Hundreds Attend Ribbon Cutting of the Seminole Nation Residential Learning Center

“From a vision to a reality,” a simple statement that embraced the spirit of community involvement and appreciation that filled the campus of Seminole State College during the institution’s official ribbon cutting and grand opening of the Seminole Nation Residential Learning Center on Sept. 18. Hundreds of students, faculty, staff, community members, and legislators were on hand to celebrate the joyous event that marked the completion of a long-term building goal for the College.

Activities began with entertainment by Native American flutist Lewis Johnson of Wewoka, a former Seminole Nation Council Representative. Invocation was lead by Rev. Chebon Kernell of the First American United Methodist Church of Norman, who also gave a native blessing on the new facility.

Dr. Glen Johnson, Chancellor of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, introduced keynote speaker Chief of the Seminole Nation Enoch Kelly Haney. Haney expressed that this event was a great example of the continued collaborative events of the Seminole Tribe and the Seminole community.

Following the ribbon cutting, Steve Littleman of the Kiowa Tribe performed a cedar “cleansing” ceremony, a traditional Native American custom.

The 56,000 square-foot residence hall is constructed to the northeast of the Roesler Residential Learning Center. The approximately $8 million state-of-the-art facility was designed to house 150 students and currently has 130 residents.

In September, 2006, the Oklahoma Development Finance Authority (ODFA), acting on behalf of SSC, issued revenue bonds for the construction of new residence hall. This past spring semester, students moved into the housing facility.
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Cleansing (Cedar) Ceremony and Ribbon Cutting

President Jim Utterback, Chancellor Glen Johnson, and Chief Kelly Haney

Leilani Roesler, Jasmine and Melvin Moran

SSC Administrative Council

Steve Littleman performing cleansing ceremony

President Jim Utterback and Tom Thompson
Armour, Cox Honored by Seminole Chamber of Commerce

Two Seminole State College employees were honored for their outstanding dedication and work during the Chamber of Commerce’s September Forum. Language Art Division Chair Jeff Cox and Math, Science and Engineering Division Secretary Carlene Armour were recognized as “Faculty of the Month” and “Staff Member of the Month,” respectively.

The Seminole Chamber of Commerce recognizes SSC employees several times during Forum each year. Individuals are nominated from across the campus and chosen by SSC administrators, chairpersons and other directors of campus services to receive the honor.

Cox began his career at SSC in 1984. The Shawnee resident teaches journalism, photography and English.

Cox attended Oklahoma City University, where he received his bachelor’s degree. He holds a master’s degree from East Central University.

Armour begins her third year of service at the College. She became a full-time employee last year.

She is a member of the Seminole High School Band Booster Club. Armour and her husband, Louis, have four children. Their first grandchild, a boy, is due in January.

Hendersons Continue Campus Beautification Projects

Kenneth and Rose Henderson are continuing their campus beautification efforts. On Aug. 17, the duo began placing some of the twenty statues they donated to the College. The statues are placed around the campus pond area and near the Enoch Kelly Haney Center.

The Hendersons have not only contributed time, but labor to make campus beautification projects happen. Last year the Hendersons began campus landscaping efforts by planting two hundred and six trees, mostly near the pond located at the center of the campus. Landscaping has also been done on the east side of the new softball complex.
Seminole State College’s Foundation Golf Tournament, hosted Sept. 5 by Senator Harry Coates and Representative Ryan Kiesel, helped raise more than $11,000.
SSC Tidbits

Area Services Fair
Area businesses and organizations were on the campus on Sept. 9-10 to participate in the college’s 15th annual “Area Services Fair.” The fair provided SSC students and faculty a chance to learn about goods and services available in the community, and provided area businesses the opportunity to promote their products and services. SSC faculty and staff served free ice cream and students built their own sundaes.

Constitution Day
SSC Counselor and Student Government Association Sponsor Cynthia Yerby assists student Michael Fixico with filling out his voter registration form. In celebration of Constitution Day, Seminole State College in conjunction with Oklahoma Campus Compact hosted a voter registration drive on Sept. 17-19 in Tanner Hall. Campus organizations, the Native American Student Association, Student Government Association and Phi Theta Kappa, supported the drive. Additionally, there was a “Testing Your Knowledge of the Constitution” Competition. Marta Osby, assistant social science division chair and Phi Theta Kappa sponsor organized the 2008 Constitution Day event.

Emergency/Disaster Management Drill
Representatives from area law enforcement, emergency medical services, fire departments and other emergency response agencies were present for the Seminole Community Emergency/Disaster Management Drill held on the Seminole State College campus on Sept.18. The event was a mock drill to strategize how area emergency response units and local businesses - such as Integris Seminole Medical Center, Seminole County Health Department, Swearingen Funeral Home, Red Cross, Seminole High School, Center Point, OG+E, and other key services - would respond to a catastrophic event. In this drill, the agencies were responding to a tornado hitting the Seminole Nation Residential Learning Center at the College.