



Seminole State College
CAMPUS MEMO

*From Dr. Jim Utterback – President
December 1, 2011*

As the end of the term and the beginning of the holiday break quickly approaches, I want to thank each of you for your contributions to Seminole State College. This memo contains several updates about recent activities at the College.

STUDENT UNION FACELIFT

We are undertaking a quick facelift of the E.T. Dunlap Student Union over the holiday break. New flooring, a few coats of paint and some new furniture are planned to be in place for the Spring semester. We are appreciative of Sodexo Food Service for funding this much-needed project. I would also like to thank Vice President for Fiscal Affairs **Katherine Benton**, Vice President for Student Affairs **Dr. Brad Walck** Director of Business Services **Braden Brown** for coordinating efforts to plan and implement this mini-renovation project. Plans are for the SSC Bookstore to remain open, but entrances may be restricted. Sodexo will continue with regular hours until December 9th. The cafeteria and snack bar will be closed from December 12th through January 2nd. As with most renovation projects, there will probably be some inconveniences during this time, but the end result will provide a much brighter and attractive area for students.

RETIREMENTS

Two Seminole State College employees will be retiring at the end of the fall term. Professor of Math **Travis Qualls** and Business Office Cashier **Mary Whitley** will conclude their full-time careers at the College this December. Campus and community guests are invited to receptions honoring these individuals during the final weeks of the semester. A reception for Travis Qualls will be held on Thursday, December 8th at 2:30 p.m. in Foundation Hall of the Haney Center. The reception for Mary Whitley will be on Tuesday, December 13th at 2:30 p.m. in the Hager-Chapman Center in the Ben and Bonnie Walkingstick Student Services Building. I know that the campus community joins me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Qualls and Ms. Whitley for their dedication and service to Seminole State College. We wish them the best for the future.

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PERSONEL UPDATE

We have had several personnel changes on campus late this fall. If you have not yet met these folks, please join me in welcoming them to campus. **Janet Smith** filled an open position as a Financial Aid Specialist. **Jennifer Liu** was hired as a Student Development Specialist for the newly-funded Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) grant. **Melissa Marshall** has moved into the Skills Instructor position with Employment Readiness and **Dwayne Forester** is the new Director of Employment Readiness. **Christopher Smith** is the new secretary for the Upward Bound program. A familiar face, **Tammy Presley**, returned to SSC as cashier – a position she held several years ago. **Emma Speer** has been hired as the second Student Development Specialist for NASNTI, and will begin her new position on January 3rd, 2012.

Finally, long-time director of our TRiO Programs, **Kathy Hoover**, is moving into a new position as Director of Sponsored Programs. As such, she will now report to Fiscal Affairs, and will be responsible for fiscal oversight of externally-funded programs. In addition to filing performance reports and documenting federal compliance, Ms. Hoover will continue to assist the institution with grant acquisitions.

'SHAPING THE FUTURE' HOLIDAY EVENT

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation is sponsoring a Holiday Party for employees and friends of the College on the evening of **Monday, December 12th at the Shawnee Country Club**. Invitations have been distributed on campus and to many of our friends and supporters in the community. Long-time Oklahoma City radio personality **Ronnie Kaye** will add musical entertainment to the evening. This event will be a great way to end the semester, help support the SSC Educational Foundation, and celebrate the continued success of our "Shaping the Future" Capital Campaign. Over the past weeks and months, the Foundation has made major improvements to the north pond and park area on campus. The lights for the area are finally in and Spring will see shrubs and trees planted. The "Shaping the Future" Campaign has also provided a wonderful cultural opportunity for our students, area public school children and the community with the mini-artist-in-residence program featuring concert pianist Dr. Peter Simon this week. We are so appreciative of the financial support provided by our employees and other supporters through the Foundation's "Shaping the Future" Campaign. Your support is making a big difference on this campus and in the lives of students. I hope you will join us as we celebrate this success on December 12th.

As always, this time of year makes us mindful of the many things for which we are thankful. Your friendship and your service to this institution are among the many things I count as blessings. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and the coming year.