Report on
Accomplishments
for
Seminole State College
BOARD OF REGENTS

Prepared January, 2008
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 2007.

As we reflect on the highlights of the past year, 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 2007 a success. As a team, we are dedicated to helping individuals change their lives through education. We are also committed to bettering this institution and the communities it serves.

This month, I begin my twelfth year as President. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have participated in the growth and development of our institution. I have a great deal of pride in our accomplishments. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

With Best Wishes for a Wonderful New Year!

Sincerely,

James W. Utterback, Ph.D.
President
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The highlights and accomplishments of 2007 are particularly noteworthy in three areas: academic affairs; physical improvements to campus; and financial advancements. With very limited increases in operational funds, we have made great strides. Every area of campus has demonstrated the willingness to take risks to stretch and reach for new heights.

While it would be easy to retreat and be cautious, the Board of Regents, Foundation Trustees, faculty, staff and students have chosen to support our efforts to reach out and take the College to new heights.

**ACADEMICS** – The College implemented the most comprehensive Self Study in the institution’s history consisting of a campus-wide Steering Committee and extensive sub-committee structure in preparation of the effort to seek continued accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission. Social Science Division Chair Pam Koenig is serving as the Chair of the Self Study Steering Committee.

**PHYSICAL CAMPUS** – The campus landscape changed dramatically in 2007 with the construction of a new maintenance building, softball complex and a 150-bed residence hall. Beating professional estimates of $3.4 million for the softball complex/wellness project and $1.2 million for the maintenance building, the College was able to construct the projects for approximately $2 million and $550,000 respectively.

**FINANCIAL** - The College received notice of the renewal of its original Upward Bound grant for $334,873 annually for four years totaling $1,339,492 and a Veterans Upward Bound federal grant in the amount of $273,278 annually for four years totaling $1,093,112. Additionally, the College was awarded a new Upward Bound grant of $250,000 annual funding for four years totaling $1 million, and an Upward Bound Math-Science grant bringing $250,000 annually for five years for a total of $1,250,000. This is especially impressive at a time when many institutions lost their funding for these federal grant programs. Also in the area of financial accomplishments, the Seminole State College Educational Foundation kicked off a three-year Capital Campaign in late Spring seeking support for college projects. Gifts and pledges have totaled $700,000 – including the single largest pledge in the history of the College.
**HIGHLIGHTS OF 2007**

- A winter summit, attended by Chairs and Assistant Chairs of each of the academic divisions, and representatives of the Faculty Senate, Professional Staff Council, Classified Staff Association and Administrative Council, kicked off the calendar year. The group discussed long-range goals for the College, plans for new programs, and activities to help SSC continue to grow and excel.

- Supporters of the Seminole State College Trojan Baseball Team gathered in early February to hear former Coach Lloyd Simmons speak at the 2007 season kick-off dinner. Special recognition was given to former Coach Eric Myers at the alumni reunion event.

- Sarah Rooney of Shawnee was selected as a recipient of the Nigh Institute Scholarship. She represented the College at the Institute’s Leadership Academy in February in Oklahoma City.

- A large number of campus and community leaders participated in Higher Education Day at the Capitol in February demonstrating grassroots support for funding. SSC events were attended by Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins, Speaker of the House Lance Cargill, Co-President Pro Tempore of the Senate Glenn Coffee, Senator Harry Coates, Representative Ryan Kiesel, Senator Charlie Laster, Senator Richard Lerblance, Senator Susan Paddack, Representative Danny Morgan and Representative Shane Jett.

- Based on recommendations from a Winter Summit campus planning retreat, Tracy Lucas was hired for a new position created in the Admissions area to coordinate the College’s recruitment and retention efforts. A number of special events and activities were developed through the new office, including a Campus Activities Board, movies, concerts, dances and a “Fun Day.” Additionally, the position was responsible for recruiting activities on campus, at area high schools and at community events.
2007 Accomplishments

- Seminole State College officials were elected to three leadership positions with the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges (OACC). Nursing instructor Donna Chambers assumed the presidency of the organization. Vice President for Fiscal Affairs Katherine Benton is President-Elect of the organization and Business and Information Systems instructor Fred Bunyan serves as Secretary.

- The Belles basketball team had an outstanding season and recognized notable attention for representation of ten Native American tribes among seven of the players. Tribes included: Seminole Nation, Anadarko, Wichita, Navajo, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Kiowa, Mississippi, Choctaw and Chickasaw.

- The Trojan basketball team won Conference and Regional Championships and advanced to the NJCAA National Tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas in March. The team completed their season with 27 wins and 10 losses and a 5th place national finish.

- SSC student Justin Huff, of Prague, was sworn in by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to serve on the OSRHE Student Advisory Board. He holds the distinction of being the first SSC Student Government Association student to represent the College on the Board.

- Three faculty members, Jessica Isaacs, Marty Osby and Christian Morgan, completed the arduous task of tenure application, and were awarded tenure status at the March meeting of the SSC Board of Regents.

- The College’s tennis program was reinstated and won the NJCAA Doubles National Tennis Championship on October 12 in Mobile, Alabama. SSC players Andres Nuez and James Vinkis brought home the honors.

- Dr. Utterback continued his service as a Commissioner of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the American Association of Community Colleges. He made national presentations for the group in Tampa, Florida in April and November.
2007 Accomplishments

- A Regional Economic Development seminar was hosted on campus for area business and community leaders on the topic, “Survive and Thrive In a Multi-Generational World,” in April.

- A long-time partnership between the Seminole Nation and SSC was honored through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education’s Economic Development Recognition Program in April.

- The SSC Educational Foundation Recognition Banquet was a success with over 400 in attendance and $25,000 raised for the Foundation. Marilyn Kincade, Eric Myers and Ed Smith were inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame.

- Over 300 students were awarded degrees in May. Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Steven W. Taylor was the featured speaker for Commencement exercises.

- SSC’s commencement received state media attention with the graduation of three members of a Shawnee family. Mother Sherry Combs, graduated alongside her husband David and her daughter Kasey.

- Two former Trojan Baseball Players, Curtis Morgan and Adam LaRoche, received national honors for their selection to the JUCO World Series 50th Anniversary Team in late May.

- Students and community members participated in two international trips with the College’s Global Studies Program. Dublin and London were destinations for a nine-day trip, and participants in a twelve-day tour visited Rome, Tuscany, the Rivera and Paris.

- The College hosted a two-day workshop, “Preparing for Campus Emergencies” in late June. The executive seminar, conducted by Homeland Security, the Training and Education Division of FEMA and the National Center for Biomedical Research and Training, was attended by campus administrators and security officials from across the state.

- Base raises of 3% combined with other incentives to result in average employee raises of over 5%.
2007 Accomplishments

- Regent David Wilson of Seminole was appointed to a second seven-year term to the Seminole State College Board of Regents in late Spring.

- Following unseasonable heavy rainfall which threatened the cancellation of the community 4th of July festival, the College opened its campus for the day-long event featuring family entertainment, games, food, music and a fireworks display.

- Local oilman Jim Morgan established a scholarship to assist students from Okemah High School with a $10,000 donation to the SSC Educational Foundation. Similar major contributions, building on established gifts, were given by Melvin and Jasmine Moran, Jimmie Austin, Darlene Wallace, the Jearl Smart Foundation and Charles and Norma Johnston.

- A President’s Leadership scholarship program was initiated in the fall. The President’s Leadership Class (PLC) brought together 18 freshmen who studied leadership styles in a classroom setting, and met with numerous state and local officials throughout the term. The students had opportunities to visit with a Supreme Court Justice, State Legislators, a Tribal Chief, the Chancellor for Higher Education and other education leaders.

- Corporate individual friends of the College supported the SSC Educational Foundation with sponsorships and team registrations at a benefit golf tournament in late August. The event was hosted by U.S. Congresswoman Mary Fallin, State Senator Harry Coates and State Representative Ryan Kiesel. Over $17,000 was raised for the Foundation through the event.

- Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Rebecca Kennedy was appointed to serve a consecutive term on the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women.
2007 Accomplishments

- The College expanded its academic outreach efforts through the delivery of online classes and instructional educational television. The College delivered classes to correctional centers and off-campus sites, as well as expanded its commitment to increasing concurrent enrollment opportunities at public schools.

- A major gift of $250,000, to be paid at $50,000 a year for five years, was pledged by the Seminole Nation in support of the Foundation’s Capital Campaign. In recognition of this donation and other support from the tribe, the Board of Regents voted in October to name the new residence hall, “Seminole Nation Residential Learning Center.”

- Over 400 area high school students, sponsors and community guests came to campus for a Native American Day in the fall. Well-known actor and speaker, Michael Spears, was the keynote speaker for the half-day program which featured cultural entertainment and food. An evening program was also presented for SSC students and the public.

- A new partnership program with Mid-America University was signed in the fall, providing the opportunity for area students to receive a bachelor’s degree in teacher education on the SSC campus.

- The College’s Medical Laboratory Technology Program received maximum seven-year accreditation following a November site visit by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS).

- The “SSC Rural Business and Resources Center,” established in Seminole through a partnership grant between the SSC Educational Foundation and Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma (REI) assisted 57 clients in 2007 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.

- The College’s transportation fleet was expanded with the purchase of two 24-passenger buses and the donation of a 22-passenger bus by SSC Educational Foundation Trustee Kenneth Henderson and his wife Rose. A passenger car was also purchased by the College in 2007.
2007 Accomplishments

- Expanding its Alliance partnerships with area technology centers, the College redesigned curriculum resulting in program-specific course designations and accompanying syllabi for over 150 courses.

- The SSC Nursing program held their first ever mid-year nursing pinning ceremony in December.

- Management Information Systems staff transformed Seminole State College to a “wireless campus” making SSC the only totally wireless location in the community. The College also purchased 30 desktop and 34 laptop computers specifically for faculty use.

- Technology advances on campus this year included the purchase of 30 desktop and 34 laptop computers specifically for faculty use. Additionally, an effort to provide wireless internet connectivity across campus was completed in early Fall – making campus the only totally wireless location in the community.

- Students enrolled online this year for the first time in SSC history!

- For additional communication security measures and for assistance to persons with disabilities, an upgraded telephone system and additional phone sets were purchased for the residence halls and other parts of campus.

- The SSC Campus Police Department received funding from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security for special computers and training to allow for the exchange of critical information with other law enforcement agencies.

- Over 14,000 people attended over 200 special meetings and events in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center in 2007 – in addition to hundreds of students who attended classes in the Center!