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COLLEGIAN

SEMINOLE, OKLAHOMA • VOL. 31 • NO. 4 • April 2003

Report Shows SSC Good Return on Taxpayers' Dollars

Despite the recent economic downturn, area taxpayers are getting a real bang-for-their-buck with Seminole State College, according to a recent study.

Nationally-recognized CCbenefits, Inc., of Moscow, Idaho, recently completed a study on the "Socioeconomic Benefits Study for Oklahoma Two-Year Colleges," which highlighted SSC's overall economic contribution to its five-county service area. The study was commissioned by the Oklahoma Council of Two-Year Presidents in concert with Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

The study tracked four benefits of the College, including regional economic benefits, higher earnings captured by exiting students, social benefits and taxpayers' return for their support.

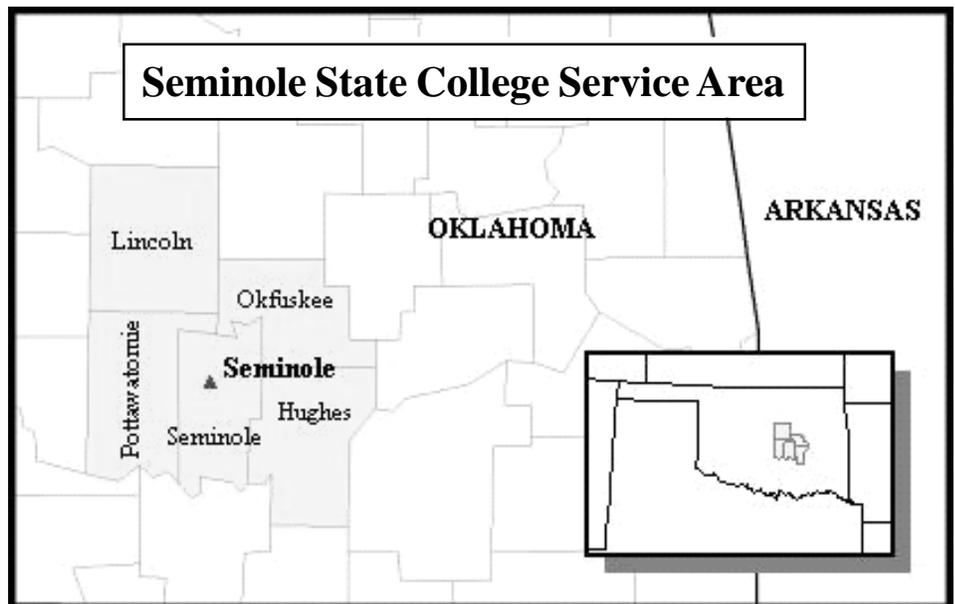
The data revealed that SSC accounts for \$37.1 million of all annual earnings in the SSC service area, including Seminole, Hughes, Okfuskee, Lincoln and Pottawatomie counties. These earnings are equal to roughly 1,649 jobs.

The study went on to say that for every credit completed, SSC students will earn an average of \$117 more per year, and for every full-time year they attend, the students will earn an additional \$3,221 per year.

Other highlights of the study included social benefits, such as improved health, reduced crime and reduced welfare, and taxpayer return.

The study noted that for dollar taxpayers invest in SSC today will return a cumulative of \$16 over the next 30 years.

"We are very proud of the job we are doing at Seminole State College," SSC President Dr. James W. Utterback said. "Each day,



A recent study performed by nationally-recognized CCbenefits of Idaho tracked Seminole State College's economic impact and benefits. The data revealed that SSC accounts for \$37.1 million of all annual earnings in the SSC service area, including Seminole, Hughes, Okfuskee, Lincoln and Pottawatomie counties. These earnings are equal to roughly 1,649 jobs in the five-county area.

we know we have a positive impact on the students we serve. We are helping them gain a better education or improve their skills in order to lead more productive lives. As a result, this has had a positive impact on our service area both financially and socially."

Utterback said the positive report comes at a good time for the State's economy.

"We have had a lot of bad news about the State's budget shortfall in recent months. But, I am particularly proud of our accomplishments at a time of extreme economic difficulty in the State of Oklahoma.

"Within the last year, the College has

absorbed the greatest funding cuts in modern history. However, we have survived by banding together to keep the momentum going for our students. Hopefully when it comes to future budget cuts, this study will reiterate the importance of investing in higher education."

CCbenefits, Inc., the company producing the study, was created in collaboration with the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) to provide economic analysis services to two-year technical and community colleges. Written reports were generated for each college with individual and personalized data.

SSC Regents Convene for March Meeting

At their March meeting March 27, the Seminole State College Board of Regents addressed the shortfall in College's state funding by declaring a financial exigency and taking actions to reduce costs. The Board also approved a proposal to increase room and board charges and heard positive news about the College's economic impact on the community through the Oklahoma Two-Year Colleges "Socioeconomic Benefits Study."

The SSC Regents declared a state of financial exigency for the College in response to reductions in funding due to the State budget crisis. The declaration enables the Board to enact cost-saving measures as specific needs arise.

As part of the financial exigency plan, the Board approved a plan that would allow for a temporary suspension of 403B employee benefit contributions made by the College. The Regents approved the suspension of the contribution for the months of April, May and June, with the understanding that the situation will be monitored on a month-by-month basis after the review of financial reports.

SSC President Dr. James W. Utterback said the contribution suspension may not need to be used, depending on the College's financial position after each month.

"Over the past several months, I have met with several campus groups about the suspension of the College's 403B contribution. Our discussions indicate that while this hurts financially, it is our best option for handling this latest round of budget cuts.

"We are very fortunate to have an outstanding benefit package for our employees. It will remain a priority to try to protect our employee benefits during this financially difficult time," Utterback said.

In the next action, the Regents approved a retirement incentive plan for FY 03. The plan is similar to one adopted by the Board

last year.

The plan will be made available on a one-time basis and will be based on eligible employees' annual salaries. The plan allows employees to receive 25 percent of their FY03 annual salary in a one-time payment or equal compensation paid into the employee's Oklahoma Teacher's Retirement fund.

Similar plans have been utilized at Tulsa Community College, the University of Central Oklahoma and Rose State College.

Next the Board approved a proposal for the increase in room and board charges, effective for Fall, 2003. The current room and board rates are \$1855 per semester for the Roesler Residential Learning Center and \$1750 per semester for the Sarkeys Residence Hall. The approved proposal will allow the rates to increase to \$2055 per semester for Roesler and \$1900 per semester for Sarkeys.

"We are recommending these increases due to the rise of mandatory costs, such as food and utilities," Utterback told the Board.

Next, the Regents accepted a study of the Seminole State College's socioeconomic benefit to the surrounding community. The "Socioeconomic Benefits Study for Oklahoma Two-Year Colleges" was conducted by nationally-recognized CCbenefits, Inc. of Moscow, Idaho.

The study tracked four benefits of the College, including regional economic benefits, higher earnings captured by exiting students, social benefits and taxpayers' return for their support.

"Despite the recent downturn in the economy, this study reveals that higher education is a good investment for the state of Oklahoma," Utterback said.

During the president's report, Utterback informed the Regents about federal funding, legislative activities, personnel matters, assessment, student recognitions and

upcoming activities.

Utterback informed the board of a recent announcement from Congressman Ernest Istook's Office. Istook announced that the College would receive \$225,000 in federal funding for the SSC "Fast Track" Nursing Program and the Enoch Kelly Haney Center.

Utterback then reported legislative activities, including Higher Education Day at the Capitol in February.

"We had a very successful Higher Education Day at the Capitol on Feb. 25," he said. "We had a great delegation of students, staff and community supporters. This year, we had the largest number of Legislators ever present for our luncheon, including Senators Harry Coates and Charlie Laster, and Representatives Dan Boren, Richard Lerblance, Danny Morgan, and Kris Steele. We appreciate their strong support of higher education and Seminole State College."

He also reported of recent action taken by the State Legislature that would allow Oklahoma colleges and universities to independently increase their tuition rates and fees.

Utterback informed the Board of several personnel matters, including the appointment of Sherley Reaves as the Employment Readiness Program Director. Reaves, who served the College as a financial aid advisor, is filling the position left vacant by the military mobilization of Carol Parker. Damaris Haney, who served as an academic counselor, has filled the position of financial aid advisor, while Denny Debtor who had been with the College's Title III program was transferred to academic counseling.

Other changes included the resignation of Head Basketball Coach J.T. Locklear and Student Support Services Advisor Jana Barnes.

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Seminole State College COLLEGIAN

The Seminole State *Collegian* is published monthly during the fall and spring semesters by the Seminole State College Office of Media Relations, under the direction of Mona Ridley and with the assistance of a student staff.

The staff reserves the right to edit submitted material for spelling and style. Consideration is given to all submitted material, but submission does not ensure publication. No anonymous material will be considered. All views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of Seminole State College. The *Collegian* is distributed on the SSC campus and mailed to over 200 friends of the college.

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Chancellor Visits SSC

Oklahoma Chancellor for Higher Education Dr. Paul G. Risser visited with Seminole State College faculty, staff and students March 13. Risser was on the SSC campus as part of scheduled organized visits to each public college and university in the state.

"It was an honor to have Chancellor Risser on campus," said SSC President Dr. James W. Utterback.

"This was a unique opportunity to showcase the College's commitment to academic excellence and progress, and our tremendous support from the community we serve.

"The College has accomplished many historic milestones within the last five years, including the construction of the Roesler Residential Learning Center and Enoch Kelly Haney Center.

"We have a lot to be proud of at Seminole State College and this is our chance to show off our outstanding faculty, staff, students and facilities."

While on campus, Risser and his wife Les, took part in several scheduled activities, including a breakfast with SSC Regents, administrators, division chairs and campus organizational leaders. The couple also visited with faculty and staff during a mid-morning "coffee" at the David L. Boren Library.

The Risseres were also greeted by community leaders at a reception before attending the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum luncheon.

"The community of Seminole has always been an integral part of Seminole State College," Utterback said. "In addition to serving our traditional students, we have worked with area businesses owners to provide vital business and industry training to their employees.

"We wanted to display to the Chancellor



Oklahoma Chancellor for Higher Education Dr. Paul G. Risser visited with Seminole State College faculty, staff and students, and Seminole community members March 13. Risser was on the SSC campus as part of scheduled organized visits to each public college and university in the state. Risser (left) is pictured with Melvin Moran of Seminole (center) and SSC President Dr. James Utterback at a SSC community reception.

that the College's business and industry training has become an important source of economic enhancement and development to the surrounding area, as well as an important educational component of the College," he said.

Risser became the Chancellor of Oklahoma Higher Education in January. Prior to his appointment, he was the president of Oregon State University in Corvallis, Ore., where he led the university to record enrollments. He previously was president of Miami University in Ohio and held the positions of vice president for research and provost and vice president

for academic affairs at the University of New Mexico.

Risser also served as a Botany professor at the University of Oklahoma from 1967-1981. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Grinnell College, Iowa, a master's degree in Botany and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Botany and Soils from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In addition to his academic posts, he has served as program director of ecosystems studies for the National Science Foundation and has served as president of the American Institute of Biological Sciences and the Ecological Society of America.

SSC's fall and summer schedules available

Class schedules detailing Seminole State College's (SSC) summer and fall semester course offerings are now available at the college's office of admissions in the Tanner Hall administration building.

Enrollment for current students is scheduled for April 15-16 and April 20-

21. More information about specific enrollment times for currently enrolled students is available through the college's office of admissions.

Open enrollment for summer begins on Wednesday, April 9 and continues through Friday, May 30. Open enrollment for fall begins Thursday, April 15

and continues through Friday, Aug. 15.

These dates exclude Wednesday, April 16 for high school senior enrollment.

For additional information about Seminole State College's enrollment, please call the college's office of admissions at (405) 382-9950.

Crouch receives Nigh Scholarship

Seminole State College student Sarah Crouch of Shawnee was one of 35 Oklahoma college and university students selected to attend the Nigh Institute Leadership Conference at the Oklahoma State Capitol in Oklahoma City.

Crouch was selected to receive a 2003 George and Donna Nigh Public Service Scholarship through a program funded by the Oklahoma Legislature.

During the leadership academies, students visited with members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as attended sessions concerning economic development, world issues, environmental issues and state and local government.

During the sessions, the students heard from national and state leaders, including former Governor George Nigh, Dr. Randall Jones, Political Science Professor at the University of Central Oklahoma; General Dennis Reimer, Director of the Institute on Terrorism and Retired Chief of Staff of the United States Army; John Lewis, Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge; Carl Reherman, Director of the Nigh Institute; Lance Johnson, Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce Director of International Economic Development; Dick

Rush, Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce President; Edmond Mayor Sandra Gragg Naifeh, Edmond Finance Director Cathy O'Connor; Oklahoma Municipal League Government Relations Carolyn Stager; Zach Taylor, Director of the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments; Dr. Jim Bidlack, UCO Professor; Derek Smithee, Water Resource Board Quality Division Chief; and Mark Stansberry, President of Global Trade Development Corp.

In addition, the group had the opportunity to attend briefings from the Oklahoma Supreme Court, House of Representatives and Senate, as well as visit the Oklahoma City Zoo and Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial. They also heard from special speakers Nate Hybl of the University of Oklahoma Sooners and Josh Fields of the Oklahoma State University Cowboys.

Crouch is the daughter of Paul and Janet Crouch of Shawnee. A freshman, she plans to continue her education and pursue a career in pharmaceuticals.



Seminole State College Student Sarah Crouch of Shawnee and SSC President Dr. James Utterback stand on the Oklahoma House of Representatives Floor at the State Capitol. Crouch was one of 35 Oklahoma college and university students selected to attend the Nigh Institute Leadership Conference at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

SKD Holds Award-Winning Forum



Seminole State College English Honor Society Sigma Kappa Delta "Readers & Writers Forum" won second place for "Best Chapter Activity" at the National Sigma Kappa Delta Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Readers & Writers Forum allows the public to have the opportunity to hear from published authors as well as discuss literary works of interest.

The club plans to hold the free forums on the first Thursday of every month at the Seminole Public Library in the Goldie Barnett room from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

At the March gathering, Seminole Attorney Ed Cadenhead (far left) and Seattle author J. Glenn Evans shared their novel writing experiences.

Cancer Survivor Dedicates Time to Relay for Life

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By **KAREN ANSON**
Managing Editor - *Seminole*

For Seminole State College Math Instructor Paula Rutledge, one of the best times of her life was when she was diagnosed with cancer.

"A lot of people will say they wouldn't choose to have cancer, but wouldn't take anything for the experience," said the Seminole State College teacher.

"I never felt closer to God, I never prayed as hard in all my life."

She honestly thinks the semester she was diagnosed with cancer was the best semester she's ever taught.

"I told my classes about it from the beginning," she said.

"There was a great response from my students.

"They put me on prayer lists and a lot of students came by and told me that they or members of their families had had cancer.

"I had the best discipline that semester.

"If anybody had done anything wrong, half the class would have pounced on them."

Rutledge never missed a day of school, taking the chemo on Friday afternoons, recuperating over the weekends and returning to class on Mondays.

"I told them I'd come back from chemo as a blonde," said the gray-haired Rutledge.

By the second treatment, her hair was almost all gone.

"The hair is a big thing to a lot of people," Rutledge said.

"I just shaved my head.

"We took along my two granddaugh-

ters, Jordan, three, and Brittany, five, so it wouldn't be such a shock to them when they saw me."

One of her fondest memories is, as her hair began growing back, her youngest granddaughter playing a game with her of rubbing her head and saying, "fuzzyhead, fuzzyhead."

"I always wanted to be a blonde, so I tried on a Dolly Parton wig, but decided to go for a color that was a little more honey blonde."

Eventually her hair came back curlier and grayer and she stopped wearing the wig.

After about six months her hair went straight again.

"I never let my hair grow out," she said.

Even now, more than four years later, she wears her hair cut close to her head in a style that accentuates her big brown eyes.

Rutledge, who actually lives in Ada, is one of the lucky ones.

She survived her breast cancer without a mastectomy and wasn't really even sick during her four months of chemotherapy and radiation.

"They put something in my veins before chemo that told my brain not to get nauseated," she said.

Her luck also extends to the support she got from her family, particularly her husband, Carl, who teaches physics and astronomy at East Central University; her daughter, Amy Davis, who teaches fourth grade at Wewoka; and her son, David Rutledge, art director at Prepaid legal in Ada.

"My husband sat through every chemotherapy with me at Baptist Hospital," she said.

Her children were at first terrified, she said.

"My son said the one thing he learned is that it's not something you have to be so scared of...you can face it and go on.

"My daughter has started taking her



Paula Rutledge

mammograms because of our family connection to breast cancer.

"We learned that, even if you're scared, take the test, because early detection is what saved me."

These days, she still talks to her classes openly about cancer and chemotherapy.

"So many need somebody to talk to, and it's a way for me to bring God to them."

Besides spreading the word of early detection and inspiration, Rutledge is another working on the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, helping to raise money for research.

"I'm part of the SSC team and I will walk with the survivors," she said.

"It's a very touching part and it's encouraging to see people who had cancer 15 years ago.

"What gets you most is at night when they turn off the lights and you walk past all the candles lit for those who died.

"Because we all have lots of friends who didn't make it."

Two SSC Students Named to Oklahoma Academic Team

Seminole State College students, Kathy Rosamond of Seminole and Autumn Surface of Shawnee, have been named to the 2003 Oklahoma Academic All-Stars Team for the state's community colleges and technical branches.

Rosamond and Surface were selected for the honor based on scholastic achievements, personal character, leadership abilities and service to the community.

The Oklahoma Academic All-Stars were honored Thursday, March 6, during the annual convention of the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges held at Rose State College in Midwest City, Okla.

The academic and student leaders in each of the state's 14 two-year institutions nominated outstanding students, then narrowed the list to the top two representatives of the student body from each campus.

Rosamond is a General Studies major who completed the coursework toward an associate's degree in December. She plans to pursue bachelor's and master's degrees in human resources to help women and children in need. She holds a 3.94 grade point average and has been listed on the President's and Vice President's Honor Roll.

Rosamond serves as president of the College's Psi Beta Psychology Honor Society, treasurer of the Sigma Kappa Delta Literary Honor Society and is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She has volunteered her time and collected donations for the Seminole Family Resource Center and Women's Shelter, Habitat for Humanity, Youth and Family Services and the Seminole Animal Shelter.

Surface is an Elementary Education major who is expected to graduate this spring with an Associate's of Arts degree. She plans to pursue a bachelor's degree, as well as master's and doctorate of philosophy degrees. She posts a 3.90 grade point average and has been listed on the President's and Vice President's Honor Roll.

She serves as the College's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society president, Student Government Association



Seminole State College Students Autumn Surface and Kathy Rosamond were named to the 2003 Oklahoma Academic All-Stars Team Thursday. The All-Stars were honored during the annual convention of the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges held at Rose State College in Midwest City, Okla. Above, Surface, who attended the ceremony, is pictured with SSC President Dr. James Utterback.

representative and Assessment Committee student member. As part of her efforts, she has helped organize a PTK health fair on the SSC campus and has participated in Habitat for Humanity, American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

SSC President Dr. James W. Utterback welcomed students and their guests to the recognition ceremony and com-

mended the students on their accomplishments.

Students named to the Oklahoma Academic All-Stars Team are considered for selection on the All-USA Academic Teams, sponsored by USA Today, the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and the American Association of Community Colleges. Students named to the All-USA Teams will be featured in USA Today.

Regents, from page 2

Next, Utterback commended the work of SSC Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Rebecca Kennedy, the SSC Division Chair Council and members of the faculty who have worked on the College's assessment efforts. The Higher Learning Commission of North Central will be visiting the College in the fall.

Utterback also provided a written report to

the Regents highlighting several recent recognitions for SSC students and student organizations.

He also invited the Board to participate in several upcoming activities, including the SSC Foundation Golf Tournament on April 11; the SSC Recognition Banquet on May 1; and Commencement

Exercises on May 10.

SSC Board members present at the March meeting were: Chair Dorothy Forth, Derrill Cody, William Harrison, Jr., Roger Nansel, Dale Nichols, Ben Walkingstick and David Wilson.

The next SSC Board of Regents meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21, 2003.

SSC's PTK Wins Regional Awards

Seminole State College's Alpha Theta Nu chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society recently brought home several chapter and individual awards from the Oklahoma/Arkansas Regional Convention.

Out of a possible 38 chapters who entered, Alpha Theta Nu was awarded second in the Scholarship Hallmark and fourth in the Service Hallmark. The chapter also was awarded an overall fourth place in the region for participation in all four PTK Hallmarks.

Individual members also received recognition as one of the top five in their categories, in the region. Autumn Surface took home an award for Outstanding Chapter President; Ellinda McKinney-Jones for Outstanding Chapter Officer; Renee Linn for Outstanding Chapter Member; and Pam

Koenig for Outstanding Continuing Advisor.

The organization's four areas of chapter concentration are the Hallmarks of Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Fellowship. At the regional level, five chapter awards are granted in each of these four categories, based on the activities of the chapters and how they are presented in award entries. PTK encourages Scholarship activities to concentrate on the International Honors Study Topic, currently Dimensions and Directions in Health: Choices in the Maze; and Service activities to focus on the International Service Project, currently the American Cancer Society.

The chapter's service activities for this year included active participation in such

cancer-awareness activities as the American Cancer Society Relay for Life; the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure; distribution of QuitKits and other information to aid in smoking cessation; distribution of awareness flyers during October's breast cancer awareness month; and inviting cancer prevention organizations to their health fair. Several members also participated in a Habitat for Humanity project, several food and clothing drives, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Scholarship activities included the fall Health Fair; publishing a healthy cookbook; the Great Weight Off weight-loss challenge; the Walk to Anaheim to promote exercise; and attending showings of the PTK Satellite Seminar Series.

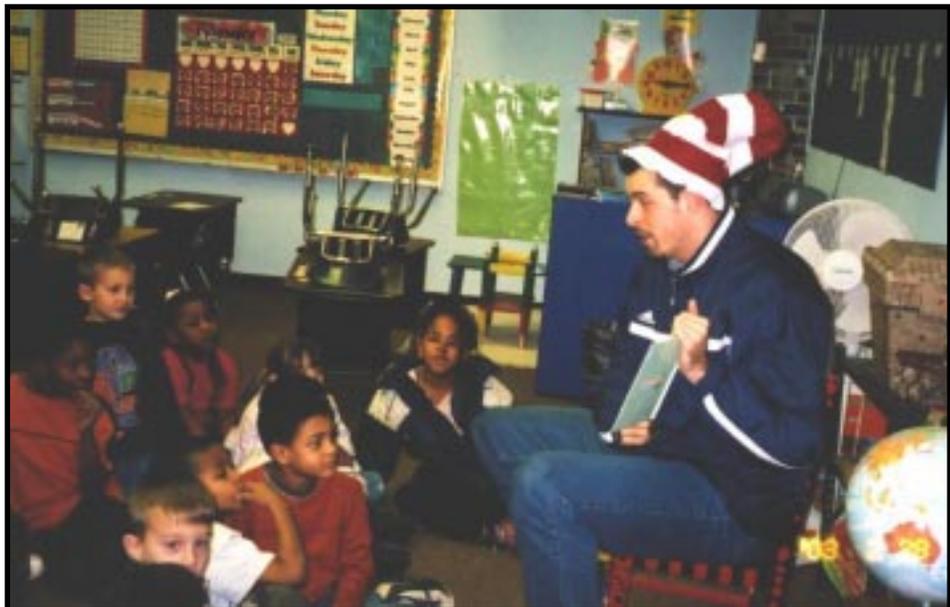
SSC Trojan Reads to Class

Donning the famous red-and-white striped "Cat-in-the Hat" hat, Seminole State College Trojan basketball player Sebastien Ville helped Wewoka Elementary School first graders celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday recently.

Ville, who is originally from France, read Dr. Seuss' "The Foot Book" in English, French and Spanish to Ms. Tricia Carpenter's class.

"It was a pleasure to have him read to the class," Carpenter said. "Not only did he read Dr. Seuss, but because of his background, he was able to share different languages and a different culture with the students."

Ville is a seven-foot sophomore from Pau, France who plays Center for the SSC Trojans.



Check out the Lady Trojans Remaining Home Games



Fri. Apr. 4	Texarkana	2:00, 4:00
Sat. Apr. 5	Northern	11:00, 1:00
Tues. Apr. 8	NEO	2:00, 4:00
Thurs. Apr. 24	Carl Albert	2:00, 4:00

Games Held at Pleasant Grove Softball Field, west of Seminole

For complete schedules of all SSC spring sports see SSC's website at www.ssc.cc.ok.us

SSC...A Good Investment

Nationally-recognized CCBenefits, Inc., of Moscow, Idaho, recently completed a study on the "Socioeconomic Benefits Study for Oklahoma Two-Year Colleges," which highlighted SSC's overall economic contribution to its five-county service area.

The study tracked four benefits of the College, including regional economic benefits, higher earnings captured by exiting students, social benefits and taxpayers' return for their support for the SSC service area, including Seminole, Hughes, Okfuskee, Lincoln and Pottawatomie counties.

The following information is CCBenefits fact-sheet regarding Seminole State College's economic impact.

Fact Sheet: Seminole State College Economic Impact

What role does Seminole State College play in the local economy? Business sales in the SSC District are \$93 million greater; labor income is \$37.1 million greater due to the past and present operations of SSC. The benefits of a robust local economy translate into job and investment opportunities, increased business revenues, greater availability of public funds, and an eased tax burden.

SSC Stimulates the Local Economy

- SSC had operating expenses of \$13.3 million in FY 01, and spent \$10.9 million (82%) of this in the SSC service area to purchase supplies and pay salaries and benefits.
- SSC employs 127 full-time and 70 part-time faculty and staff. SSC paid faculty and staff wages of \$6.7 million in FY01.
- For every \$1 SSC pays in salaries and benefits, there is an additional 46 cents in salaries and benefits generated off-campus in the SSC service area – this is commonly known multiplier effect.
- SSC skills embodied in the present-day workforce increase the output of industries in the SSC service area where the former students are employed by \$46.21 million. Associated multiplier effects (sometimes called indirect effects) in other industries increase sales by \$37.38 million.
- SSC skills from current and former students increase salaries and benefits in the SSC area by \$15.0 million directly, and by another \$12.3 million indirectly in FY01.

SSC Leverages Taxpayer Dollars

- The state government allocated \$4.4 million in support of SSC in FY01. For every dollar appropriated by the state government, SSC spending alone generated \$2.22 in salaries and benefits in the SSC service area.
- For every dollar appropriated by the state government in FY01, student earnings will increase by an average of 82 cents per year, every year through the rest of their working lives. Likewise, for every state dollar appropriated, the SSC area will see social savings of 22 cents per year, every year (i.e., reduced incarceration and health care expenditures, reduced expenditures on unemployment and welfare and reduced absenteeism).

SSC Generates a Return on Government Investments

- State government support for SSC in FY01 will be fully recovered in 7.8 years, in the form of higher tax receipts (from increased student wages) and avoided costs (e.g., from reduced public expenditures on incarceration).
- Accounting for increased tax receipts and avoided costs, the state government will see a rate of return of 16.7% on their FY01 support for SSC.

SSC Increases Individuals' Earning Potential

- Two thousand seven hundred seventy-nine credit and non-credit students attended the college in FY 01, 75% of which were employed full or part-time while attending.
- Seventy-three percent of the students stay in the region and contribute to the local economy after they leave the college.
- Studies demonstrate that education increases lifetime earnings. The average annual earnings of a student with a one-year certificate is \$23,998, or 81.4% more than someone without a high school diploma or GED, and 16.1% more than a student with a high school diploma. The average earnings of someone with an associate degree is \$28,241, or 113.5% more than someone without a high school diploma or GED, and 36.6% more than a student with a high school diploma or GED.
- After leaving the College, the average SSC student will spend 37 years in the workforce. The student who leaves with a two-year college degree will earn \$278,046 more than someone with a high school diploma or GED.
- Over the next 37 years in the workforce, the average SSC student's discounted lifetime earnings will increase \$7.50 for every education dollar invested (in the form of tuition, fees, books, and foregone earnings from employment).
- Students enjoy an attractive 22.6% rate of return on their SSC educational investment, and recover all costs (including wages foregone while attending SSC) in 6.5 years.