

Seminole State College
CAMPUS MEMO

From Dr. Jim Utterback – President

May 5, 2008

I would like to update you about several items of importance to our campus community.

Regents

Shawnee Superintendent of Schools **Ms. Marilyn Bradford** has been appointed by the Governor to a serve a seven-year term on the Seminole State College Board of Regents, beginning in July, 2008. Her nomination was approved by the Senate Education Committee last week. Confirmation by the full Senate is pending. Ms. Bradford is a seasoned educator and a respected professional in education circles and in the community of Shawnee. I am confident that she will be an excellent addition to our Board of Regents, and I look forward to working with her for the betterment of Seminole State College.

Ms. Bradford will replace Board Chair **William Harrison, Jr.**, whose term expires in June. We appreciate Regent Harrison's leadership and service to this institution over the past 14 years. His leadership has helped to make many dreams come true. During his tenure, SSC has more than doubled in size, several new buildings have been built, and several new programs have been added. He will be greatly missed. On a personal note, Regent Harrison is the only remaining member of the Board who was on the Board when I was hired. He has been a great Regent.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Search

After **Dr. Rebecca Kennedy** announced earlier this semester that she plans to retire at the end June, 2008, we began our search for a new Vice President for Academic Affairs. The position was advertised in state and local newspapers, as well as nationally through the *Chronicle for Higher Education*. We received 25 applications for the position by the deadline for first consideration. An 18-member Search Committee has been reviewing resumés and extensive application materials. I appreciate the members of the Committee involved in this process for their diligence and continuing efforts to identify the best possible candidate for this important position.

Annual Recognition Banquet

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation hosted another great event honoring College employees and outstanding alumni last Thursday evening. Approximately 400 people attended the annual Spring banquet. The Foundation brought in over \$27,000 through the sale of 66 corporate sponsorships and a large number of individual tickets. It was a record-breaking fund raising event for the Foundation. I would like to offer a special thank you to the many groups and members of the College faculty and staff who helped support this event with donations and with their attendance.

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Congratulations

In case you haven't heard, our Vice President for Student Affairs passed his final hurdle in completing his doctoral program at the University of Oklahoma last week. Congratulations are in order for **DR. Brad Walck!**

Higher Learning Commission

Congratulations are also in order to our HLC Steering Committee Chair **Pam Koenig** and the scores of individuals on campus who have been working so hard on our Self-Study process. The progress being made in preparing for our 2009 site visit has been very impressive. As intended, this process is a great learning and growing experience for our institution. Thanks to everyone for your efforts.

As Commencement approaches, I am always reminded of the important job we collectively do in assisting students in changing their lives. Everyone on this campus has had a part in the success of the graduates who will walk across the stage Friday morning to receive their diplomas. I am proud to have a career in Higher Education. As always, thank you for your continued support, and for your efforts on behalf of Seminole State College.