Report on Accomplishments for Seminole State College
BOARD OF REGENTS

Prepared January, 2006
by
James W. Utterback, Ph.D.
President
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Dear Regents:

As we look to the future at the beginning of each calendar year, we have traditionally reviewed past accomplishments made at Seminole State College. The following document provides an overview of 2005, and a reflective look at my tenure at this institution.

This month, I begin my tenth year as President. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have participated in the growth and development of our institution. We have made progress on many long-range goals and have seen dreams become reality. More dreams are on the horizon. With the planned construction of the new residence hall, and the significant improvements planned with the higher education bond funds, the future is bright and exciting at Seminole State College.

In reflecting on the accomplishments of 2005, as well as those of the past nine years, I am mindful that we have a fantastic team working for this institution. From Regents, administrators, faculty, staff and students to community supporters - hundreds of people have had a role in making the past year a success. I have a great deal of pride in our achievements. Thank you for your continued support.

With Best Wishes for a Wonderful New Year!

Sincerely,

James W. Utterback, Ph.D.
President
MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS - 2005

- The SSC Nursing Division received their final year of federal funding for a “Workforce Diversity” grant. The program brought a total of $653,400 to the College over a three-year program.

- The President was honored in January as Seminole’s “Citizen of the Year” in recognition of leadership provided to the community.

- Former SSC Baseball Coach Lloyd Simmons was honored by high school baseball coaches from throughout the state with induction into their “Hall of Fame.” Simmons was one of five coaches to receive the honor at the 38th Annual Oklahoma Baseball Coaches Association awards banquet in Oklahoma City.

- Freshman Zack Horn of Seminole was selected as a recipient of the Nigh Institute Scholarship. He represented the College at the Institute’s Leadership Academy in February in Oklahoma City.

- Seminole City Council member Bill Wantland established a scholarship for speech and debate students with a $10,000 donation to the SSC Educational Foundation. The Kelton-Wantland Scholarship was created to honor Mr. Wantland’s 1952 Seminole “Junior College” debate partner Tommy Kelton.

- The College received special federal funding this year through a Congressional Award of $99,198 for technology expenditures. An additional Congressional Award of $24,800 for student retention efforts was received by the College.

- The Nursing Program received $49,600 in federal funds for the Division’s Fast Track Program.

- SSC Athletic Director Rusty Beene was appointed Director of the Men’s Division of NJCAA Region II.

- Dr. Paul Risser, Chancellor for Higher Education, visited campus in February to tour classes, visit with faculty and students, and to speak at the College’s annual workshop for High School Counselors and Administrators.
An historic $500 million statewide Higher Education Bond Issue was passed by the Legislature in February. Seminole State College is slated to receive $6.75 million for capital projects.

Seminole State College’s Life Science department was awarded $7,000 of biotechnology equipment though a Howard Hughes Medical Institute grant to Oklahoma State University. The equipment will be used to teach DNA fingerprinting and DNA electrophoresis techniques.

President Utterback and Vice President Reynolds presented a program entitled “Building Partnerships for Local Economic Development” at the National Conference of the League for Innovation in New York last March.

For the first time in 15 years, the Trojans traveled to the JUCO National Men’s Basketball Tournament. The men advanced to the quarter-finals and finished their season with a record of 23 wins and 13 losses. Dr. Tom Mills, Trojans coach, was named Region II Coach of the Year.

Student Jill Holmes was selected as a winner of the 2005 Geraldine Burns Award for excellence in English studies. Ms. Holmes was nominated for the honor by members of the SSC English faculty. The recognition earned her a one-year membership into the Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English.

TRiO Program Director Kathy Hoover and her staff distinguished themselves again when they were successful in their efforts to have the College’s Student Support Services grant renewed for approximately $1 million over four years.

The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society held a Safety Fair for small children in the Spring. Firemen and police officials from across the county were on-hand to provide information and demonstrations to parents and children.

The Native American Student Association held the first pow wow on the Seminole State college campus since 1999. SSC alumni served as lead singers, dancers and directors for the event.

The Student Government Association hosted award-winning author, Tim tingle, on campus. The Oklahoma Choctaw explored Native American cultures through traditional story-telling and music.
• The SSC Educational Foundation Recognition Banquet was a success with over 350 in attendance and $20,000 raised for the Foundation. Herb Gunter, Simone Edwards and Ryan Franklin were inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame.

• Nine pieces of a private art collection were donated to the College by Melvin and Jasmine Moran in late Spring. The seven prints and an oil painting by Enoch Kelly Haney, along with an oil painting by Jean Richardson, are on display in the Haney Center.

• A 30-member SSC Building Committee, composed of campus and community representatives, along with sub-committees of the group, met throughout the year to discuss ideas and priorities regarding campus capital projects.

• A luncheon and reception for international students enrolled at SSC was hosted by Melvin Moran at the Jasmine Moran Children’s Museum in late April.

• The 2004-2005 Volleyball squad was recognized last Spring in the national sports publication--JUCO Review--for having one of the highest GPAs among all teams in the nation.

• The College assisted the City of Seminole with a project to improve the Jimmie Austin Golf Course. A contribution from the College initially intended for the purchase of land for a softball complex, was redirected at the request of the Seminole Recreation Authority to address long-standing problems at the course which is used by the SSC men’s and women’s golf teams.

• On April 26, East Central University, Seminole State College and First United Bank hosted an annual honors reception for area high school seniors at the Haney Center. Over 450 people attended and 39 schools participated.

• A “Rural Business and Resources Center” was established in Seminole through a partnership grant between the SSC Educational Foundation and Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma (REI). Numerous clients were assisted in their efforts to start or grow businesses in the College’s service area. A variety of special events and seminars were hosted to bring visibility to the program.

• Over 300 students were awarded degrees in May. Oklahoma State Senator Harry Coates was the featured speaker for Commencement exercises.
2005 Accomplishments

- Long-time faculty member, Social Science Division Chair and former SSC Belles Basketball Coach Brad Walck was named Vice President for Student Affairs in May. Mr. Walck filled the position left vacant by Dr. Sean Fox in August, 2004.

- Associate Vice President for Business and Community Relations Lana Reynolds was promoted to the position of Vice President for Institutional Advancement in May to serve as the chief development officer for the College and as chief liaison officer with the Seminole State College Educational Foundation.

- Former SSC Belles Basketball Coach Dixie Woodall was inducted into the WNBA Hall of Fame during a June ceremony in Knoxville, Tennessee.

- Plans to construct a new student housing facility were implemented in the Spring. The SSC Educational Foundation commissioned a housing feasibility study which supported the construction of a 150-bed residence hall. The firm Architects in Partnership of Norman was hired to design the facility.

- The College received a grant from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to fund a summer youth academy – “Peek Into Engineering” – for a third consecutive year. The week-long residential academy brought over 40 high school students to campus, providing them with preparatory learning experiences in engineering.

- A June report on the academic performance of SSC athletes indicated an all-sport cumulative GPA of 3.10. This number was above the cumulative 2.99 GPA for all SSC students. Ten student athletes received Academic All-American distinction and five were named as Distinguished All-Americans.

- An agreement with the International University of Nursing was approved by the Board in June. This partnership program will bring students from around the world to Seminole to complete their final two years of study.

- The College’s Cash Reserve account was increased by $69,471 over the previous year. The account’s funds, which were partially utilized for necessary operational expenditures during recent years of budget cuts, grew from an ending balance of $247,010 in FY04 to an ending balance of $316,481 in FY05.

- Local civic leader Marci Donaho was appointed to a seven-year term as a Regent for Seminole State College in late Spring. Ms. Donaho is the Executive Director of the Jasmine Moran Children’s Museum and brings teaching experience and managerial expertise to the Board.
A $300,000 grant to assist in the development of a business incubator was secured through the Central Oklahoma Economic Development District.

A 4% raise was awarded to all full-time employees, as reflected in contracts issued in July, 2005. Additionally, campus directors, adjunct faculty and division chairs received pay increases for their special duties. When combined with longevity increases, the average overall raise across the institution was approximately 5.8%. Seminole State College was among the leaders of all two-year colleges in salary increases and was significantly above the statewide average of 4.59%.

Students and community members traveled to Europe in 2005 with the College’s International Studies Program. The trips included visits to England, Wales and Ireland.

For the second year, the College was awarded a contract through the Workforce Investment Act to host a Summer Youth Program. The program focused on career exploration opportunities, and included life skills and job skills training.

The College participated in the second year of a U. S. Department of Education Title III Cooperative Strengthening Institutions Program grant for $1,822,954. This is a cooperative effort between East Central University, Seminole State College, Eastern Oklahoma State College and Murray State College to facilitate transfer of associate degree graduates into baccalaureate degree programs. Through the program, SSC receives approximately five years funding totaling $209,409.

Dr. Utterback was selected to serve as Chairman of the Council of Presidents for the State System of Higher Education. He was also appointed to a serve a three-year term as a Commissioner on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the American Association of Community Colleges.

Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Rebecca Kennedy, was selected to serve as Chair of the Council of Chief Academic Officers for the Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education.

Two parcels of land were approved for purchase by the College’s Board of Regents in 2006. Approximately one acre was purchased on the south side of Hwy 9 to complete a 20-acre tract owned by the College. Another portion of an acre was approved for purchase on the east side of Hwy 3 adjacent to the Sarkeys dormitory.
2005 Accomplishments

- SSC student Jami Schevetto placed third in the nation in the Allyn & Bacon Publishers Research paper Award Competition. Ms. Schevetto served as president of the Psi Beta student organization at SSC in 2004-2005.

- In August, the College received notice of the largest grant award in the institution’s history through a six-year, $2.5 million GEARUP grant. Kudos again to TRiO Director Kathy Hoover and many of her staff who designed and wrote this successful grant application.

- Academic outreach efforts during the past year included offering English Composition and Algebra classes to concurrently-enrolled students at Konawa High School. Additionally, the College began offering classes on the campus of Shawnee High School to concurrently-enrolled students.

- New I-TV rooms for distance learning were set up on campus this year. One was placed in the Haney Center and two rooms were set up in Tanner Hall.

- A long-standing error in Oklahoma Teacher Retirement payments made by the College on federal-salaried employees was identified and corrected.

- Over 80 community leaders from the College’s five-county service area attended a Regional Economic Development breakfast on campus in October featuring national tourism and economic development expert Berkeley Young.

- Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Rebecca Kennedy, was a presenter at the American Educational Studies Association annual conference in Charlotte, Virginia on the topic, “Women and War: Comments from the Margin.”

- To enhance communication on campus, the President held periodic meetings with an advisory council composed of faculty, staff and students. Additionally, informal “Coffee with the President” receptions were held in the President’s Office and six issues of an informational newsletter – “Campus Memo from the Office of the President” were distributed on campus.

- Former SSC Regent and long-time College and community supporter Melvin Moran was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame in October.

- Technology was put in place in 2005 to allow faculty and staff to input and access grades and other related data online. For the first time in the history of the institution, grades were posted electronically this fall. Technology for student access to this information has been developed and installed for use in Spring, 2006.
2005 Accomplishments

- SSC assisted local economic development efforts by continuing to assist an internationally-recognized call center company recruited to Seminole in December of 2003. The College provided space and technology for training and operations – ensuring that these new jobs remained in Seminole.

- The SSC Educational Foundation stepped forward to assist the call center by purchasing a facility to house the expanding company. The former Nichols Grocery Store, located at 600 W. Strother in Seminole, was purchased in late Fall. Renovation of the 26,000 square-foot facility is underway.

- In late Fall, over 30 individuals met at St. Crispin’s Lodge east of Seminole for an afternoon and evening retreat. The focus of the retreat was to look at the OSRHE legislative agenda for the coming year and identify potential new programs relating to globalization that the College would undertake if funded.

- A $50,000 lead gift from Dennis and Leilani Roesler was acquired to begin landscaping the pond area east of the Haney Center. The first phase of the work was completed in November and December of 2005. Major clean-up and dirt moving was followed by the installation of two large water fountains and the creation of waterfalls on the east and west banks of the pond.

- The Federal Perkins Loan Program, which had been inactive for over 20 years, was formally deleted in accordance with compliance procedures of the U.S. Department of Education.

- In December, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education awarded the College $150,000 for a successful competitive economic development grant. An additional $25,000 was brought to the institution for economic development in the area through a new State Regents program.

- The SSC Educational Foundation continued its growth by hosting three successful fundraising events during the year: the SSC Hall of Fame Spring Banquet; the Boren-Coates Invitational Golf Tournament; and a Holiday Reception in Shawnee. Special fundraising events and private contributions brought over $100,000 to the SSC Educational Foundation in 2005.

- During its third year of operation, the Enoch Kelly Haney Center continued to be a popular site for local, regional and state conferences, as well as banquets, proms, weddings, job fairs and meetings. An estimated 11,000 people attended special meetings and events in the facility in 2005 – in addition to thousands of students who attended classes in the Center.
2005 Accomplishments

- A Freshmen Seminar course was adopted at the College to become part of the permanent graduation requirements. The seminar is designed to enhance student success.

- Programming software has been being installed to allow students to make application and enroll online. This software is planned for use later this Spring. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education have created a student portal which supports online enrollment.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING PAST NINE YEARS

- Headcount and Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment (FTE) grew by an average of over 50%.

- Physical size of campus more than doubled – 39 acres in 1997; 85 in 2005.

- Faculty compensation moved from being among the lowest of rural two-year colleges to among the highest.

- The College received maximum 10-year accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of North Central.

- Various accrediting bodies have awarded exemplary program reviews and maximum accreditation for nursing, business and medical laboratory technology.

- Long-standing, costly problems with leaky roofs were addressed with installation of sloped, metal roofs.

- Marie Austin Drive was completed to provide safe access to the expanded campus.

- All campus heating and air conditioning systems have been replaced.

- Programs have been added in Golf, Tennis, Softball, Volleyball, Business and Industry Training, Applied Technology, Fast-Track Nursing, Child Development and Native American Studies.

- Global education efforts took community members, faculty and administrators to China, and brought Chinese students to Seminole.

- The College’s summer International Studies Program has taken SSC students to Mexico, Italy, Greece, England, Scotland, France and Ireland.

- The SSC Educational Foundation has tripled its assets.

- “Unqualified opinions” citing no exceptions on external audits were received each year.
Nine-Year Accomplishments

• The Roesler Residential Learning Center was built through an orchestrated coalition of the College, the citizens of Seminole, the City, the Economic Development Council and the College’s Foundation to provide much-needed campus housing.

• The Enoch Kelly Haney Center was opened offering business training, nursing program instruction, and opportunities to enhance economic development – as well as providing meeting and event space.

• A new campus telephone system was installed, greatly enhancing customer service and relations.

• Bachelor degree completion programs became available to citizens of the area through a cooperative effort allowing Mid-America Bible College to offer classes on the SSC campus.

• The College coordinated an effort between civic leaders from Konawa, Seminole and Wewoka to successfully apply for an economic development grant from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce – creating the Seminole County Coalition of Partners.

• A COPS Universal Hiring Program Grant helped enhance the College’s Police Department – aiding with general campus security and special Homeland Security issues.

• In keeping with national educational trends, the David L. Boren Library was restructured as an information technology center.

• Approximately $25 million dollars of new outside funding sources, including federal grants and private donations, have been raised on behalf of the college; special awards included TRIO Programs, Title III, FIPSE, Nursing, and Business and Industry Training.

• Management information systems have been purchased and installed to modernize technology, providing better service to customers and more accurate means for recording and reporting data.

• The SSC Bookstore was remodeled, doubling in size and modernizing operations.
Technology has been enhanced across campus for both classroom instruction and general operations. Hundreds of new computers have been purchased and technology infrastructure has been upgraded across campus, unifying systems, improving labs, enhancing instruction and providing necessary tools to better serve students.

Classroom technology has been enhanced with the utilization of a Web CT for on-line course presentation, and the addition of “Smart Boards.”

I-TV rooms have been upgraded, obsolete equipment replaced, and portions of the network backbone upgraded.

The College’s aging bus was replaced, along with numerous vehicles in the College’s transportation fleet.

The President assumed professional and civic leadership roles as: President of Seminole Chamber of Commerce, Founding Member of Seminole Economic Development Council, Member of Rotary International, Executive Committee Member of the Jasmine Moran Children’s Museum, President of the Two-Year Council of Presidents for two years, and Chair of the Council of Presidents.

The College opened new facilities and continued to increase enrollment while handling the most drastic state budget cuts in history, while maintaining reasonable cash reserves.

The ambitious project to replace the institution’s flat roofs with sloped, metal roofs, and replace aging heat/air units across campus was completed in 2004.

The SSC Educational Foundation met a great community need by purchasing a building in downtown Seminole in 2004 to house the College’s Employment Readiness Program, Workforce Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Employment Securities Commission. This one-stop community service center is located across the street from the Seminole Post Office.

Long-standing issues related to an outdated Faculty Tenure Policy were addressed through a year-long campus-wide effort revising the policy.

An on-campus Colloquium series of faculty-to-faculty/staff presentations on teaching and learning topics was developed and implemented on campus to enhance Faculty Professional Development.
A Faculty Mentoring program was initiated on campus, matching faculty new to Seminole State College with an experienced faculty mentor, to transition faculty into the processes of College and facilitate development of faculty in the classroom.