



SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE COLLEGIAN

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WELCOME BACK

SSC hosted a series of Welcome Week activities for students to begin the semester. [Page 4](#)



NEW PLC CLASS

SSC announces new President's Leadership Class. [Page 6](#)

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\$6.5 MILLION GRANT

SSC receives the "GEAR UP - Believe and Achieve Grant." [Page 8](#)

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.

STUDENTS SETTLE IN DURING MOVE-IN DAY



Seminole State College welcomed campus residents, their family and friends for Move-In Day on Aug. 16. Students gathered their belongings and settled into their dorm rooms in the Roesler and Seminole Nation Residential Learning Centers. Pictured: Leah Choate (left) of Seminole helps her friend SSC freshman Hanah Upchurch (right) move into her dorm.



SSC freshman and softball team member Olivia Brown of Collinsville puts the finishing touches on her new dorm room.

SSC KICKS OFF SEMESTER WITH ORIENTATION EVENT



Seminole State College hosted “SSC Unwrapped,” a new student orientation event, on Aug. 17 at the Enoch Kelly Haney Center. Nearly 250 incoming freshmen and their families were in attendance. The event featured presentations on financial aid, information technology, a browsing fair featuring campus and community organizations, free hot dogs and snow cones, and a cooking competition.

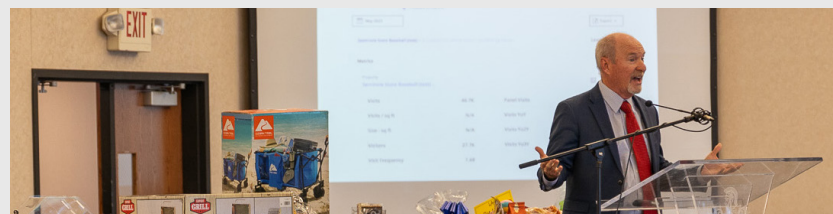


Teams of students and parents faced off in a Top Chef competition at the event. Participants had a limited amount of time to create a dish using the provided ingredients. Campus administrators President Lana Reynolds, Vice President for Finance, Grants and Enrollment Melanie Rinehart and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Bill Knowles served as the competition’s guest judges.

COLLEGE EMBRACES BUILDING BRIGHTER TOMORROWS AT FALL IN-SERVICE



Seminole State College hosted its annual in-service event for all full-time employees on Aug. 14 in preparation for the fall semester. This year’s theme was “Building Brighter Tomorrows.” Employees wore sunglasses in the group photo to celebrate the theme.



Following presentations by campus administration on the future of the college, Seminole City Manager Steve Saxon discussed the future of Seminole, economic development in the area and provided updates on construction projects.



Dr. Jarrett Jobe, the Vice Chancellor for Government Relations for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, then discussed the future of higher education across the state.

SSC WELCOMES STUDENTS BACK TO CAMPUS



With classes beginning Aug. 19, Seminole State College welcomed students back with a wide range of free campus activities throughout the week. Freshman Kara Doan of Little Elm, Texas (left), and sophomore McKenna Ingram of Bristow enjoy the pretzel bar provided by SSC Student Activities.



Seminole State College Athletic Director Leslie Sewell addressed 177 student-athletes at an orientation held in the Raymond Harbor Field House on Aug. 20. Students heard from coaches, administrators and staff about goals for the upcoming year, as well as campus resources.



As students returned to classes, the nursing division hosted a tailgate Aug. 20. Assistant Professor of Nursing Ann Benson (left) and Director of Nursing Dr. Misty Gray (right) served and greeted students.



Students lined up to have custom street signs made on Aug. 22 outside of the student union.

TIPS TO HELP YOU SUCCEED IN YOUR FIRST SEMESTER

Dr. Bill Knowles

Vice President for
Academic and Student Affairs



The Importance of Attendance

As a wide-eyed freshman, I thought I had college figured out. I was convinced that skipping a class here and there wouldn't make a significant difference. After all, I was a bright kid, right? But that naive assumption quickly came back to bite me.

I discovered that many professors had strict attendance policies and actually took attendance in college. Missing classes not only counted against my grade but also limited the number of absences I could afford for legitimate reasons. I realized quickly that in some classes I could only miss one more time for the ENTIRE semester. What would I do if I got sick or had a flat tire?

So, I learned that attending class is really important! Not only did I learn better when I was in class, I could save my absences for when I really needed them. And this is proven by actual research: In a study conducted by Kauschik et al., 2023, the results distinctly revealed academic success was powerfully dependent on class attendance in lectures and labs. So, learn from scientific results and hang on to those absences for when they count, or at

least when you are really sick.

I urge you to take class attendance seriously. Your future self will thank you.

Don't Resist Change. Take the Leap.

College freshmen should welcome the opportunity to reinvent themselves and college is a great time for a new start. As a new freshman, you may or may not already know someone on campus. Even if you came to SSC with people you know from high school, make this is a time of transition and change filled with new encounters and endless possibilities. Make new friends in and out of your classes. This is a great way to form a study group.

Don't be afraid to try new things, challenge your views and ideas, or step outside of your comfort zone. Join a club or student organization. Heck, learn how to start your own club. Attend a FREE athletic competition. Yes, all sporting events at SSC are FREE for students.

This clean slate is the perfect opportunity to discover who you truly are and what you want to accomplish.

UPWARD BOUND STUDENTS TRAVEL TO ST. LOUIS AND NEW ENGLAND



Upward Bound participants who graduated high school last spring visited historic sites across Boston.

Seminole State College's Upward Bound program participants traveled on separate trips to St. Louis, Missouri, and New England in July.

Participants who recently completed the 9th, 10th and 11th grades visited St. Louis. Their trip started with a campus tour of Missouri State University in Springfield, followed by an evening at the City Museum. Students were also treated to excursions to Six Flags, a performance of the musical "Dreamgirls" at the Mundy Theater, a tour of the historic St. Louis Arch, followed by a riverboat cruise on the Mississippi River and a visit to the Union Station Aquarium.

Upward Bound participants who completed the 12th grade in the spring visited New England. With most of the stay being held in Boston, Massachusetts, students were able to see firsthand several of our country's most iconic and histor-



Upward Bound participants who recently completed the 9th-11th grades stand in front of the St. Louis Arch.

ic landmarks. While in Boston, participants visited the USS Constitution Ship and Museum, went on a whale watching tour in the Atlantic Ocean, stopped by Faneuil Hall Marketplace, toured Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and attended a game at Fenway Park between the Boston Red Sox and the Oakland Athletics. Other stops in New England included a walking tour of Salem and the history of the Salem Witch Trials, lobster fishing off the coast of Maine and an evening of swimming and fireworks at New Hampshire's Hampton Beach.

Upward Bound is a program 100% fully funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The Upward Bound programs provide services, at no cost to participants. The program helps prepare students for success in postsecondary education.

NEW PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP CLASS ANNOUNCED



Freshmen members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class attended a reception at the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum on Aug. 27.

Seminole State College has selected 28 freshmen students for Class XVIII of the President's Leadership Class. PLC is a two-year scholarship program created to help students develop leadership skills and provide personal and professional growth opportunities.

The leadership students, along with their parents, attended a reception held at the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum on Tuesday, August 27, where College administrators and Eileen Castle, the Executive Director of the museum, spoke.

The scholarship program was established to provide educational classroom and extracurricular activities to enhance leadership skills of students. Responsibilities of PLC members include volunteering for community service programs and campus events.

"The Presidential Leadership Class provides students with unique opportunities to foster their leadership skills while developing academic growth," SSC President Lana Reynolds said. "We look forward to working with these outstanding students. They will have some great opportunities throughout the year to meet with state leaders, learn about state government and philanthropy, study leadership styles and volunteer their time," she said.

School officials throughout the College's service area of Seminole, Lincoln, Pottawatomie, Hughes and Okfuskee counties are invited by President Reynolds to nominate high school seniors as candidates for the scholarship program each December. Other students are nominated by SSC Educational Foundation trustees and community leaders.

Participants are selected based on ACT scores, academic performance in high school and demonstrated leadership ability.

Freshman members of the President's Leadership Class XVIII are: Jailey Battles of Sapulpa, Harrison Christiana of Fort Worth, Texas, Zane Cooper of McCurtain, Troy Edwards of Davenport, Abigail Estrada of Seminole, Jett Farmer of Choctaw, Hunter Gibson of Cashion, Tully Gildon of Maumelle, Arkansas, Hanlon Gottschalk of Prague, Braydon Harpole of Burkburnett, Texas, Gracie-Jane Lasiter of Eufaula, Haddie Lindley of Stuart, Melanie Long of Mustang, Dustin Nicholson of Seminole, Addison Pringle of Shawnee, Audra Provaznick of Seminole, Ethan Rich of Prague, Reeve Ross of Locust Grove, Bradley Ruby of Oklahoma City, Cayden Sherwood

of Drumright, Aiden Sockey of Poteau, Carter Sterling of Edmond, Abigail Tovar of Hartshorne, Zoe Trenchard of Lewisville, Texas, Hannah Upchurch of Seminole, Summer Wallis of Paden, Gavin Williams of Edmond and Adisen Williamson of Oklahoma City.

During the fall semester, the students will participate in a variety of activities, including a team building experience at the UCO Boathouse on Arcadia Lake, tours of both the Mabel Basset Correctional Facility and the National Weather Center, as well as meeting with elected officials.

For more information about the PLC, contact SSC Director of Community Relations Kim Pringle, at 405-382-9218 or at k.pringle@sscok.edu.

SIX EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS AT FALL IN-SERVICE



Seminole State College recognized six employees for going above and beyond in the previous academic year during its Fall 2024 In-Service. Pictured (left to right) Assistant Professor of English Paul Juhasz, Director of the Rural Business and Resources Center Danny Morgan, Admissions Clerk and VA School Certification Officer Stacey Foster, Director of NASNTI Kay Wallace, Softball Head Coach Amber Flores and Women's Soccer Head Coach Dan Hill.

At the Fall 2024 Employee In-Service held at Seminole State College on Aug. 14, six employees were recognized for their outstanding contributions during the previous academic year. Themed “Building Brighter Tomorrows,” the In-Service event celebrated these individuals in a special segment titled “Stargazing,” which spotlighted their achievements.

Women’s Soccer Head Coach Dan Hill was honored for his leadership in taking his team to the NJCAA nation-

al tournament for the fifth consecutive year. Hill also celebrated a significant milestone with his 100th career win on September 13.

Kay Wallace, Director of the Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) Grant, was recognized for her exceptional efforts in coordinating, promoting and hosting one of the largest events ever held at SSC. On September 21, Wallace brought David Grann, the author of “Killers of the Flower Moon,” to campus, for a presen-

tation on his research and writing.

Assistant Professor of English Paul Juhasz was recognized for his literary achievement with the publication of his fifth book, a collection of poetry titled “The Fires of Heraclitus.” Juhasz’s status as a published author serves as an inspiration to his students, providing a real-world example of the impact of composition and literature.

Stacey Foster, SSC Admissions Clerk and VA School Certification Officer, was recognized for her work supporting local

active military and veterans. In November, during Veterans Day observances, Foster organized a Military and Veteran Resource Fair and arranged for 3,000 American flags to be planted at the campus intersection of State Highways 3 and 9.

Danny Morgan, Director of the SSC Rural Business and Resources Center, was recognized for his exceptional service and leadership over the past year. Morgan not only managed his responsibilities with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce but also took on the operational oversight of the new Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex. Due to his respected background as a former State Legislator, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education entrusted SSC’s Foundation with the distribution of a \$2.5 million matching scholarship program established by the Chickasaw Nation.

Softball Coach Amber Flores was recognized for her continued success in leading her team to victory and for her accomplishments in professional women’s softball. This year, Flores achieved her 500th career win at Seminole State College on April 6 and gained national attention in her second year as Head Coach of the Oklahoma City Spark professional softball team.

“All six of these employees excelled in a special way this past year. They made an impact on our campus and community, and they brought positive attention to Seminole State College by accomplishing something big,” SSC President Lana Reynolds said during the program.

SSC RECEIVES \$6.5 MILLION IN GEAR UP FEDERAL GRANT



Seminole State College's GEAR UP federal grant program recently received a renewal for \$6.5 million over the course of seven years.

Seminole State College received notification in August from the U.S. Department of Education that it will receive \$6.5 million through the “GEAR UP – Believe and Achieve” grant.

The grant will provide \$934,400 annually over a seven-year period, beginning September 1, 2024.

This funding will serve approximately 1,168 students across 12 school districts,

including Asher, Holdenville, Kona-wa, Maud, Moss, Okemah, Seminole, Strother, Tecumseh, Varnum, Wetumka, and Wewoka.

“The awarding of this grant is a testament to the positive impact our GEAR UP program has on the lives of students in our community,” SSC President Lana Reynolds said. “We are thrilled to expand our efforts and help even more students

achieve their educational goals.”

GEAR UP, which stands for “Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs,” is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Unlike many other grant programs, GEAR UP does not require an application process for participation. Instead, student and parent coordinators work with a cohort of students starting in sixth and seventh grade, mentoring them through their first year of postsecondary education.

The program provides a variety of services, including workshops, academic enrichment, mentoring, educational field trips, and information on financial aid and Oklahoma’s Promise. GEAR UP also supports professional development for educators, training for parents on the importance of secondary education and summer camps for participants.

The new funding marks an increase of approximately \$130,000 per year

compared to the previous grant, which concludes in September. With these additional resources, SSC will employ eight people and introduce new elements to the program.

Among the enhancements, the grant renewal includes a new partnership with Texas Instruments, which will provide technology and resources to students. The College will also collaborate with CoBro Consulting on a research project designed to assess and improve program outcomes.

“Congratulations to former SSC GEAR UP Director Jeremy Strickland—now the principal at Wewoka High School—and SSC Comptroller Julie Hix for their instrumental roles in securing this competitively awarded grant. We also appreciate the support of U.S. Congresswoman Stephanie Bice and other members of the Oklahoma Congressional delegation for their ongoing advocacy of SSC’s federal grant programs,” President Reynolds said.

STATE FARM DONATES PRINTERS TO THE COLLEGE



State Farm Insurance of Seminole recently donated four multi-purpose printers to Seminole State College, enhancing the campus’s technological resources for students and faculty. Pictured (left to right): State Farm Agent and SSC Educational Foundation Trustee Darren Frederick, SSC Chief Information Security Officer and IT Director Marc Hunter and SSC IT Technician Michael Murray.

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