

*Seminole State College*  
**CAMPUS MEMO**

*From Dr. Jim Utterback – President*

August 8, 2001

*I hope you have had a great summer. As the new academic year approaches, I want to make you aware of several changes that have occurred on campus including news about personnel and salaries.*

**Enrollment**

Enrollment continues to grow with the 2001 summer session showing a 13 percent increase in full-time students. Headcount and FTE numbers for fall also show an increase at this time. If early indicators hold true, the College will experience even more growth this fall. I appreciate the efforts of the entire campus community in making this growth possible, and in handling any “growth pains” that may be experienced this fall.

**Salaries**

In spite of minimal increases in state appropriations this year, we were able to make further headway in addressing employee salaries. More than bricks and mortar, more than grounds, more than computers, roofs, parking lots, or anything else, I believe that people are the number one priority of this institution. I am very pleased that, for the fifth consecutive year, we have been able to award raises to faculty and staff. This is especially significant in times when a number of our sister institutions have not given any increases. The recently approved raises were made possible by continued high enrollment, Board approval of an early retirement plan, and dollar saving personnel reassignments on campus.

In June, the SSC Board of Regents approved a 3% increase in the salary pool for full-time and permanent part-time employees. Policy changes approved at the July meeting have also allowed us to increase compensation for Division Chairs and Assistant Division Chairs. In addition, when the salary schedules were put together several years ago, the schedules did not adequately reward employees with long years of service to the institution. This long-standing discrepancy in longevity pay was addressed through a new policy. The new policy provides for additional longevity compensation for employees who have been at the College for more than ten years. Specific details regarding policy changes are available for review in the Board Policy manual available in the David L. Boren Library or on the web at [www.ssc.cc.ok.us](http://www.ssc.cc.ok.us).

**Retirements**

As the spring semester ended, the retirements of English instructor **Chris Calvin** and Trojan Baseball Coach **Lloyd Simmons** were announced. Later in the summer, two other long-time employees of the College retired: assistant librarian **Dr. Gerald Hickman** and math instructor **Larry Vickers**. We congratulate them on reaching this milestone in their careers and wish them the very best in the future. **Larry Vickers** has agreed to continue working part-time for the College as Assessment Coordinator.

### Personnel Changes

Several internal promotions and position changes have occurred on campus this summer. **Jonna Bunyan**, who has served as Director of Learning Resources for many years, has accepted the position of Coordinator of our new Student Support Services Grant Program. This federally funded program will complement the efforts of our Title III Student Success Center. Specifically, it will enable us to serve a greater number of students with academic support services. Jonna's background and experience will be very valuable in overseeing SSS.

In related moves, Business and Industry Training Coordinator **Debbie Kinsey** has been selected as Director of Learning Resources. Along with libraries across the nation, SSC faces a challenge in adapting to technological advancements in relation to resource information. I hope to see our library increase the utilization of technology in providing information for educational purposes. Debbie's academic preparation and teaching experience in technology-related fields should prove beneficial in her new role. To fill Debbie's position as Business and Industry Training Coordinator, **Carol Hartman** moved from the Employment Readiness Program. This shift should also be a good fit for Carol with her experience in workforce development. All of these individuals are to be commended for stepping forward to undertake new challenges to benefit the institution.

### New Faces

Several positions have been filled on campus during the summer months. **Ms. Rachel Jackson**, **Ms. Sophonia Roe** and **Mr. Richard Walcott** have been employed as full-time teaching faculty. **Ms. Johnnie Jacobs** will begin working part-time this fall as an instructor and the director of our new Native American Studies program. Also, former Trojan player and assistant coach **Eric Myers** has been named to head the SSC baseball program. **J.T. Locklear** began duties this summer as Head Coach of the men's basketball program. The SSC Educational Foundation hired **Dan Boren** as President and CEO. He began work in June. We welcome these new employees to campus!

### New Locations

There have been some changes in locations of offices. The **Employment Readiness** (TANF Program) offices have been moved from the Boren Library to our building on Milt Phillips in the downtown area. This facility, which was formerly First State Bank, also serves as home to Action Inc.'s Head Start Program. The area ER occupied in the library will be the new home of the **SSC Police Department**. This move will open space in the Phillips Music Building for faculty offices as well as for the Social Sciences Divisional office. In connection with long-time discussions to move our switchboard and mailroom, we have recently moved the **communications center** to the Boren Library. Plans are to move the campus mailboxes to the library and utilize the former switchboard area in Tanner Hall as a workroom to house the copier and Scantron test-grading machine. This move should provide greater access to the police and the communications areas since the library is open extended hours.

*Thank you for your continued help and support. I look forward to seeing you during our upcoming In-Service Program on Wednesday, August 15, 2001. Dress is casual; it's hot out there!*