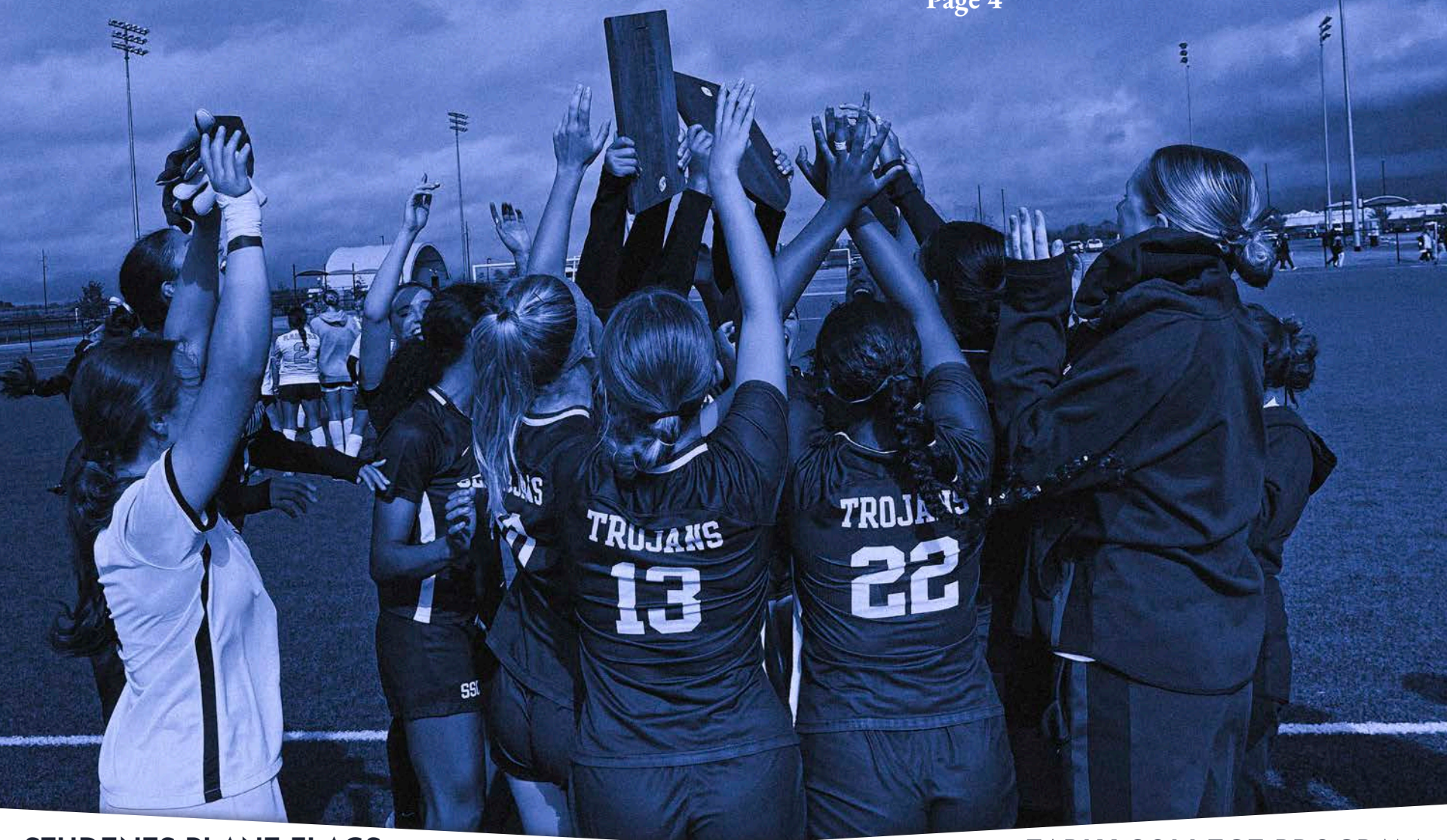


# SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE COLLEGIAN

NOV. 2024 | SEMINOLE, OKLA. | VOL. LIV • ISSUE 3

## WOMEN'S SOCCER PUNCHES TICKET TO NATIONALS

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### STUDENTS PLANT FLAGS

5,000 flags were planted ahead of the Military and Veteran Resource Fair on Nov. 7. [Page 3](#)

[SSCOK.EDU](http://SSCOK.EDU)

### EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM

SSC will launch an early college program in the spring semester. [Page 7](#)



# 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*.



## 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](http://sscathletics.com).

# HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ATTEND ACT WORKSHOP



*Chad Cargill speaks to area high school students about strategies for taking the ACT test at Seminole State College on Oct. 21.*

Seminole State College Talent Search/ FOCUS and Upward Bound programs hosted an ACT prep workshop on Oct. 21, with 87 local high school students in attendance.

The event's featured speaker was Chad Cargill. Cargill took the ACT a total of 18 times in high school, raising his score from a 19 to a 32. He has presented his workshops for more than 20 years and speaks with over 10,000 students each year.

Attendees received an ACT test prep workbook and enjoyed pizza following the presentation.

Talent Search and Upward Bound are college preparatory programs that are funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The overall goal is to increase

the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of higher education.

The Talent Search Central and West Projects are 100% federally funded in the amounts of \$388,326 and \$277,375 annually. For more information about the Talent Search Program, contact 405-382-9709.

The Upward Bound projects are 100% federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Upward Bound I is funded for \$414,579, Upward Bound II for \$309,505, Math and Science I for \$309,505, and Math and Science II for \$309,505. For more information about the program, contact 405-382-9710.

## STUDENTS PLANT FLAGS AHEAD OF MILITARY AND VETERAN RESOURCE FAIR



*Seminole State College students and employees planted 5,000 American flags for an honor field on Oct. 24 at the intersection of Highways 9 and 3. The flags were planted in recognition of the upcoming Veteran's Day holiday and the college's Military and Veteran Resource Fair on Nov. 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The honor field was made possible by a donation from American Legion Post 204 of Seminole. SSC's Military and Veteran Resource Fair will feature more than 40 local and regional organizations on-site to assist active members of the armed forces, veterans and their dependents with information about services and available benefits. The event is free and open to the public.*



*SSC volleyball players (left to right) Caeli Schaefer of Stillwater, Kara Doan of Little Elm, Texas, and Breana Stumbo of Lubbock, Texas, volunteered their time to plant flags on Oct. 24.*

## SSC REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND OKLAHOMA ACADEMY TOWN HALL

Amberlynn Mathews, a sophomore at Seminole State College, was selected as one of only eight student participants from across Oklahoma to attend the 2024 Oklahoma Academy Town Hall. This marks the second time that an SSC student has been chosen for this honor.

This year's event took place at the River Spirit Resort in Tulsa from Oct. 27 to Oct. 30. Mathews, alongside SSC President Lana Reynolds, Social Sciences Division Chair Jeffrey Christiansen and SSC Rural Business and Resource Center Director Danny Morgan, joined more than 100 civic leaders, policymakers and community advocates for the annual conference, which focused on the theme "Politics, Primaries, Polarization

– What About the Oklahoma People?"

The Oklahoma Academy, a nonpartisan organization, was founded in 1967 by Oklahoma's first Republican governor, Henry Bellmon. Initially surrounded by high-ranking Democratic officials, Bellmon sought to create a forum where the diverse voices of Oklahoma could converge to shape public policy.

The SSC representatives actively participated in discussions and group activities that explored potential solutions to Oklahoma's most pressing political challenges. The Oklahoma Academy will release its official recommendations in January, prior to the state's legislative session.



*Pictured (left to right): SSC Social Sciences Division Chair Jeffrey Christiansen, President Lana Reynolds, sophomore Amberlynn Mathews and SSC Rural Business and Resource Center Director Danny Morgan attended the 2024 Oklahoma Academy Town Hall in Tulsa from Oct. 27 to Oct. 30.*



# WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM HEADS TO NATIONALS FOR SIXTH YEAR IN A ROW



Seminole State College's women's soccer team captured the NJCAA Region II and South Central District Championships with a 2-0 win over Rose State on Nov. 3 at the Advance Soccer Complex in Enid, Oklahoma. This victory secures the team's sixth consecutive trip to the NJCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championship, set for Nov. 17-23 at the Stryker Sports Complex in Wichita, Kansas.

Led by Head Coach Dan Hill and Assistant Coach Caitlyn Bidart, SSC's team remained undefeated in regular season play with an 18-0-2 record and a national ranking of No. 3.

SSC will hold a sendoff for the team on Nov. 15 at 8:30 a.m. in the E.T. Dunlap Student Union, inviting supporters to celebrate the Trojans as they head to Wichita.

## LEADERSHIP CLASS EXCEEDS FOOD DRIVE GOAL

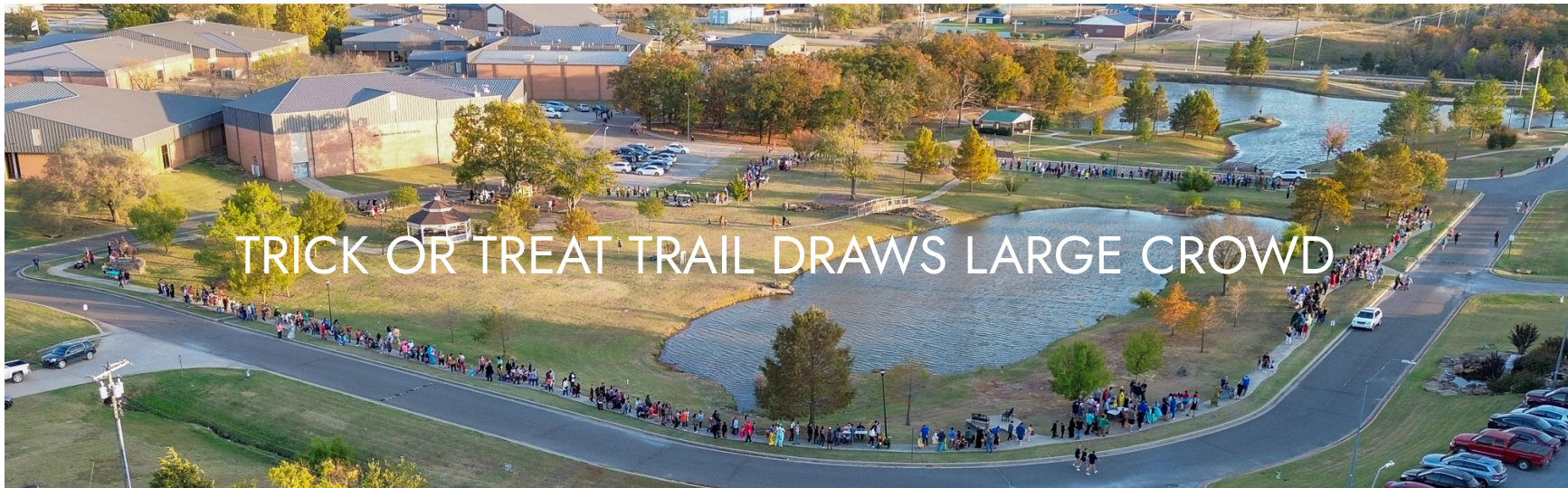
The 2024 SSC Leadership Development class conducted a can and boxed food drive for the Salvation Army from Oct. 15- Oct. 29th. Over 400 items of canned food, microwaveable food, and boxed food items were donated, collected, and given to the Salvation Army for their Annual drive. In addition, some items were given to the SSC Pantry to Go to help the students and others who

are part of the SSC community. Professor of History Marta Osby who teaches the class and oversees the drive stated, "What a great food drive this year. I thank the SSC community, the Leadership class, and our other supporters who helped us make this drive one of the best we have ever had. The lives that will be positively impacted by the generosity of others means so much."



*Students enrolled in the Leadership Development class gathered more than 400 food items for the Salvation Army.*





## TRICK OR TREAT TRAIL DRAWS LARGE CROWD

*Hundreds of little ghosts, goblins, superheroes and princesses visited Seminole State College to load up on candy Oct. 29 for the College's Trick or Treat Trail event.*



*SSC softball team members were one of several campus groups that passed out candy along the Henderson Park walking trail.*



*SSC Regent Ryan Pitts, his wife Hillary and their two daughters, Reagan and Rylee, attended the event dressed as characters from the Mario Bros. video game franchise.*



*Members of SSC's Enrollment Management team donned Scooby-Doo costumes as they greeted attendees and passed out treats. Pictured (left to right): Cindy Nolen, Davis Kappel, Edith Cathey, Laura Votaw, Mack Chambers, Caitlin Brown, Alicia Ryan and Sheila Morris.*

## SSC OFFERS SUCCULENT TERRARIUM COMMUNITY COURSE



*Seminole State College STEM Division Vice Chair and Assistant Professor of Agriculture Wendy Rich guides attendees through the process of creating a succulent terrarium during a community course on Oct. 24. SSC's Business and Industry program organized the event. More than 40 people were in attendance.*



# SSC EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED AT STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

Three Seminole State College employees were honored at the 57th annual Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Conference held on Oct. 4 at Tulsa Community College. During the event, STEM Division Chair Emily Carpenter was named SSC Faculty Member of the Year, Talent Search-West Advisor Tina Savage was named Professional Staff Member of the Year and Maintenance Technician Dwayne Castle was named Classified Staff Member of the Year.

Carpenter received both her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and her master's degree in Teaching, Learning and Leadership from Oklahoma State University. She is a National Board-certified teacher with 13 years of K-12 teaching experience. She has worked at SSC full-time for 8 years and served the College as an adjunct for one year prior to that. She currently serves as Chair for the STEM division and received her tenure at SSC in 2023.

She serves on SSC's Student Success Committee, NASNTI Evaluation Team and Global Studies Committee. She co-led the Global Studies program's tour of Italy in 2023 and intends to co-lead the program's trip to London and Paris in 2025.

She and her husband, Dr. Colby Carpenter, reside in Tecumseh. Dr. Carpenter is part-owner of the Tecumseh Veterinary Clinic, where he specializes in tending to large animals. The couple have two children, Cayden and Quinn.

Savage has worked at SSC since July of 2000. As the Talent Search-West Advisor, she works with 9th through 12th grade students in Pottawatomie County, including those at Earlsboro, Maud, Maud, McLoud, Shawnee and Tecumseh. She is dedicated to helping these students and their families navigate post-secondary education, including college enrollment, financial aid, scholarships, testing, and college tours.

Savage holds an Associate of Science from Seminole State College, a Bachelor of Science from Northeastern State University, and a Master of Science from East Central University.

She is involved in several organizations, including the SSC Professional Staff Council and Epsilon Sigma Alpha, where she currently serves as President. Over the years, she has held numerous leadership roles on campus, including past President of the Classified Staff Association and past Chair of the Professional Staff Council.

She and her husband, Kevin, reside



*Professional Staff Member of the Year Tina Savage, Faculty Member of the Year Emily Carpenter and Classified Staff Member of the Year Dwayne Castle were recognized for their achievements by SSC President Lana Reynolds at the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Conference held on Oct. 4 at Tulsa Community College.*

in Maud. She has one son, Brandon Jones.

Castle has worked at the College for 16 years. As a Maintenance Technician, Dwayne is responsible for handling a wide range of tasks across campus. His department manages work orders and preventative maintenance, addressing everything from plumbing and electrical issues to special projects. Currently, the team is focusing on upgrading campus lighting to LED and installing a new key system.

Castle attended New Lima High School.

Outside of work, Castle enjoys spending time in his small woodshop and forge, where he and his wife, Amber, work on a variety of creative projects. Their interests include wood carving, stained glass work and refurbishing vintage and antique items. Their creative works and antiques are available for purchase at their online auction house, The Odd-tique Shack. The couple resides in Seminole.



## STUDENTS EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES AT TRANSFER FAIR

*Seminole State College hosted a College Transfer Fair on Oct. 2. Students were able to speak with representatives from East Central University, Northeastern State University, the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma Baptist University, Southern Nazarene University, University of Central Oklahoma, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Grand Canyon University, Oklahoma City University and the U.S. Air Force.*

# SSC PARTNERS WITH LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS FOR EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM

At their September 5 meeting, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education approved Seminole State College's request to establish the Seminole State College Early College High School program. The new initiative will be launched in partnership with Seminole Public Schools, Shawnee Public Schools and The Academy of Seminole (TAOS).

The Early College program is set to begin in the Spring 2025 semester with an initial five-year approval period, concluding at the end of the Spring 2030 term. Freshmen students from Seminole High School, Shawnee High School and TAOS will be the first to enroll in the program.

The goal is to provide high school students with the opportunity to graduate with both a high school diploma and an associate degree or certificate. The program will be offered at little or no cost

to students, helping reduce the time and financial burden required to complete a college degree.

"We are thrilled to bring this opportunity to local students," President Lana Reynolds said. "By working closely with our partnering high schools, including administrators and counselors, we will ensure that students receive the support they need to succeed in both their high school and college courses."

As part of the program's evaluation, SSC will submit an interim report on outcomes to the State Regents following the Spring 2028 semester. A final report will be provided at the conclusion of the approval period, and based on the outcomes, the program may be renewed during the 2030-2031 academic year.

Full program details will be released when enrollment opens to high school students for the Spring semester.



*Personnel from Seminole State College and Seminole Public Schools met on Oct. 7 to establish guidelines for the early college program. Pictured (back row, l-r) SSC Academic Advisor Cindy Nolen, SMS Counselor Ginger Cummins, SSC Dean of Instruction Jessica Isaacs, SHS Principal David Dean, SMS Principal David Carter, SSC Director of Enrollment Management Edith Cathey, SHS Counselor Kelley Johnson and SHS Counselor Dr. Emma Speer; (front row, l-r) SSC Vice President for Finance, Grants and Enrollment Melanie Rinehart, SSC President Lana Reynolds, SPS Superintendent Dr. Bob Gragg and SPS Deputy Superintendent Angela Willmet.*

## SSC TO HOST HIGH SCHOOL VISIT DAY

Seminole State College will welcome high school students to campus for its annual High School Visit Day on Tuesday, November 12. This event, taking place from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., is designed to offer prospective students an in-depth look at college life through interactive sessions, a campus tour scavenger hunt and a complimentary lunch in the student union. Attendees will have the chance to win \$500 and \$250 tuition waivers as raffle prizes.

The day will begin at 9 a.m. with a welcome message from SSC's Vice President of Finance, Grants, and Enrollment,

Melanie Rinehart, in the Jeff Johnston Fine Arts Center.

Throughout the morning, attendees can choose from various breakout sessions, offering insights into college life and practical advice. Sessions include: "Navigating College Life: Student Q&A Panel," "Beyond the Books: Getting Involved on Campus," "Financial Aid and Scholarships," "Exploring Concurrent Enrollment," and "Tips for College Success."

Students will reconvene at 10:50 a.m. in the Jeff Johnston Fine Arts Center before heading out on a campus tour scav-

enger hunt from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., which will allow them to explore the SSC campus and discover key resources and locations.

The visit will conclude with lunch in the Student Union from 11:50 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., offering students an opportunity to connect with peers and SSC representatives.

For additional information or to register for the event, contact the SSC Admissions Office at [recruitment@sscok.edu](mailto:recruitment@sscok.edu) or visit [events.sscok.edu](http://events.sscok.edu).



**HIGH SCHOOL  
VISIT DAY**

**TUES. NOV. 12TH 9AM-12:30PM**

**OPEN TO JUNIORS AND SENIORS**



# SSC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION APPOINTS THREE NEW TRUSTEES



*Adam Baker*

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation welcomed three new trustees during their meeting on Oct. 9. Adam Baker, Vice President of First United Bank of Seminole, Kim Hyden, President of Gary A. Crain, Inc. and Carla Tollett, Director of Communications and Member Engagement at Canadian Valley Electric Cooperative, were appointed to the Foundation



*Kim Hyden*

Board. During the meeting, the trustees addressed several agenda items. The Foundation accepted the 2023 Annual Audit conducted by Hinkle & Company, with comments provided by Auditor Matt Bauman and Audit Committee Chair Mark Schell. Hinkle & Company found no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. They issued an



*Carla Tollett*

unqualified – or clean – audit. Suzanne Gilbert, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers, trustees recommended for reappointment and new trustees for the Board's consideration. Mark Schell will serve as Chair of the Foundation, with Rhonda McKee and Lance Wortham taking on the roles of Vice Chairs. SSC Director of Community Rela-

tions Kim Pringle provided an update on recent Foundation activities, including the success of the annual golf tournament held on Sept. 13, 2024, which raised \$38,000 for scholarships and campus projects. Plans for the upcoming Foundation Holiday Event, scheduled for Monday, Dec. 16, 2024, were also discussed.

Danny Morgan, Director of the Rural Business and Resources Center, reported on several initiatives, including improvements at the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex, continued support from the Chickasaw Nation Scholarship Program and regional economic development activities.

SSC President Lana Reynolds gave a college update, highlighting recent campus activities, upcoming legislative matters and trustee donations.

The next SSC Educational Foundation meeting is scheduled for Feb. 12, 2025.

## FOUNDATION TRUSTEES DONATE UTILITY VEHICLES TO COMPLEX



Three utility vehicles were recently donated for use at the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex by two SSC Educational Foundation Trustees. (Pictured) Trustee and Owner of Sullivan-Dollar Insurance David Wilson (right) and his wife Cindy Wilson donated two golf carts. The golf carts will be used to shuttle guests with mobility limitations across the seven-field complex.



SSC Educational Foundation Trustee Jim Hardin and his wife retired SSC English Instructor Dr. Donna Hardin donated a John Deere Gator utility vehicle. The vehicle will be utilized to move equipment around the complex.



# CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HONORS TWO SSC EMPLOYEES

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their dedication and service during the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on Oct. 10. Assistant Professor of Math Cullen Birney was honored as Faculty Member of the Month, and Custodian Carmen Wright was named 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.

Birney, who has been with SSC for two years, teaches a variety of courses, including Functions and Modeling, Pre-Calculus for Engineering/Physics/Computer Science majors and Trigonometry. In addition to his role on campus, he also teaches concurrent students



*The Seminole Chamber of Commerce recognized Custodian Carmen Wright (left) as the Staff Member of the Month and Assistant Professor of Math Cullen Birney (right) as the Faculty Member of the Month at their Forum on Oct. 10.*

at Shawnee High School. Birney holds an associate degree from Seminole State College, as well as both a bachelor's and master's degree in Math Education from the University of Oklahoma.

He serves on SSC's Academic Issues

Committee for the Faculty Senate and is currently assisting with curriculum development in the fields of engineering and computer-aided design. Outside the classroom, Birney mentors and coaches a robotics team at Shawnee High School.

He resides in Shawnee and is the son of Renea and Bill Birney. He has two brothers, Billy and Ryan Birney.

Wright has been a member of the SSC staff for nine years and is an integral part of the campus operations team. As a custodian, she maintains a clean and welcoming environment for students, faculty and staff. Her duties range from cleaning restrooms and shampooing carpets to taking out the trash and mopping floors. Wright is also known for her helpfulness to students, often providing directions to key departments like admissions and financial aid.

Wright attended East Central University and is six credit hours away from completing her associate degree in Child Development at Seminole State College. She and her husband, Reggie, have been married for 31 years and reside in Seminole. They have two children, Stefan and Simone, and two granddaughters, Arabella and Dru.

## HUNDREDS ATTEND TRIBAL FEST

Seminole State College hosted its third annual Tribal Fest on Oct. 9 at the Cook Commons on SSC's campus. Hundreds of attendees browsed the tribal resource fair, which featured more than 30 vendors. Attendees also enjoyed art demonstrations, traditional dance performances and Native American cuisine. The event was sponsored by several federal grant programs on SSC's campus, including the Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions, Talent Search, Upward Bound, Student Support Services and Student Support Services STEM.



*Members of the SSC Belles women's basketball team signed autographs at the event. Ten of the 16 players on this year's roster are Native American. Pictured (left to right): Hailey Mack of Varnum, Pauline Black-Harmon of El Reno, Jada Ponce of McAlester, Head Coach Rita Story-Schell, Jenna Bigfoot of Putnam City and Hiabni Howard of Stigler.*



# BOARD OF REGENTS REVIEWS ANNUAL AUDIT



*Seminole State College STEM Division Vice Chair Wendy Rich demonstrates a calf simulator to the Board of Regents, highlighting how it provides students with hands-on experience in animal science courses.*

The Seminole State College Board of Regents convened on Oct. 24 to accept the College's annual external audit report and ratify a Declaration of a State of Emergency due to damage to the SSC softball field.

The meeting began with a report from SSC President Lana Reynolds, who provided updates on recent and upcoming campus events. Reynolds also introduced STEM Division Vice Chair Wendy Rich. Rich provided an overview of the division and discussed different technologies professors have been implementing in their classrooms, including simulators, drones and electrical engineering kits.

The first item on the agenda was the acceptance of the 2024 fiscal year external audit, conducted by Hinkle and

Company, P.C. Kirk Vanderslice, the Accounting and Auditing Director of the firm, presented the report to the Board. The audit covered College operations from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. The Board's Audit Committee, composed of Regents Curtis Morgan, Robyn Ready, and Teresa Burnett, reviewed the report prior to the full Board meeting. Vanderslice confirmed that no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses were identified, and an unqualified, or clean, audit opinion was issued. The Board approved the audit report.

Next, the Board ratified a Declaration of a State of Emergency in response to significant damage to the SSC softball field complex. The complex sustained structural damage due to a wind, rain and hailstorm that struck

parts of Seminole County on Sept. 24. The emergency declaration allowed for immediate action to assess and begin repairs.

The final two action items concerned capital improvements. The Board reviewed bids for a motor pool secured parking lot and manikins for the College's federally funded nursing simulation lab. The Board approved a bid from J & J Dozier Service Inc. for the secured

parking lot in the amount of \$150,900. Then the Board approved a bid from Laerdal Medical Corporation in the amount of \$251,083 for the manikins.

Board members present at the meeting included Chair Curtis Morgan, Teresa Burnett, Marci Donaho and Robyn Ready.

The next SSC Board of Regents meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024.

## SSC WELCOMES RETIREES BACK TO CAMPUS



*Seminole State College welcomed 24 retirees back to campus for a luncheon in their honor on Oct. 23 in the Utterback Ballroom of the Enoch Kelly Haney Center. Pictured (left to right) front section: SSC President Lana Reynolds, Cynthia Yerby, Dr. Jim Cook, Tracy Jacomo, Susan Shumaker, Mary Ann Hill, Marie Dawson, Dr. Richard Wood, Jonna Bunyan, Fred Bunyan and Tom Stephens; middle section: Dan Factor, Kathy Hoover, Frank Washington, Larry Birdwell, Malinda Browning, Perthena Latchaw, Larry Vickers, Kay Dotson and Ted Hurt; back section: Rusty Bean, Kelly Kirk, Kelly Chastain, Travis Qualls and Rick Hanson.*

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