

*Seminole State College*  
**CAMPUS MEMO**

*From Dr. Jim Utterback – President*

April 2, 2010

*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.*

**Revised Mission Statement**

During their March meeting last week, the SSC Board of Regents approved a new Mission Statement and adopted Core Values for the institution. We began the review process during our preparation for the Higher Learning Commission Self-Study. The need to complete this exercise was underscored by the accreditation consultant-evaluators during the site visit last October. Over the past several months, we have solicited ideas regarding ways to improve the Mission Statement and develop Core Values. The process included: 1) discussion at a retreat in January attended by representatives from each academic division, the Board of Regents, staff and students; 2) follow-up with the facilitator of the retreat Dr. Mac McCrory; and, 3) review by the Administrative Council and Faculty Senate President. The campus community was invited to give feedback on the final proposals. Additionally, the Mission Statement was posted for several weeks on the College's website to solicit public input on the proposed changes. The new version received 85% or better approval ratings through our online poll.

With the final adoption of the new Mission Statement (Policy Number: I-3-1), we will begin replacing the old Mission Statement in all printed and online publications. Thanks to all who participated in this important endeavor.

**Seminole State College Mission:**

**Seminole State College empowers people for academic success, personal development, and lifelong learning.**

**Core Values – C.O.R.E.**

The values of Compassion, Opportunity, Respect and Excellence will be considered in all actions of Seminole State College.

**Seminole State College**  
**Core Values**



Graphic by Kelli McBride

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### Retirements

Two employees have announced their plans to retire this Spring. Language Arts and Humanities Division Chair and long-time English instructor **Jeff Cox** will retire in May. Mr. Cox has been at the College for the past 26 years. Police officer **Donnie Blankenship**, who began working at SSC in 1997, is also retiring. We wish both of these individuals much happiness in the future.

### New Division Chair

With the retirement announcement by Mr. Cox, Language Arts and Humanities Assistant Division Chair **Jessica Isaacs** has been promoted to Division Chair to allow Ms. Isaacs time to work with Mr. Cox during his remaining weeks on campus. As Assistant Division Chair, Ms. Isaacs is familiar with the role and function of the Division Chair position. Ms. Isaacs has demonstrated leadership qualities through her service as the Writing-Editing Coordinator of the Higher Learning Commission Self-Study Steering Committee, Writing Program Coordinator for the English Department and co-sponsor of Sigma Kappa Delta English Honor Society. Ms. Isaacs has taught full-time at SSC since 2002. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English and Bachelor of Science in Mass Communication from East Central University in Ada. She also holds a Master of Arts in English from the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

### Annual Foundation Banquet

The SSC Educational Foundation will host its annual Spring Dinner on **Thursday, May 6, 2010**. One of the highlights of the evening will be two inductions into the SSC Alumni Hall of Fame. This year's honorees are: former women's basketball coach and SSC Foundation Trustee **Christy Austin Barnes** and Enid surgeon **Dr. Kirk DePriest**. SSC Assistant Registrar **Debbie Robertson** will be recognized at the banquet for 30 years of service to the College. We also have four employees who are celebrating their 25-year milestones: **Patricia Cokeley, Debbie Hammond, Kathy Hoover** and **Ron Killian**. The longevity of these individuals' service is a strong testament to their dedication – and is a compliment to the institution. Corporate sponsorships of \$300, \$500 and \$1,000 are available. 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.



*As always, I thank you for your commitment to providing educational opportunities for our students – and for your dedication to Seminole State College.*