believe is right across. I am incredibly honored to have been selected for this academy and my perspective has been changed for many things."

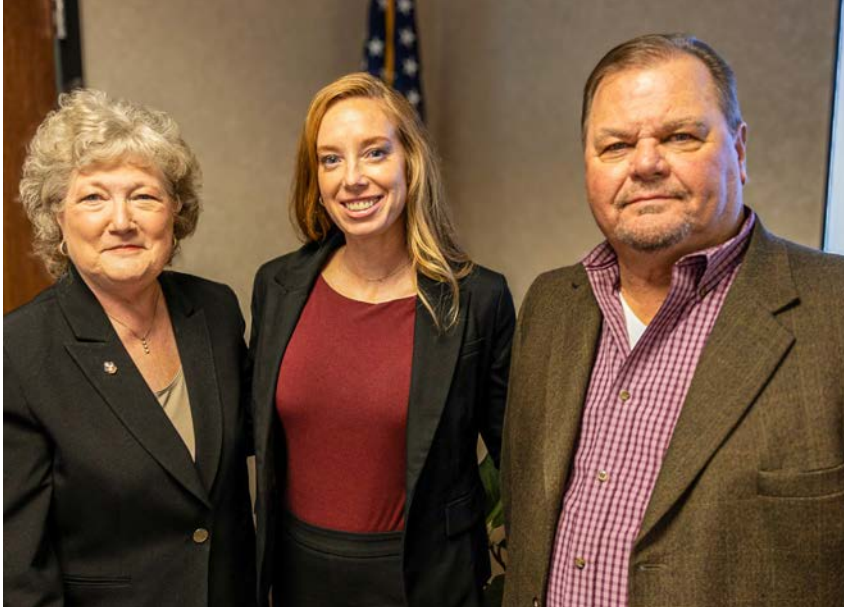
Long is a graduate of Mustang High School and the daughter of Chad Long and Deanna Agee. She is currently pursuing a degree in Liberal Studies at SSC.

The George and Donna Nigh Public Service Scholarship was established on

April 19, 1999, by the Oklahoma State Legislature and former Gov. Frank Keating. The purpose of this scholarship is to allow each of the two- and four-year higher educational institutions, both public and private, to select and honor one student each year as a Nigh Scholar. Each student is selected and nominated by their institution's president and receives a one-time \$1,000 Leadership Scholarship.

The Nigh Leadership Academy is supported by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, which contracts with the Nigh Leadership Academy for implementation. Over the years, more than 700 students have been awarded the title of Nigh Scholar.

SSC BOARD OF REGENTS APPROVES CROSS-COUNTRY PROGRAM AND TENURE FOR AG PROFESSOR



The Seminole State College Board of Regents awarded tenure to Assistant Professor of Agriculture Wendy Rich (center) at their meeting on Feb. 24. Also pictured are SSC President Lana Reynolds (left) and Board of Regents Chair Curtis Morgan (right).

The Seminole State College Board of Regents convened to discuss the awarding of tenure to a faculty member, the establishment of a new cross-country program, and a revised lease-purchase agreement for the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex on Feb. 24. The meeting date was rescheduled from Feb. 20 due to inclement weather.

The meeting began with a report from SSC President Lana Reynolds, who provided updates on campus activities, legislative developments and athletic programs.

With the first action item, the Board considered and approved the awarding of tenure to Assistant Professor of Agriculture Wendy Slusher-Rich. President

Reynolds presented the tenure recommendation, highlighting Professor Rich's contributions to student success and her leadership on campus.

Rich has served as an Assistant Professor of Agriculture at Seminole State College for eight years. She holds a bachelor's degree in Agriculture and Applied Economics from Virginia Tech and a master's degree in Agriculture Education from Oklahoma State University. At SSC, she teaches agriculture courses, mentors students in the agricultural degree program and serves as faculty co-sponsor of the SSC Shooting Sports Club and faculty sponsor for the SSC Aggie Club. She also served as Faculty Senate President in the 2022-23 academ-

ic year. Rich organizes SSC's annual FFA Interscholastic Meet, which last year attracted 1,100 middle and high school students from 100 different schools.

The next item was the Board's review and approval of a revised lease-purchase agreement for the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex with the Seminole State College Educational Foundation. The updated agreement allows the Foundation to refinance its debt through bond sales. The new terms will increase the College's monthly payments and extend the commitment by two years. Once the financial commitment is completed, SSC will gain full ownership of the sports complex. The Board approved the revised agreement after hearing from Foundation Chair Mark Schell and Vice Chair Lance Wortham, who provided insights into the refinancing necessity following increased construction costs

post-pandemic.

The Board then approved the establishment of a women's and men's cross-country program at SSC. The new athletic program, once approved by the National Junior College Athletic Association, is expected to begin in the fall of 2025. The program will enhance student recruitment and generate additional revenue for the College. Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Bill Knowles emphasized the sport's popularity among area high schools and its existing presence in NJCAA Region II institutions.

SSC Regents in attendance were Chair Curtis Morgan, Teresa Burnett, Bryan Cain, Marci Donaho, Ryan Pitts and Robyn Ready. The next meeting of the SSC Board of Regents is scheduled for March 27.



SSC will launch a cross-country athletic program in the fall of 2025. The program will enhance student recruitment and generate additional revenue for the College.

SSC LEADERSHIP STUDENTS VISIT HISTORIC GREENWOOD DISTRICT



In recognition of Black History Month, members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class visited the Greenwood Rising Black Wall St. History Center in Tulsa on Feb. 25 for a docent-led tour. The visit provided students with an opportunity for reflection on the history of Black Wall Street and the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. After touring the Greenwood Rising Black Wall St. History Center, SSC leadership students explored Tulsa's historic Greenwood District. They viewed neighborhood murals, shopped at local businesses and dined at a local restaurant, immersing themselves in the culture and history of the area.

SSC STUDENTS ATTEND CAREER FAIR AND THUNDER GAME

Several Seminole State College students attended Thunder Stir on Feb. 24, a career fair hosted by the Oklahoma City Thunder. The event provided students with opportunities to network, submit résumés to potential employers and explore university transfer options.

Throughout the afternoon, professionals from the Thunder organization led career-focused workshops on résumé writing, interview techniques, networking and personal brand development. As part of the experience, students were also invited to attend the Thunder vs. Timberwolves game that evening.

Student Support Services (SSS) and STEM Student Support Services (STEM SSS) sponsored and accompanied the students on the trip.

"The purpose of the event was to expose students to a professional envi-

ronment and introduce them to diverse career opportunities," SSS/STEM SSS Director Janna Wilson-Byrd said. "Many of our students are unaware of the wide range of careers available in business, engineering, health sciences, computer science and even professional sports. This experience helped them understand how their skills can transfer across industries."

Kaitlyn Treat, a freshman psychology major, reflected on her experience.

"I learned more about my major and how to plan for my future," Treat said. "Personal branding, especially online, is really important. This event helped me step out of my comfort zone and meet people with similar interests."

The Seminole State College SSS Project is 100% federally funded at \$306,514 annually while the STEM SSS Project receives \$272,364 in federal funding each

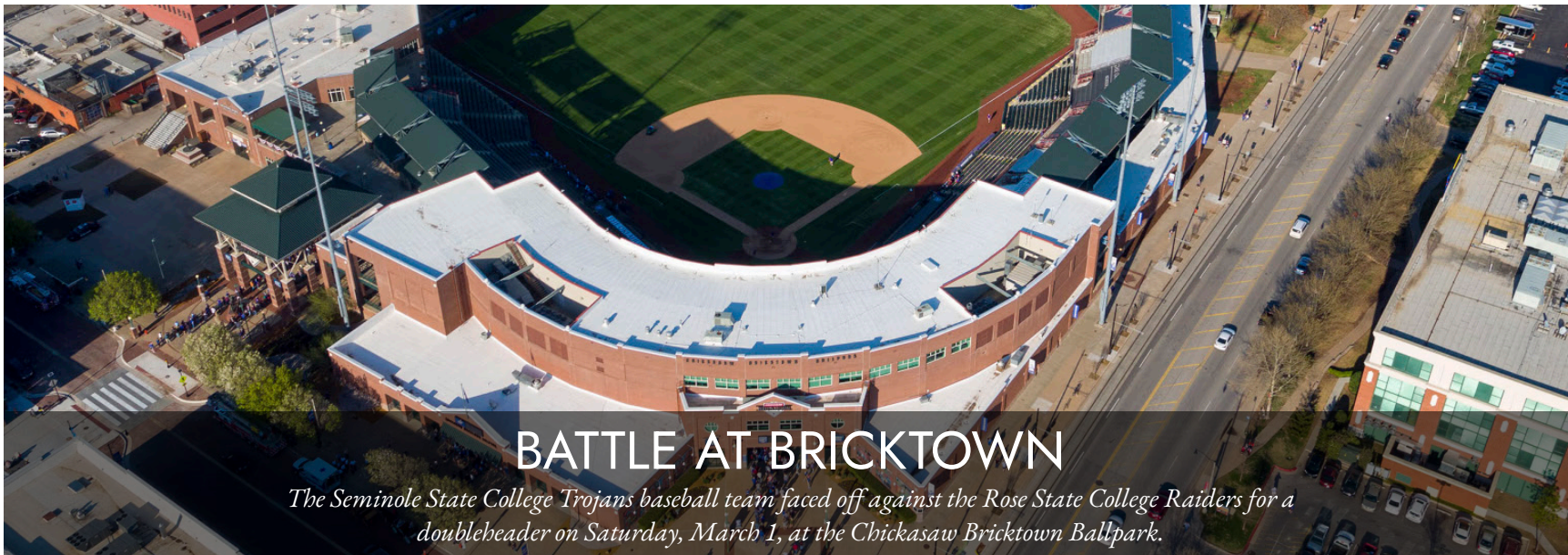


Seminole State College students and Student Support Services/SSS STEM staff pose for a group photo at center court in the Paycom Center during the Thunder Stir career fair on Feb. 24.

year. Both programs provide support for first-generation, economically disadvantaged and disabled students.

For more information, contact Janna

Wilson-Byrd, Director of SSS/STEM SSS, at (405) 382-9642 or visit the SSC website at ssok.edu.



BATTLE AT BRICKTOWN

The Seminole State College Trojans baseball team faced off against the Rose State College Raiders for a doubleheader on Saturday, March 1, at the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark.



Seminole State College infielder W.T. Jones steps up to the plate against Rose State during the inaugural Battle at Bricktown doubleheader at Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark on March 1. The Trojans dropped the first game 7-2 but bounced back with a 7-1 victory in game two.

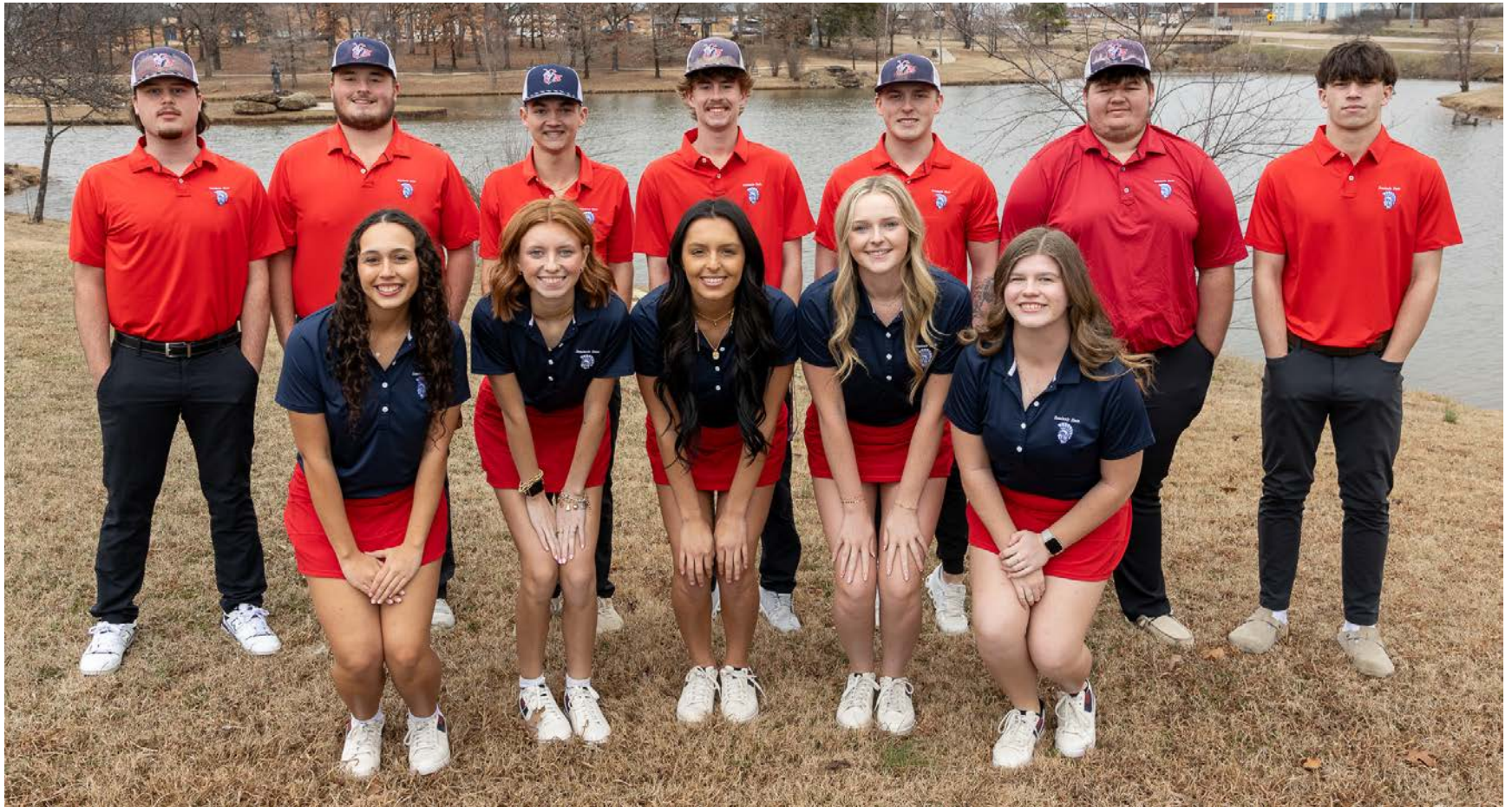


Pictured (left to right): Former SSC Trojan Baseball Head Coach Lloyd Simmons, Pam Morgan, and former SSC Trojan catcher and current Chair of the SSC Board of Regents Curtis Morgan gather at Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark to celebrate the Battle at Bricktown matchup



Pictured (left to right): SSC Women's Soccer Head Coach Dan Hill, Athletic Director Leslie Sewell, Men's Basketball Coach Austin Bogle, and President Lana Reynolds show their Trojan pride at the event, supporting Baseball Head Coach Mack Chambers and the team.

SSC HOSTS GOLF FUNDRAISER AHEAD OF SPRING SEASON



Members of the Seminole State College men's and women's golf teams (pictured left to right, back row): Ethan Robbins, Johnny Howard, Chase Conner, Cooper Mercer, Jonathen Martens, Cayden Sherwood and Jackson Summar; (front row) Shelby Ellis, Allison Townley, Gracie Lasiter, Peyton Black and Chelsea Powell.

The Seminole State College men's and women's golf teams are gearing up for an exciting spring season, and the community was invited to support their journey at the SSC Golf Fundraising Tournament on March 1, at the Jimmie Austin Golf Course in Seminole.

The tournament featured a 4-person scramble format. Registration began at 8:00 a.m., with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. Participants also had the chance to purchase mulligans and compete for awards, including prizes for top-finishing teams, closest to the pin on holes 8

and 13, and longest drive on hole 2. All proceeds from the event directly benefited the SSC men's and women's golf teams.

Head Coach Ronnie Williamson expressed his enthusiasm for both the fundraiser and the upcoming season.

"I'm really excited about the spring season for both our men's and women's teams," Williamson said. "We have a talented group of student-athletes who have been working hard, and I can't wait for them to showcase their skills in competition."

Following the fundraiser, the Trojans will officially kick off their spring season from March 9-13 in Wichita, Kansas. The men's team, in particular, is coming off a historic year, highlighted by Carson Newton becoming the first All-American golfer in Seminole State College history. Newton secured a ninth-place finish at the Division II NJCAA Golf National Tournament in May 2024.

For more information about the SSC golf program, contact Williamson at 405-380-2867

Golf Schedule

To view the men's and women's golf season schedule, scan the QR code below.



SSC PROVIDES VIRTUAL INFO SESSIONS FOR PTA PROGRAM

Seminole State College hosted two virtual information sessions for students interested in enrolling in the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program. The sessions were held on Feb. 12 and Feb. 19 from 12 to 1 p.m.

During the virtual sessions, prospective students had the opportunity to learn about job opportunities and receive in-depth information about the program's curriculum and financial aid options.

"This was a great opportunity for anyone considering a career as a physical therapist assistant," SSC PTA Director Shakira Stafford said. "Whether someone was making a career change or just starting their educational journey, these sessions provided the guidance needed to make an informed decision."

For the past two years, graduates of the SSC PTA program have achieved a

100 percent licensure pass rate and a 100 percent job placement rate. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average salary for a physical therapist assistant in Oklahoma is \$55,461.

The PTA program follows a structured sequence, with students completing prerequisite coursework before admission into the technical portion, which includes physical therapy coursework and on-site clinical education. The technical portion can be completed in 11 months. Graduates receive an Associate of Applied Science degree and are eligible to take the licensure examination to become a physical therapist assistant. The program is housed at Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee.

For more information about the program, contact Stafford at s.stafford@sscok.edu.



Seminole State College's Physical Therapist Assistant program recently hosted two virtual information sessions. (Pictured) PTA Director Shakira Stafford speaks at last spring's pinning ceremony for graduates of the program.

LOCAL BUSINESS LEADERS AND SSC FACULTY COLLABORATE ON WORKFORCE READINESS



Faculty members from Seminole State College's Business and Education division met with local business leaders during a Business Advisory Meeting held on campus on Feb. 27. The discussion focused on how SSC can better support local businesses, essential skills students need to develop, internship opportunities and adapting to the evolving workforce landscape. Pictured (left to right): SSC Business and Education Division Chair Tammy Kasterke, Assistant Professor Brad Schatzel, Edward Jones Financial Advisor Mitch Enos, Seminole Chamber of Commerce CEO Amy Britt, Assistant Professor Stephen Brooks, Business and Education Division Office Manager Tabatha Lusk, SSC Rural Business and Resources Center Director Danny Morgan, SSC Business and Industry Coordinator Talina Lee, Seminole City Manager Steve Saxon and South Central Industries CEO Tina Hanna.

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