

Seminole State College
CAMPUS MEMO
From Dr. Jim Utterback – President
July 17, 2002

I hope this memo finds each of you having a wonderful summer. I am pleased to report that the trout are biting off the southern tip of Louisiana. I look forward to sharing all of our stories this fall. As the summer progresses, I wanted to update the campus community on several items of interest.

‘GRRRREAT’ NEWS

I am excited to report that we have recently received notification that our Educational Talent Search Program has been renewed for five years with a sizeable increase in funding. **Dr. Sean Fox** and **Kathy Hoover**, TRIO Director, are to be commended for their hard work in acquiring this grant as only the top 10% of all applications submitted receive five-year funding. Many of you may recall that last year the College also received a five-year award for Student Support Services after Dr. Fox and Ms. Hoover crafted an application, which received three perfect reviewer ratings of 100 points each.

The Talent Search Program will receive a total of \$1,281,000 during its current four-year cycle of funding. The new grant, which begins in October of 2003, will provide \$1,619,284 in funds. Congratulations to everyone involved!

ACADEMIC UPDATES

Congratulations are in order for **Dr. Rebecca Kennedy!** She successfully completed her doctorate this summer – with the defense of her dissertation falling the day after our June Board meeting where she was hired as our Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Kennedy has been on campus getting acquainted, and is scheduled to begin her new position August 5th.

Long-time nursing instructor **Nina Kirk** has been appointed as Chair of the Nursing and Health Sciences Division. **Nina** has served as Vice Chair of the Division since 1992. **Nina** joins instructors **Travis Qualls** and **Brad Walck** as new members of the Division Chair Council. These appointments are supportive of the recommendation of the North Central Accreditation Team to periodically rotate members of the Division Chair Council. I look forward to working with these individuals.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Construction on the Enoch Kelly Haney Center is progressing nicely. The new facility is scheduled to be open for fall classes. It appears that we will be able to move into the building in early August. The campus community will have the opportunity to see the facility during our fall in-service program (*everyone please knock on wood – fast!*). A public ribbon cutting and open house will be scheduled at a later date.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS... continued

Those of you on campus this summer are probably aware of some construction underway in the E.T. Dunlap Student Union. Under the direction of its new manager, **Danna Riffle**, the Bookstore is being renovated and expanded. The Bookstore will double in size. The remodeling is scheduled to be completed within the next couple of weeks.

Construction on the new campus access road is also progressing. The dirt work is complete and paving will begin soon. This addition, made possible through a grant from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the efforts of SSC supporter and ODOT Commissioner Jimmie Austin, will be a tremendous safety and convenience asset for students, employees and campus guests.

USE OF DOWNTOWN FACILITY

For nearly two decades, Seminole State College has provided physical space for the local Head Start pre-school program. When we needed space on our campus for the College's federal TRIO programs that were located downtown, we asked Head Start to relocate. In an effort to help the Seminole Public School System, which was working in cooperation with Action Inc., we allowed Head Start to move into the old First State Bank Building on Milt Phillips Ave. in July, 2000.

We have had a contract to purchase this facility since funding was identified through a special bond issue in May, 2000. The funds for purchase have been held up in a court case over the State of Oklahoma's capital bond program. We have retained the agreement to purchase the facility while awaiting release of the bond funds.

With the continued growth of the College and the decrease in our State funding, we are no longer able to offer this space to Head Start. It is our intention to use that building for economic development efforts. We have extended our agreement with Action, Inc./CDI on four different occasions in order to allow them time to find a place to relocate. Additionally, the Public School now has its own four-year-old program and is no longer connected with the Action Inc. program. We have had a very long and positive relationship with this organization. We wish them the best during this transitional time.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of these matters, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to seeing everyone back on campus as we begin our fall in-service on Wednesday, August 14, 2002.