

Seminole State College
CAMPUS MEMO
From Dr. Jim Utterback – President
April 14, 2004

I want to wish each of you well as we enter the final weeks of the Spring semester. This time of year always seems to move swiftly as the calendar fills with events and activities. As the term draws to a close, I would like to update you about several items.

Campus Meetings

Over the past few weeks, I have met with different groups of employees in an attempt to improve communication on campus. I appreciate those of you who have taken time to meet with me. During the coming weeks, I will conclude the small group meetings and host a President's Faculty Forum. As an outgrowth of discussions with the Faculty Senate, I am also establishing an on-going mechanism to enhance campus communication. A Presidential Advisory Panel, with faculty, professional staff, classified staff and student representation, will serve as a conduit for communication of ideas, advice and perspectives of the various constituencies with the administration. This Panel's interaction with the administration is designed to enhance and supplement existing communication channels. Your thoughts, concerns and dreams are valued and appreciated. More open and active sharing of these will strengthen Seminole State College.

Foundation Golf Tournament

Our two local Legislators, **Representative Dan Boren** and **Senator Harry Coates**, are once again joining forces to host a golf tournament fundraiser to benefit the SSC Educational Foundation on **Friday, April 23, 2004**. The Boren-Coates Invitational will be held at the Shawnee Country Club. In addition to major corporate sponsored teams, individual players may enter the tournament for \$100. If you would like more information about the tournament, please contact the President's Office at Ext. 200.

Annual Foundation Banquet

The SSC Educational Foundation will host its annual Spring Dinner on **Thursday, May 4, 2004**. The trustees met in late March to finalize plans for the event. One of the highlights of the evening will be three inductions into the SSC Alumni Hall of Fame. This year's honorees are: Seminole civic worker **Sharlene Hammons**, Shawnee optometrist **Dr. Clay McLaughlin**, and longtime educators **Paul and Darlene Smith** of Dewey. Corporate tables of eight are available for \$300 and individual tickets are \$25. Proceeds from this event support the foundation in providing student scholarships and assisting with numerous college projects. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this event.

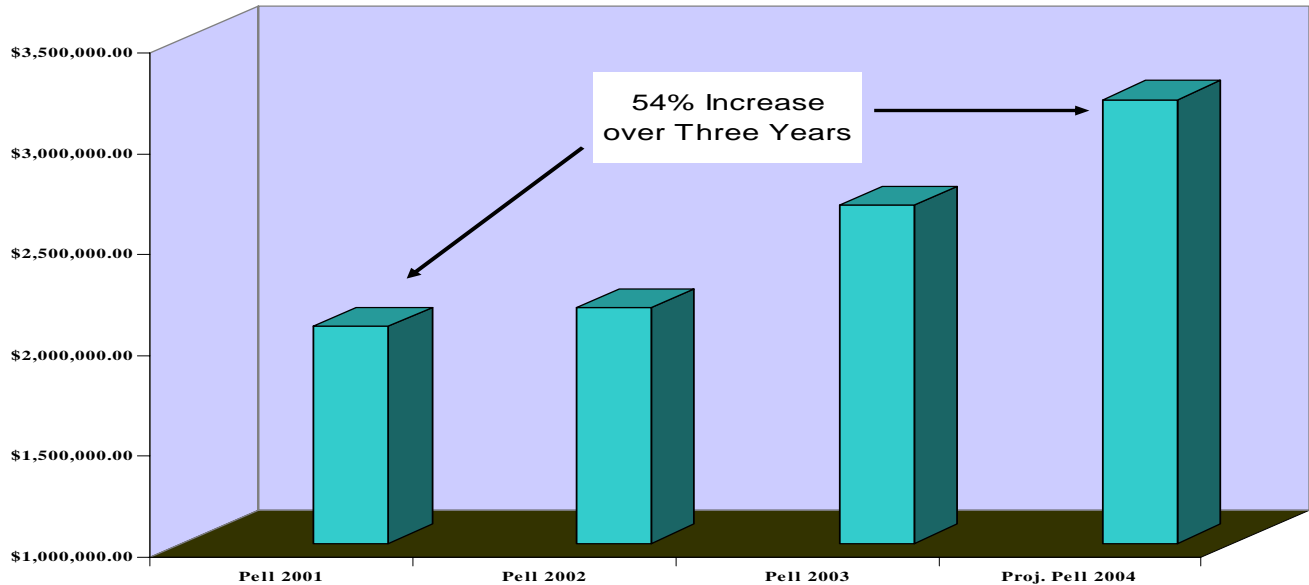
Accreditation and Audit Visits

Later this week, an evaluation team will visit campus to review our technical-occupation programs. The Business and Information Systems Division, under the leadership of **Chair Fred Bunyan** and Vice President for Academic Affairs **Dr. Rebecca Kennedy**, has spent much time and effort in preparation for this visit. The team will meet with advisory board members, faculty, staff, graduates, employers and students while at SSC. Your help in making their visit to our campus and this community a positive experience will be appreciated.

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In late March, we underwent a routine audit of our financial aid area. The audit was for fiscal years 2001 and 2002, but included the review of loans dating back to the early 1980s. In the exit interview, the auditors indicated no significant findings, and commended the College on a clean and efficient Office of Student Financial Assistance. The auditors recommended that the College accelerate efforts to completely close out remaining Perkins Loan accounts – a student loan program which SSC discontinued over a decade ago. A final written report is expected in approximately 45 days. The SSC Financial Aid Office has probably experienced as much stress on personnel and their system due to enrollment growth, as any area on campus. I appreciate Director of Enrollment Management **Chris Lindley**, Vice President for Student Affairs **Dr. Sean Fox**, and the members of the staff for their on-going work in Financial Aid, and for their extra efforts in assisting these auditors.

Seminole State College Pell Grant Totals



Other News

Rep. Jari Askins, Speaker Designate of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, has agreed to speak at our May 15, 2004 Commencement Exercises. Rep. Askins is providing excellent leadership at the State Capitol, and is poised to make history next year as the first woman Speaker of the House. She has been a good friend to Seminole State College. Commencement is always a wonderful highlight of the academic year. It is great to be able to visualize through graduation the important role Seminole State College plays in changing and developing the lives of our students.

I received notification from the Governor's Office yesterday that Wewoka attorney **Bill Huser** has been appointed by executive order to serve as a Regent for Seminole State College, effective July 1, 2004. Mr. Huser will be replacing **Chair Dale Nichols**, who will complete his seven-year term on the Board this summer. Regent Nichols has been an avid supporter of Seminole State College throughout his term. His dedicated and conscientious service is deeply appreciated. I have been acquainted with Mr. Huser for many years through his civic service in Wewoka. He is a friend and supporter of Seminole State College. We look forward to working with him for the betterment of this institution.

As always, thank you for your continued support, and for your efforts on behalf of Seminole State College.