

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE

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Spring Semester Begins

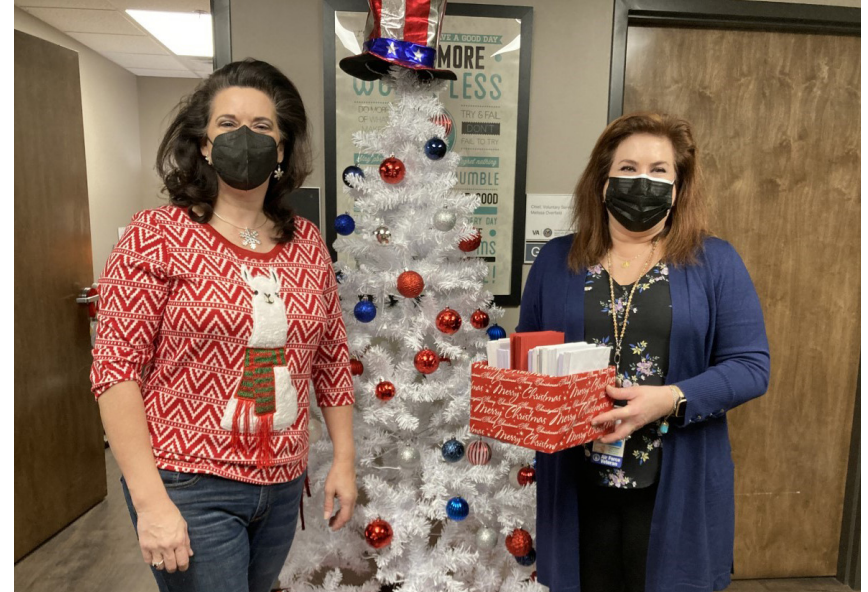
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Submitting to The Collegian

"The Seminole State Collegian" is published during the fall and spring semesters by the Seminole State College Office of Media Relations, under the direction of Josh Hutton. The staff reserves the right to edit submitted material for spelling and style. Consideration is given to all submitted material, but submission does not ensure publication. No anonymous material will be considered. All views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of Seminole State College. "The Collegian" is distributed on the SSC campus and mailed to more than 300 friends of the college.

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SSC Delivers Holiday Cards to VA Hospital



SSC Professor of History Marta Osby (left) presents Assistant for the Center of Development and Civic Engagement C. Kimberly Henry (right) with a collection of thank you and holiday cards for veterans at the VA Hospital in Oklahoma City.

From Veterans Day, November 11, through Dec. 3, Seminole State College students, employees and community supporters signed thank you and holiday messages on festive cards and delivered the cards this week to veterans in the VA Hospital in Oklahoma City.

This year more than 200 cards were signed with notes of appreciation and holiday sentiment.

The project, called Operation Veteran Appreciation and Holiday Cheer, was started by SSC Professor of History Marta Osby in 2015. She continues to organize the effort, and this year she delivered the cards to C. Kimberly Henry, Assistant for the

Center for Development and Civic Engagement, at the VA Hospital. Henry expressed how thankful the hospital was for the cards. She stated the veterans would appreciate the acknowledgement for their service and their gratitude for being remembered.

Additional cards are being given to the American Legion Post in Seminole as well to show appreciation from the College.

"Personally, this project is always important to me as it is to the many in our SSC family. It is so vital to remember those who were willing to sacrifice so much for our freedoms," Osby said.



Stay up to date with campus COVID-19 safety precautions at SSC's Coronavirus Response page.

Here you'll find important updates, CARES Act scholarship information, mental health resources and links to Centers for Disease Control data.

Explore the Response Page [here](#).

[CLICK TO VIEW](#)

Employees and Students Provide Christmas Gifts to Local Children



SSC Classified Staff President Stacey Foster (left) and Administrative Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs Toni Wittmann (right) ready gifts for the Angel Tree program.

Seminole State College employees and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) honor society students provided gifts to 47 children participating in the Angel Tree programs sponsored by the Salvation Army and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. The Angel Tree program connects do-

nors with children in need. SSC employees purchased clothing and toys and donated the items.

The SSC Classified Staff Association, Professional Staff Association and PTK students organized the effort.

Enrollment for the Spring Semester Is Open Through Jan. 14

Contact your advisor today.

Night at the Lights Draws Large Crowd



Alexus Corona, a fifth grade Shawnee teacher, mother of two and online student at Seminole State College, enjoys a warm break after viewing the lights at Snowman Wonderland with her 11-month-old son, Tyler.

Seminole State College hosted its annual “SSC Night at the Lights” event Dec. 6 at Magnolia Park in Seminole. Local families enjoyed the community Snowman Wonderland light display, as well as cookies and hot choc-

olate provided by the College. Holiday arts and crafts packets were handed out to families. SSC student athletes joined in the fun by coloring with children in attendance inside the Reynolds Wellness Center.



Members of the Trojan softball team pose with two fifth grade softball players from Varnum at the college’s event at the Seminole holiday light display. Pictured (left to right) are Avery Lowe of Ardmore, Kaden Morris of Holdenville, Varnum students Izzie Lindsey and Sophie Lincoln, Laney Anderson of Stratford, and Kaylee Edwards of Bridgecreek.

Students Return to Campus as Spring Semester Begins



The spring semester began Jan. 10 at Seminole State College. Enrollment remains open through Jan. 14.

While classes began Jan. 10, students may enroll for the spring semester through Jan. 14. For help with enrollment, students may visit with advisors in person inside the Walkingstick Student Services Center – located just off of Highway 9 on the south side of campus. Current students may enroll with their assigned academic advisor.

In addition to the regular term classes, SSC also offers online, 8-week, evening and Saturday classes. Many courses are offered at times to accommodate working adults. Additional course offerings will be announced throughout the semester. Class schedules are available on the College's website at www.sscok.edu.

Campus Contacts to Help You Have a Successful Semester



Admissions

405-382-9230 / admissions@sscok.edu

Advising

405-382-9797 / advising@sscok.edu

Financial Aid

405-382-9247 / finaid@sscok.edu

Online Degree Office

405-382-9577 / online@sscok.edu

A Note From President Reynolds About the Omicron Variant



SSC President Lana Reynolds

Welcome to the New Year – and to the beginning of the new semester at Seminole State College.

Whether you are returning to campus, or new to SSC, we are thrilled that you are here.

We are receiving cautions from national, state and local health care officials that the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus will be an extreme threat to everyone in the coming weeks. We know that the

best defense against serious illness is being fully vaccinated. We also know that wearing a mask, washing your hands often and staying home when you are not feeling well will help protect YOU and others.

We are hopeful that some concerns and protocols will be relaxed soon, but we are being told that our biggest window of danger is throughout the month of January.

Please refer to safety protocols on

the SSC website and watch for weekly COVID updates and other information shared by our COVID officer Dr. Deanna Miles.

Best wishes for a great semester and year.

This message was originally sent by email to all students on January 9, 2022.

Board of Regents Convenes for Dec. Meeting

The Seminole State College Board of Regents met Dec. 9 to update a policy regarding a drug-free workplace, approve a bid to replace a heat and air system and ratify the 2022-2023 academic calendar.

The meeting opened with a review of the College's recent expenditures and financial reports. Then SSC President Lana Reynolds presented her President's Report, which included news on personnel changes, information about campus activities and an update on spring semester enrollment numbers.

The first action approved by the Board was a revision to Board Policy II-7-10 regarding a drug-free workplace. The policy was updated due to State Question 7888, which legalized medical marijuana in the state. The updated policy prohibits the use, possession, sale or distribution of

marijuana – including medical marijuana – on any SSC-owned or controlled property or at any event held by the College. These changes were made in conjunction with several other higher education institutions across the state.

Secondly, the Board approved a bid to replace the main campus heat and air system. The main campus cooling tower replacement will be a fiberglass model from Hunter Mechanical & Controls at the quoted price of \$536,000. The project will be paid for with federal COVID-relief funds.

Board members present at the meeting were: Chair Ray McQuiston, Marci Donaho, Kim Hyden and Curtis Morgan.

The next SSC Board of Regents meeting is set for Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022.

Reynolds Makes Donation to Sports Complex



SSC President Lana Reynolds recently fulfilled her pledge of \$25,000 to the SSC Educational Foundation. Pictured (left to right) are SSC Educational Foundation Chair Lance Wortham, SSC President Lana Reynolds and SSC President Emeritus Dr. Jim Utterback.

MASKS ENCOURAGED AND APPRECIATED



Help us strive to keep the campus community healthy.

LPN to RN Online Degree Program Receives Accreditation



SSC Nursing Program Director Crystal Bray (left), Online Degree Office Director Melanie Rinehart (middle) and Assistant Professor of Nursing Brenda Hudson (right) celebrate the accreditation of the LPN to RN online degree program by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

The Seminole State College Nursing Program's LPN to RN online degree program was recently accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. In August, the Oklahoma Board of Nursing approved the online option.

"We are so excited to receive approval from ACEN for this program option. It is a monumental step in helping LPN's in our area achieve their RN," Nursing Program Director Crystal Bray said.

SSC is one of the few colleges in the state to offer this option to LPNs. Currently the Nursing Program is working with nearly 90 LPNs who have expressed interest in the online option.

"It is vital to help get more registered nurses into the workforce, and we are proud to be a part of making that happen for our area healthcare

partners," SSC President Lana Reynolds said.

The SSC Nursing Program will launch its first cohort on Jan. 10, 2022. Students will need to complete five online nursing courses to complete their degree. The program will take approximately 10 months to complete. Students will take all components of the program online with the exception of clinical days. Clinical days will be in a face-to-face format at a local healthcare facility.

To apply to the program, students may need general education courses, most of which are also offered online. They will also need to pass a Health Education Systems Incorporated exam with a score of 850 or greater.

For more information, call Melanie Rinehart, Online Degree Office Director, at 405-382-9507.

Professor Attends Town Hall on Mental Wellness



Professor of Psychology Christal Knowles participated in the 2021 Oklahoma Academy Town Hall from Nov. 7-10 at the River Spirit Hotel in Tulsa. Knowles (first row, third from left) poses alongside other members of the Arbuckle Panel at the event.

Seminole State College Professor of Psychology Christal Knowles recently attended the 2021 Oklahoma Academy Town Hall. This year's event was held at the River Spirit Hotel in Tulsa from Nov. 7-10.

The Oklahoma Academy is a statewide nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established to provide citizens with the opportunity to discuss public policy and make recommendations. The organization was founded by Oklahoma Governor Henry Bellmon in 1967. The organization adopted its Town Hall process in 2001. Since its adoption, the process has led to the passing of 77 pieces of legislation.

This year's theme was "A Path for a Healthier Oklahoma: Addressing Mental Health and Improving

Mental Wellness."

SSC President Lana Reynolds nominated Knowles to attend the Town Hall and join a discussion group. Knowles has worked at the College for 12 years. Beyond teaching psychology, she also coordinates the SSC Help Center, a place on campus for students to find support when facing mental health issues.

Knowles served on a panel group during the event. There, along with other attendees, she made recommendations on mental health public policies based on extensive research and questions posed by the event's organizers.

The Oklahoma Academy will release its official recommendations in January, prior to the legislative session.

Seminole Chamber Honors Two College Employees

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their hard work and dedication during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on Dec. 9. Assistant Professor of English Dr. Andrew Davis was honored as “Faculty Member of the Month” and Advisor for Student Support Services Sarah Ledford as “Staff Member of the Month.”

The Seminole Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, along with the Lions Club and Blue Ribbon Realty, 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.

Davis has worked at SSC for four years. His duties on campus include teaching composition, literature and film courses. He also serves as the Writing House supervisor, where students may receive tutoring for their composition courses. He is also the Faculty Senate Secretary and a student advisor.

He received his bachelor’s degree in English from Connecticut College, his master’s degree in Gender and Cultural Studies from Simmons College and a doctorate in English from Oklahoma State University.

He is currently a member of the Society of Cinema and Media Studies and a member of the Southwest Popular and American Culture Association. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, cooking and traveling. He currently resides in Shawnee.

Ledford has been employed by SSC for 25 years. As an Advisor for Student Support Services, she assists student participants with meeting academic goals, including graduating from SSC and transferring to a four-year university.

Ledford completed her bachelor’s degree in English Communications at William Woods College and her master’s degree in Human Relations at the University of Oklahoma.

She is a sponsor of SSC PRIDE, a LGBTQ+ student organization. She also serves on the College’s Diversi-



Sarah Ledford and Dr. Andrew Davis were recognized at the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum Dec. 9.

ty, Equity and Inclusion Task Force. She is a monthly contributor to the SSC Food Pantry.

Her daughter Georgia is currently a freshman at SSC, where she serves as the Student Government Association President. In Ledford’s spare

time she enjoys traveling, reading, attending cultural events, riding horses and managing four house cats. She resides in Seminole.

SSC Online Program Expands Degree Offerings

Seminole State College has widened its online degree selection from three degrees to 13 for the spring 2022 semester. SSC’s first three 100% online degrees were launched in the fall 2021 semester. Those degrees were in Business, Criminal Justice and Liberal Studies. The SSC Online Degree Office started the semester with a goal of enrolling 30 students into those programs and by the end of the Fall semester, nearly 100 students were enrolled. Throughout the past 6 months, the office has received

over 500 inquiries about programs and multiple requests for other online degrees. To meet those requests, Seminole State has launched an additional 10 programs for the Spring 2022 semester. Those programs are Business Operations (AAS), Psychology, Social Sciences, Computer Science, Child Development, Enterprise Development in Arts, Enterprise Development in Science, Applied Technology, LPN to RN and Early College Certificate.

“The program has drawn students

from all five counties in the College’s service area, 13 additional counties in Oklahoma, as well as a student from Colorado. Currently, the highest enrollment is in our Liberal Studies degree, with the new LPN to RN program gaining a lot of momentum,” Director of Distance Education Melanie Rinehart said.

Students and area residents can take advantage of open enrollment now through Friday, Jan. 14. Perspective students seeking to learn remotely may contact the Online

Degree Office at (405) 382-9577 or online@sscok.edu.

SSC also offers associate degrees in 18 transfer degree programs for those looking to learn in a traditional classroom environment. For additional information about enrollment for face-to-face instruction, please contact the Office of Admissions at (405) 382-9230. SSC offices will be closed Dec. 20 through Jan. 2 for winter break.



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Educational Foundation Holiday Reception Raises Nearly \$30,000

