2015

Accomplishments and Highlights for Seminole State College

# Seminole State College

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Office of the President

January 14, 2016

Dear Campus Community and Friends:

As we look to the future at the beginning of each calendar year, we traditionally review past accomplishments made at Seminole State College. The following document provides an overview of 2015.

There have been some exciting and important accomplishments made on this campus in the past year. We are particularly proud of the following:

- Received renewals of the Student Support Services and STEM grants (\$2.4 million), and the awarding of a new Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant (\$2.25 million);
- Sponsored global study programs taking students around the world and hosting international students and faculty on our campus;
- Provided an emergency location for Seminole High School to hold classes through the efforts of the SSC Educational Foundation;
- Created opportunities for cultural educational experiences and training on diversity and tolerance issues through campus organizations and grant programs;
- Kicked off the Engagement, Completion and Success Initiative a campus-wide effort focusing on retention and degree completion;
- Reorganized academic degree programs and reduced the divisions from six to five.
- Received a clean audit on business operations.

Most impressively, these accomplishments, along with the scores of others mentioned in the following pages, were done during a depressing economic climate. We have dealt with, and will continue to face, overwhelming, record cuts in our State appropriations. It is a testament to you, as Regents, our administrative team, our faculty and staff that we have maintained critical services and continued to make Seminole State College a viable institution. We have stayed focused on our mission of providing educational opportunities to our students and providing valuable resources to our surrounding communities.

I feel fortunate to work with outstanding and dedicated individuals who are committed to making a difference in the lives of others through the power of education. Thank you for your continued support, cooperation and encouragement.

With Best Wishes for a Wonderful 2016!

Sincerely,

James W. Utterback, Ph.D.

Jan Welated

President



# **Breedlove Awarded Integris Seminole Scholarship**

Brittney Breedlove, a Seminole State College nursing student, received a \$500 Integris Seminole Medical Center Women's Volunteer Auxiliary Scholarship.

# SSC Supporters Attend Regional Higher Education Legislative Briefing

Supporters of Seminole State College were guests at the Southeast Oklahoma Legislative Briefing hosted by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Dr. Glen D. Johnson, Chancellor of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, met with the group of area legislators and friends of higher education to discuss the importance of higher education in improving the economy and business climate of the state.

# **MLK Day Observance**

Members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class observed Martin Luther King Day by going to see the movie "Selma" about the Civil Rights leader's effort to gain voting rights in the South in the 1960s. SSC's Native American Serving Non-tribal Institutions Program also hosted an exhibit entitled "The Road to the Promised Land: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement."



# Students Visit with Lt. Governor

Several members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class visited with Oklahoma State Lieutenant Governor Todd Lamb during his visit to Seminole in January. The Lt. Gov. spoke to the Seminole Lions Club and guests from the community at a luncheon at SSC as part of his effort to visit all 77 counties in Oklahoma in 77 days.

#### **Guthrie Elected Vice President of Black Nurses Association**

Simone Guthrie, assistant nursing professor and alumna of Seminole State College, was elected Vice President of the Oklahoma City Black Nurses Association, an organization focused on supporting the health care needs of the African American community.

# Professor Isaacs' Book Deep August Published

Seminole State College Professor of English and Assistant Division Chair Jessica Isaacs had her book, *Deep August*, published and released for purchase. Isaacs' book, an eclectic collection of poetry, has an Oklahoma flavor with a broad range of emotions and experiences.



# Clapper and Isaacs Selected to Present at National Conference

Two Seminole State College professors presented at the 39th Annual National Association for Developmental Education Conference in Greenville, South Carolina. Rayshell Clapper, Associate Professor of English and Coordinator of Transitional Education, and Jessica Isaacs, Professor of English, gave their presentation titled, "Four for One: Effectively Streamlining the Reading & Writing Remediation Process."

# **Kemp Speaks on Importance of Degree Completion**

Guest speaker Vernell Kemp, head men's basketball coach at Wewoka High School, spoke at Seminole State College in honor of Black History Month. Kemp visited with the audience regarding his own life experiences and stressed the importance of degree completion.

#### **SSC Administrative Team Selected for National Training**

Several Seminole State College administrators participated in a pilot training program for High Performance Teams hosted by the American Association of Community Colleges in Washington, D.C. The four-day intensive training focused on developing leadership skills and understanding team personalities and preferences.



#### **NASA Student Ambassador Promotes STEM to SSC Students**

Seminole State College Physics and Calculus students listened to Corbin Graham, a guest speaker representing NASA as a Student Ambassador. Graham addressed topics related to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

#### **Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel**

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their hard work and dedication during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum. Assistant Professor of English Jim Wilson was honored as "Educator of the Month" and Maintenance Technician Tony Tiger was honored as "Staff Member of the Month."

# **SSC Delegation Attends Higher Ed Day**

A large delegation of campus and community leaders representing Seminole State College attended "Higher Education Day at the Capitol" in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, Feb. 10. The event, sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, is held annually to demonstrate grassroots support for Higher Education funding.

#### Former Trojans Return Home to Kick-Off Baseball Season

Former Seminole State College baseball players, along with community supporters and members of the 2015 Trojan squad, gathered on the SSC campus for the annual Trojan Season Kick-Off Banquet. Speaking on behalf of the 1985 team was Mike Eckert. Danny Crawford spoke on behalf of the 1995 Trojans, and Brett Case on behalf of the 2005 team. Former Trojan and Houston Astros designated hitter Evan Gattis was the special guest for the event.

# **Choate Selected to Present at Transformative Learning Conference**

Seminole State College Assistant Professor of English Yasminda Choate was selected to present a paper at the 2015 Transformative Learning Conference at the University of Central Oklahoma. Choate's paper was titled "Facilitating Transformative Learning Opportunities in the Developmental Writing Classroom."

# SSC College-Bound Academy Adds Prague IETV

Representatives from Seminole State College spoke at the Prague School Board meeting regarding the Interactive Educational Television (IETV) portion of the College-Bound Academy at SSC. The Board unanimously approved the purchase of IETV equipment for Prague High School.



# **Leadership Students Discuss Business Etiquette**

Members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class had a lesson in business etiquette. Carey Sue Vega, owner of Etiquette Expert in Oklahoma City, spoke to the group about cell phone usage, email and telephone etiquette, job interview tips, the importance of hand-written thank you notes, ideas on how to network and how to make appropriate social small talk.



#### **Emeriti Honorees**

Five former Seminole State College employees, who received Emeritus status, were honored at a special "Coffee with the President" reception at the College. The honorees were Fred Bunyan, Jonna Bunyan, Patricia Cokeley, Pam Koenig and Dr. Brad Walck.

#### SSC Students Recognized at OACC Ceremony

Seminole State College students Sharon Ferrell of Earlsboro, Sherrill Marble of Norman and Nira Herrod of New Lima were recognized at the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges ceremony at the Oklahoma State Capitol. Ferrell and Marble were both recognized as members of the All-Oklahoma Academic Team and Herrod was awarded an OACC scholarship.

# **College and Bank Partnership Honored**

Seminole State College and Security State Bank were among colleges and businesses honored during an Economic Development Partnership Recognition program at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. The program, sponsored by Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, annually honors outstanding partnerships that lead to significant contributions in educating and developing Oklahoma's workforce.

#### **Wilson Receives Tenure**

During the March Board of Regents meeting, members reviewed and approved tenure for Mr. Jim Wilson, Assistant Professor of English. He was granted tenure and, in accordance with Board policy, promoted to Associate Professor status.



#### Isaacs and Wilson to Read at Writing Festival

Two Seminole State College faculty members, Jessica Isaacs and Jim Wilson, were selected to present their writings at the 2015 Scissortail Creative Writing Festival at East Central University in Ada. Isaacs and Wilson are both Assistant Professors of English at the College.



#### **Global Studies Group Visits England During Spring Break**

The Seminole State College Global Studies Program traveled to London during spring break with a group of sixteen participants. The group spent ten days and nine nights touring Europe's most populous city. Highlights of their visit included Oxford, the British Museum, Buckingham Palace and Parliament.

#### SSC Hosts Creativity Symposium

The Language Arts and Humanities Division at Seminole State College hosted their Fifth Annual "Howlers and Yawpers Creativity Symposium: A Showcase of Oklahoma Artists, Musicians, Actors, Writers, and Dancers."

#### **Denmark Students Visit SSC**

Visiting Denmark students and instructors, who stayed at Seminole State College during a two-week exchange program, toured area businesses and local attractions as they experienced the culture of Oklahoma.



#### **Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel**

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their hard work and dedication during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum. Tennis Coach and Health, Physical Education and Recreation Instructor Brian Nelson was honored as "Educator of the Month" and Human Resources Director Courtney Jones was honored as "Professional Staff Member of the Month."



#### Isaacs Wins Oklahoma Book Award

Seminole State College Professor of English Jessica Isaacs won an Oklahoma Book Award for her book of poetry, *Deep August*.

#### SSC Supports Oklahoma's Promise

Seminole State College students and staff members attended the Oklahoma's Promise Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol in support of the scholarship program.

#### SSC Nursing Students Participate in Disaster Training

The nursing class of 2015 participated in a day-long training module designed to help them understand what qualifies as a disaster, how to triage patients and resources, and how to work with other agencies to access quick medical care.

#### **Medical Laboratory Program Holds Open House**

Seminole State College's Medical Laboratory Technology Department hosted an open house to celebrate National Medical Laboratory Week and to show what goes on behind the scenes of a laboratory.

#### **SSC PLC Group Visits Bombing Memorial**

Members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class toured the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum as part of the state's observation of the 20th anniversary of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building.

#### **Congressional Visit**

Seminole State College President Dr. Jim Utterback along with Northeastern State University Director of Community and Government Relations Jerry Cook, visited with U.S. Senator James Lankford in Washington D.C. College and university representatives were in the nation's capital to discuss the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act – the major law governing federal student aid.





#### SSC Students Participate in Oklahoma Study Abroad Project

Two Seminole State College students, Marques Christopher Marshall and Sierra O'Dell, were selected to participate in a service-learning based study abroad trip to the Dominican Republic organized by institution members of the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges.

# **Rogers Attends Nigh Institute**

Seminole State College student Denver Rogers of Holdenville received a 2015 George and Donna Nigh Public Service Scholarship and attended the Nigh Institute Leadership Conference held in Oklahoma City.

#### **SSC PTK Honor Society Inducts New Members**

Sixteen Seminole State College students were inducted into the Alpha Theta Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges.



#### **SSC MLT Program Receives Reaccreditation**

The Medical Laboratory Technology Program at Seminole State College received reaccreditation for the next seven years, the maximum length of time granted by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences.

# Simon and Son Entertain Local Students

Pianists Peter and Saling Simon visited with 130 third grade students from Seminole during a series of children's musical programs held at Seminole State College. The father and son piano team also performed an evening concert for the College and community.



#### Alums and Staff Honored by SSC

Over 450 friends and supporters of Seminole State College attended the SSC Educational Foundation's annual recognition banquet. Former Seminole State College employees Larry Vickers and Wayne Day, posthumously, received the "Distinguished Service Award" and Steve Degraffenreid and Senator Darcy Jech were inducted into the Seminole State College Alumni Hall of Fame.

#### **Health Fair at SSC**

Over 100 students, faculty and staff visited the campus Health Fair, an event organized by the Seminole State College Nursing Program.

#### **FBLA Inducts Inaugural Class at SSC**

Five Seminole State College students were inducted as the inaugural class of the SSC chapter of Future Business Leaders of America.



# Kirk to Speak at SSC Commencement

Kelly Kirk, long-time Seminole State College art and global studies professor, was the featured speaker at the 82nd Commencement Exercises.

# **Graduating PLC**

Graduating sophomores in Seminole State College's President's Leadership Class received awards recognizing their completion of two years in the program. Graduating members were: Jacob Boggs, Piedmont; Gustavo Escobar Jr., Yukon; Dylan Fazekas, Red Oak; Isaac Friesen, Louisville, Colo.; Joe Dell Williams, Henryetta, Texas; Caleb Signorelli, Milfay; Corbin Austin, Shawnee; Angie Barlow, Shawnee; Suenju Buttram, Shawnee; Bailey Easley, Tecumseh; Allyson Hanan, Strother; Sierra O'Dell, Konowa; Patricia Wright, Wewoka; Armani Berry, Wewoka; and Dillon Shepherd, Strother.

#### **Five SSC Students Receive National Scholarships**

Five Seminole State College Medical Laboratory Technician students were selected to receive 2015 Siemens/American Society for Clinical Pathology Scholarships. Scholarship recipients were: Micah Dearen, Seminole; Nicole Ferrell, Prague; Beau Hester, Seminole; Sierra O'Dell, Seminole; and Kassidy Sparks, Shawnee.

#### **Farewell to Friends**

A special retirement reception was held honoring four long-time Seminole State College faculty members. Retirees recognized were Assistant Professor of Speech Marie Dawson, Professor of Art and Global Studies Kelly Kirk, Business and Information Systems Division Chair Dawna Hamm and Math, Science and Engineering Division Chair Annette Troglin.





# Long Participates in N.E.W. Leadership Conference

Seminole State College student Alexis Long of Seminole attended the National Education for Women Leadership Institute in Norman.

#### **SSC Upward Bound Camp Begins**

Seminole State College's Upward Bound Projects welcomed students from over 20 surrounding high schools to the College campus for a six-week summer camp.



# **Happy Retirement**

A special reception was held to celebrate the retirement of two long-time Seminole State College employees, Campus Police Coordinator Dan Factor and Director of Sponsored Programs Kathy Hoover.

# **Shatswell Awarded Seminole Medical Center Scholarship**

Seminole State College Medical Laboratory Technology student Kathryn Shatswell of Wetumka was awarded a scholarship from Seminole Medical Center Volunteer Services.

#### **College Hires Ag Instructor**

Seminole State College hired Dara Campbell as an assistant agriculture professor. She will be developing an ag degree program at the College.

#### **SSC Regents Convene for June Meeting**

During the Seminole State College Board of Regents monthly meeting, a special presentation was made to outgoing Board Chair Marilyn Bradford, whose seven-year term expired June 30, 2015.





# Wilson Presents at Creative Writing Residency

Seminole State College Associate Professor of English Jim Wilson was selected to teach an afternoon workshop at the Red Earth Master of Fine Arts summer residency at Oklahoma City University.

#### **SSC Talent Search Program Hosts Summer Camp**

Seminole State College's FOCUS/Educational Talent Search Program held a week-long summer camp for approximately 45 students in the program. Students experienced living on a college campus while engaging in educational and social learning activities.

#### SSC Receives Notification of Renewal of U.S. Department of Education Grants

Two Seminole State College programs, Student Support Services and the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Student Support Services, received notification of renewal. The two major federal grants will total approximately \$2.4 million from the U.S. Department of Education over a five-year period.

#### Sixteen SSC Student Athletes Receive National Academic Awards

Sixteen Seminole State College students earned National Academic awards for the 2014-15 school year and five of the college's sports teams qualified for national recognition.

# **Helping Animals in Need**

Five employees were recognized for their love of animals and a desire to help ensure a better life for strays that otherwise might not make it. Jamie Mills, Mary Ann Hill, Dr. Linda Goeller, Shaina Moon and Holly Cantrell are all members of the Seminole Humane Society, with Ms. Mills serving as the organization's president; Ms. Hill as the vice president and Ms. Moon as the secretary.



#### McQuiston Sworn in as Regent

During the August Board of Regents Meeting, Seminole VF Jeanswear/Wrangler CEO Ray McQuiston was sworn in as the newest member of the Board. McQuiston was appointed by Governor Mary Fallin and confirmed by the Oklahoma Senate for a seven-year term beginning July 1, 2015.



#### **SSC GEAR UP Employees Attend National Conference**

Seminole State College GEAR UP employees Rusty Beene, Julie Hix and Tessa Russell, along with local principals, counselors and teachers, attended the 2015 National GEAR UP Conference in San Francisco, Calif.

#### **Fall In-Service Training**

Faculty and staff at Seminole State College celebrated the beginning of the new academic year with an in-service program built around the theme "Expand Your Mind – Change Your World."



#### **A Fond Farewell**

A special reception was held to celebrate the retirement of long-time Seminole State College employee Tracy Jacomo. Tracy served the College in several different capacities since she began her career in 1989.

# **Helping Hands**

Through the efforts of the College and the Seminole State College Educational Foundation, a building owned by the Foundation in Seminole was transformed into a classroom facility in a matter of weeks to provide a temporary home for Seminole High School. The relocation was necessary due to structural and asbestos problems at SHS.

# September

# SSC Welcomes Presidential Leadership Class IX

Seminole State College selected 18 students for Class IX of the SSC Presidential Leadership program. PLC is a two-year scholarship program created to help students develop leadership skills and provide personal and professional growth opportunities.

# Winters and Rojas Awarded AllianceHealth Scholarships

Seth Winters and Megan Rojas, two nursing students at Seminole State College, each received a \$1,000 AllianceHealth Seminole Women's Volunteer Auxiliary Scholarship.



# SSC Leadership Students Grow Through Challenges

Freshman members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class worked on team building activities during a special ropes challenge course at St. Crispin's Conference Center.

#### **SSC Honors Constitution Day**

In observance of Constitution Day, Seminole State College hosted "Who Wants to Be a Constitutionaire?," a gameshow that encouraged students to answer questions that related to the Constitution.

#### SSC Provides Learning Technology for Seminole High Students

Seminole State College's GEAR UP Program presented Seminole High School students and teachers with three brand new 65" Smart Board Interactive Flat Panel Televisions.

#### **Seminole State Takes Part in Energy Saving Initiative**

In an effort to reduce energy consumption, Seminole State College joined other higher education institutions in Oklahoma by taking part in the 20x2020 Program, an energy saving initiative geared to help reduce energy consumption 20 percent by the year 2020.

#### **OACC Staff Conference**

Staff members from Seminole State College attended the "Committed to Completion" workshop as part of the annual Support Staff Conference of the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges. The Seminole State College Classified Staff Association was awarded the Creative Staff Innovation Award at the conference.



#### Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their hard work and dedication during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum. Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Assistant Professor Dr. Noble Jobe was honored as "Educator of the Month" and Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Fiscal Affairs Carol Landes was honored as "Staff Member of the Month."

#### SSC Awarded \$2.25 Million Federal Grant

Seminole State College was awarded a Strengthening Institutions Program grant for approximately \$2.25 million from the U.S. Department of Education. The program grant will focus on improving the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics curriculum and facilities at the College.



#### **Seminole State Faculty Present at National Conference**

Kendall Rogers, Rayshell Clapper, and Jamie Mills, faculty at Seminole State College, presented at the National Conference of the Rural Community College Alliance. The trio's presentation focused on efforts at SSC to increase student engagement and retention.

#### **SSC PTK Honor Society Inducts New Members**

Thirty Seminole State College students were inducted into the Alpha Theta Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges.

#### **SGA President Attends National Summit**

Seminole State College Student Government Association President Jocey Farrow represented the College at the American Student Government Association National Summit in Washington.

# **Lindleys Establish Scholarship at Seminole State College**

Chris and Sassy Lindley, owners of Misty Valley / Blue Valley Water Company in Hartshorne, donated \$20,000 to the Seminole State College Educational Foundation to establish a student scholarship.



#### **Poet Todd Fuller Speaks at SSC**

The Seminole State College Language Arts and Humanities Division hosted a lecture and reading by poet Todd Fuller for the College's creative writing, literature and composition students.

#### **SSC Employees Attend STEM Summit**

Director of Student Support Services Janna Manlapig, GEAR UP Director Julie Hicks and Vice President for Fiscal Affairs Katherine Benton of Seminole State College attended Governor Mary Fallin's Third Annual STEM Summit in Oklahoma City.



#### SSC Volleyball Girls Hold Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser

In support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Seminole State College volleyball team sold shirts and raffle tickets to raise money for the cause. The team donated over \$600 to the Seminole Free Medical Clinic to schedule a mobile unit that will provide free mammograms to those in the community without health insurance.

#### **SSC PLC Visit Regional Food Bank**

Members of Seminole State College's President's Leadership Class volunteered at the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank and packaged 6,000 lbs. of corn - the equivalent of 5,000 meals - in bags for use by shelters and individuals.

#### **Utterback Selected for ACCT Student Success Symposium**

Seminole State College President Dr. Jim Utterback was among a select few college presidents invited to participate in the 2015 Invitational Symposium on Student Success, a special national program organized by the Association of Community College Trustees.

## **Downey Attends ACCT Conference; Completes Term as PBSN President**

Mechell Downey, Administrative Assistant to the President of Seminole State College, attended the Association of Community College Trustees Leadership Congress where she concluded her term as President of the Professional Board Staff Network, a national organization affiliated with ACCT.

#### **Kindness Campaign**

In an effort to combat national problems with campus violence and bullying, the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class organized a "Kindness Campaign" on campus and handed out candy and compliments to students and staff.



#### **Visiting Denmark Professor Teaches at SSC**

Visiting professor Henrik Staal taught several weeks during the fall semester at Seminole State College as part of the College's educational and cultural exchange program with Silkeborg Business College in Denmark.



#### **Veteran's Day Appreciation**

In honor of Veteran's Day, the Seminole State College Campus Activities Board and Residential Advisor students wrote words of appreciation on the sidewalks and placed small American flags across campus.

#### **SSC Pre-Engineering Students Tour Enviro Systems**

Students of the Seminole State College pre-engineering class toured Enviro Systems, Inc. of Seminole where they learned about employment opportunities for college graduates with mathematics or science-related degrees. The students also learned of the operations that go into making parts for airplanes and helicopters.



## **SSC Students Participate in College Completion Event**

Over 300 Seminole State College students demonstrated their desire to complete college by signing a special pledge card and banner during the College's Community College Completion Corps event.

## SSC to Hosts "Native November" Activities

The Seminole State College Native Americans Serving Non-Tribal Institutions Program sponsored week-long "Native November" activities on campus to celebrate Native American Heritage Month.

## **Holiday Food Drive**

Seminole State College's Leadership Development Class collected non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army before the holidays.

# **SSC Leadership Students Tour Tinker**

Members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class toured Tinker Air Force Base as part of their leadership development activities. They learned about military operations and employment opportunities.

#### **Senator Smalley Honored**

Senator Jason Smalley (R) was presented with the Distinguished Service Award from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education at a special reception Monday at Seminole State College.





#### MLT Students Tour Children's Hospital

Seminole State College Medical Laboratory Technician students toured the laboratory at the OU Children's Hospital in Oklahoma City and learned how automation helps lab professionals deliver faster and more accurate results.



#### **Finals Eve Breakfast**

Seminole State College faculty and staff served a late-night breakfast at the beginning of finals week to over 100 students from the College's residence halls.

#### **Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel**

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their hard work and dedication during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum. Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Assistant Professor Jarrod Tollett was honored as "Educator of the Month" and Bookstore Director Natasha Rodgers was honored as "Professional Staff Member of the Month."

#### And The Award Goes To ....

Seminole State College President Dr. Jim Utterback congratulated SSC employees Rayshell Clapper, Jamie Mills and Kendall Rogers for receiving the Conference Presentation of the Year award for their presentation over student engagement and retention at the Rural Community College Alliance annual conference this fall.



#### **Coffee with the President**

Seminole State College faculty and staff took an early morning break to enjoy coffee and hot apple cider with President Dr. Jim Utterback. The "Coffee with the President" event allows employees from across campus a chance to visit with each other and the President while enjoying a few treats before the end of the fall semester.

#### Santa's Helpers

The Seminole State College Classified Staff Association organized a campus-wide effort to collect holiday gifts for "Little Angels" identified by the Salvation Army and Department of Human Services. Donations were given by various offices and individuals across campus. Pictured (I-r) are: Sheila Morris, Cindy Guinn, President Ann Gavin, Jessica Pospisil, Robin Crawford, Susan Shumaker, Mary Higgins, Annie Daniel, Toni Wittmann, Tammy Presley, Vice President Mechell Downey, Carol Landes and Laquita Smith.



# **Operation Holiday Cheer**

Seminole State College students, faculty and staff worked together during the holidays to sign over 250 holiday cards that were delivered to Veterans and active duty personnel. The "Operation Appreciation and Holiday Cheer" project was organized by SSC History Professor Marta Osby in order to thank those who serve our country and to bring them holiday cheer.