

Seminole State College
CAMPUS MEMO
From Dr. Jim Utterback – President
September 7, 2011

Our new academic year is well underway. I hope things are moving smoothly in your area of campus. As we progress into the semester, I'd like to update you on several matters.

FAREWELL TO DR. GASPARRO

Congratulations are in order to Seminole State College Vice President for Academic Affairs, **Dr. Paul Gasparro**, who has been selected as a Campus President with the Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) system in Ohio. Dr. Gasparro will serve as the President of the College's Eastern Campus in the Cleveland suburb of Highland Hills. As President he will oversee around 7,200 of the more than 55,000 credit and non-credit students the College serves annually. Cuyahoga Community College is Ohio's oldest and largest public community college. It ranks 1st in Ohio and 45th in the nation in conferring associate degrees in all disciplines.

Dr. Gasparro came to SSC just prior to our accreditation visit from the Higher Learning Commission and led us successfully through that critically important process. Also, he has been instrumental in implementing the use of new academic software on campus and encouraging the use of technology among our faculty and students. While this is a great loss for us, I am proud of Dr. Gasparro and appreciative of his efforts at Seminole State College. Please join me in wishing him well in his new endeavors.

We invite the campus community to attend a farewell reception for Dr. Gasparro on **Thursday, Sept. 8 at 3 p.m. in Foundation Hall of the Haney Center.**

In the absence of Dr. Gasparro, I have temporarily assigned Dean of Instructional Compliance **Pam Koenig** supervisory responsibility for all matters relating to Academic Affairs. Her background as a classroom instructor, Division Chair, and Chair of the Higher Learning Commission Self-Study Steering Committee have prepared her for this role as Chief Academic Officer. The search process for a new Vice President for Academic Affairs will begin immediately.

NEW FACES AND NEW DUTIES

There have been several new appointments on campus over the last couple of weeks. Some are new hires filling vacant grant positions and others are position changes for current employees. Please join us welcoming the new employees and congratulating those who are beginning new endeavors on our campus.

Theran Hernandez has been hired as an Advisor for the Upward Bound I program. **Ronnie Williamson** has accepted a position as an Advisor for the Talent Search West program, and **Marissa Lightsey** will serve as an Advisor for the Talent Search program. **Russell Beene** has been hired as the new Coordinator for the Veterans Upward Bound program.

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Financial Aid Advisor **Richard Thornton** will be transitioning to be Coordinator of the Upward Bound Math/Science program. Employment Readiness Skills Instructor **Holly Newell** will move to the Talent Search program, to serve as an Advisor. **Dianna O'Connell**, who has directed the GEAR UP grant program will serve as a Talent Search Advisor.

Mary Ann Hill will be assuming new duties overseeing both Talent Search programs. Similarly, **Jeanie Nix** will be supervising all of the Upward Bound programs.

POND AND PARK PROGRESS

We are continuing to make progress on the development of the park area surrounding the north pond on campus. Just prior to the start of the semester, the new Trojan cast iron statue was erected on the edge of Marie Austin Drive. In late August, a 30-foot bridge was constructed and a large gazebo added in the area behind the Jeff Johnston Fine Arts Center. These projects, sponsored by the SSC Educational Foundation, are transforming the north end of campus. We are grateful to the many private donors and volunteers who have given of their time and resources to add these improvements to our campus.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about any of the matters discussed in this memo. As always, I deeply appreciate your dedicated support of this institution – its people and its programs.