

Report on
Accomplishments

for

Seminole State College
BOARD OF REGENTS

James W. Utterback, Ph.D.

President

January, 2009

Seminole State College

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Office of the President

January 22, 2009

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 2008.

As we reflect on the highlights of the past year, we are reminded how fortunate we are to have outstanding faculty, staff, regents and community supporters who are committed to making this College the best two-year institution in the country. It is a privilege to work with people dedicated to helping individuals and communities become better through the power of education.

This month I am completing my twelfth year as President of this College. While there have been challenges, the annual accomplishments reflected in this and similar documents certainly make me proud to have been a part of this great institution. Your support, and the support of the team of those with whom I work, has been critical in these successes. I appreciate your continued cooperation and encouragement.

With Best Wishes for a Wonderful 2009!

Sincerely,



James W. Utterback, Ph.D.
President

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS - 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The highlights and accomplishments of 2008 are particularly noteworthy in the following areas: academic affairs; physical improvements to campus; safety precautions; and acquisition of federal funds.

ACADEMICS

Our academic community, as well as the rest of campus, has been consumed with preparation for our 2009 Higher Learning Commission accreditation visit. Countless hours of meetings, research, public awareness activities, discussion and writing have resulted in a wonderful self-study process. Our faculty provided tremendous leadership in this effort.

PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS

The College completed roughly \$12 million in new construction and renovation projects on this campus in 2008! We were able to complete and occupy the new maintenance building on the north side of campus, celebrate the opening of the new softball complex across Highway 9 to the south, and move students into our beautiful Seminole Nation Residential Learning Center. Additionally, we transformed the pond area in front of the Haney Center with the installation of sidewalks, statues, greenery, a pavilion and a new bridge.

SAFETY

Concerted efforts were undertaken to improve the safety of students, employees and visitors to campus. The campus witnessed the installation of a new siren warning system. A nationally known expert on campus violence spoke to faculty and staff during in-service training, and the College hosted a training seminar for area emergency response professionals. Additional measures included development of an emergency response plan, meetings of a campus response team and the sending of college personnel for additional safety and emergency response training.

FEDERAL FUNDING

The College received one of only two federal grants awarded in Oklahoma through the new Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions program. Over the next two years, SSC will receive \$1.2 million from the U.S. Department of Education for the program. In addition, this fall, Veterans Upward Bound and Talent Search began new four-year funding cycles with total awards in excess of \$2 million. Federal funding received in 2008 for the six TRiO projects, GEAR UP program, NASNTI grant and our Medical Laboratory Technology Congressional Award totaled over \$2.1 million.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2008

HONORS

- The Board of Directors of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) selected Dr. Jim Utterback to serve on the organization's Governing Board. AACC represents close to 95 percent of all accredited U.S. two-year community, junior and technical colleges and their 11 million students.
- Two employees received their doctoral degrees in 2008 – Child Development Coordinator Dr. Diana Lynd and Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Brad Walck.
- The Nigh Institute selected Larry Morgan of Hartshorne as a recipient of their scholarship. He represented the College at the Institute's Leadership Academy in February in Oklahoma City.
- AACC invited Regent Marci Donaho to serve on a panel for the 2008 National Convention held in Philadelphia. The session, "The Minority CEO: A Conversation about Diversity, Leadership and Navigating the Pipeline," outlined methods to challenge the status quo in developing a pipeline for young people to gain leadership experiences.
- The Jeltz Foundation of Oklahoma City awarded a special academic scholarship to SSC Sophomore Martina Perry.
- The Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges (OACC) elected three SSC officials to leadership positions. Vice President for Fiscal Affairs Katherine Benton assumed the presidency of the organization. Nursing and Health Sciences Division Chair Donna Chambers served as Past-President while Business and Information Systems instructor Fred Bunyan served as Secretary.
- Dr. Jim Utterback was elected as Secretary-Treasurer for the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority Board. OETA provides educational and public television programming for the state.

- SSC took top honors in news writing at the Oklahoma College Public Relations Association annual awards banquet held July 14 in Tulsa. Coordinator of Media Relations Yashanda Scruggs won first place and SSC Vice President for Institutional Advancement Lana Reynolds took home the third place award in the state news writing competition.
- Several SSC employees were recognized by the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Education Committee as “Educators and Staff Members of the Month.” Honorees for 2008 were: Dr. Richard Wood, Social Science Instructor; Joy Blanton, Residential Life Clerk; Mona Ridley, Human Resources Director; Ted Hurt, Graphic Arts Technician; Sheryl Noey, Secretary to the Vice President for Fiscal Affairs; Bill Knowles, Social Science Instructor; Jeff Cox, Chair of the Language Arts and Humanities Division; Carlene Armour, Secretary to the Social Sciences Division; Beverly Williams, Science Instructor; and Sherry Keisman, Secretary to the Business and Information Systems Division.

ACTIVITIES

- A Campus Activities Board developed a number of special events and activities including a “casino night,” movies, dances and a “Fun Day.”
- Seminole State College collaborated with Project HEART (Helping Elderly Americans Reach Tomorrow) of Shawnee last spring to offer free Enhance Fitness classes. Instructors conducted classes throughout the year for an hour each Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning.
- A large number of campus and community leaders participated in Higher Education Day at the Capitol in February demonstrating grassroots support for funding. Honored guests at SSC events included Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins, Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Steven Taylor, Senator Harry Coates, Representative Ryan Kiesel, Senator Charlie Laster, Senator Richard Lerblance, Representative Danny Morgan, Representative Shane Jett, Representative Brian Renegar and Representative Terry Harrison.

- U.S. Congresswoman Mary Fallin conducted a live Town Hall Meeting via satellite to the Seminole State College campus in April. The Congresswoman discussed current issues and fielded questions from attendees.
- The 2008 Summer Global Studies Trip took students and community members to Spain and Italy. Participants toured Rome, Barcelona and Madrid, and visited the Vatican, the Pantheon and the Madrid Royal Palace.
- Over 300 area high school students, sponsors and community guests came to campus for a Native American Day on November 17. Attendees heard keynote speaker Brian Frejo of the Pawnee and Seminole Nations who is owner of the “Created for Greatness” project and Southern Arapaho tribal member Michael Bell, a Gates Millennium Scholar. An evening event for the public featured musical performances by Native American rap artists.
- The second year of President’s Leadership scholarship program brought together 15 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 of Higher Education and other education leaders. Along with the sophomore members of the President’s Leadership Class, they hosted a Presidential election night watch party for campus residential students.
- Over 23,000 people attended close to 400 special meetings and events in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center in 2008 – in addition to hundreds of students who attended classes in the Center.

ACADEMICS

- SSC hired Dr. Paul Gasparro, of Marietta, Georgia, as Vice President for Academic Affairs. Prior to coming to SSC, Dr. Gasparro served as president of Chalk Talker Training, a business that provides teacher program leadership/consultant services for education institutions and businesses. He also had many years of experience in higher education, academic leadership and the military.
- Medical Laboratory Program Director Perthena Latchaw recounted one of her trips to Africa to assist with training at local medical centers in a story featured in the January 2008 edition of American Society of Clinical Pathology's "Critical Values" magazine. Area newspapers reprinted the article. She also spoke to campus and civic groups about her numerous trips to Africa as a member of the President's Task Force on AIDS.
- One of the activities surrounding the campus-wide preparations for the 2009 Higher Learning Commission Self-Study accreditation visit was a community awareness effort conducted by the Marketing and Communications Committee. During the Homecoming basketball festivities in February, the group passed out candy bars wrapped with facts about SSC's Self-Study project. Attendees at the basketball game also had a chance to view a newly launched SSC Self-Study website.
- Nursing faculty member Donna Chambers completed the arduous task of tenure application, and was granted tenure status at the February meeting of the SSC Board of Regents.
- SSC Medical Laboratory Technology Instructor Malinda Browning and Language Arts Division Chair Jeff Cox were awarded prizes for their entries in the Great Ideas For Teaching (GIFT) contest at the OACC conference in March. The GIFT contest encourages faculty from colleges in the state to share their teaching ideas.
- Seminole State College awarded degrees to over 250 students in 2008. Oklahoma State Senator Harry Coates was the featured speaker for Commencement exercises held in May.

- Dr. Andrew Lootens-White, SSC's liaison with the Higher Learning Commission, came to campus in August to meet with faculty and staff about the College's upcoming accreditation visit.
- New articulation agreements in Child Development were completed between SSC and the University of Central Oklahoma and Northeastern State University.
- 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.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- An independent study commissioned by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education showed that for the year 2008, Disposable Personal Income for the State of Oklahoma will increase by \$30 million as a result of Seminole State College.
- SSC Rural Business and Resources Center (RBRC) Director Larry Smith acquired certification as an economic development professional following completion of a three-year training program.
- A partnership between the Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma (REI) and SSC was honored through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Economic Development Recognition Program.
- The RBRC assisted 51 clients in 2008 in their efforts to start or grow businesses in the College's service area. The RBRC was directly involved in start-up efforts for Glassworx of Seminole, Seminole Signs, Temco of Wewoka and Roundhouse Overalls of Wewoka.
- The RBRC hosted a seminar on "Virtual Community" on campus for twenty area city managers and economic development professionals from southeastern Oklahoma.

- A new business opened in the Dan Boren Business Development Center, owned by the SSC Educational Foundation, this year. The call center company, UpSource, brought 40 new jobs to the area. They joined AmeriContact in operating call center businesses in the facility that now employs 80 to 90 people.

CONSTRUCTION AND CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

- Free hot dogs and a fireworks display highlighted the celebration surrounding the opening of the college's new softball complex on Thursday evening, March 27. SSC Board of Regents Chairman William Harrison, Jr. threw out the first pitch of the game. Adding approximately 10,000 square feet of new buildings, the softball complex includes two fields, stadium seating, competition level lighting, a press box, concession stand, a locker room, a training facility, ticket booth, a pavilion and a storage building. Tiered, grassy areas are also available for blanket and lawn chair seating.
- Hundreds of students, faculty, staff, community members, and legislators were on hand to celebrate the official ribbon cutting and grand opening of the Seminole Nation Residential Learning Center on September 18. Dr. Glen Johnson, Chancellor of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, and Chief of the Seminole Nation Enoch Kelly Haney spoke to the crowd prior to a traditional Native American cedar "cleansing" ceremony and blessing on the new building.
- Generous donations from Kenneth and Rose Henderson have led to major improvements in campus landscaping and beautification. They purchased and planted over 200 trees on campus. The Hendersons also: helped purchase a 40-foot pedestrian bridge; assisted with a restoration of the spillway of the pond; helped design and pay for a new walking trail; and, contributed to the purchase of eight bronze statues for the area around the campus pond.

SPORTS

- Supporters of the Seminole State College Trojan Baseball Team gathered in early February to hear former player and current McAlester baseball coach Randy Hughes speak at the 2008 season kick-off dinner.
- The Trojan basketball team was the 2008 Bi-state Conference Western Division Champions. Region II named Dr. Tom Mills “Coach of the Year.” Dr. Mills also assumed the position of Athletic Director for the College this past summer.
- The men’s and women’s tennis teams were 2008 Region II Champions. The men finished 5th in the nation and women finished 11th.
- The NJCAA honored Trojan baseball catcher Joe Patterson as the “Player of the Year.”
- Trojan basketball player Reginald “J.D.” Davis, who graduated in May, was recognized last summer as an Arthur Ashe Jr. 2008 Sports Scholar. *Black Issues In Higher Education* magazine, now *Diverse* magazine, established the Sports Scholars Award to honor undergraduate students of color who exemplify the standards set by tennis great Arthur Ashe Jr. In addition to their athletic ability, students named Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars must exhibit academic excellence as well as community activism.
- Last summer, the supporters of the SSC Athletic Department revitalized the Athletic Booster Club. Hope Pickering was elected President, Sue Snodgrass as Vice President and Les Walker as Secretary-Treasurer. Other new members of the Board of Directors are: Curtis Morgan, Harrel Kennedy, Larry Smith and Ken Pryor.

SSC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

- The SSC Educational Foundation Recognition Banquet was a success with nearly 400 in attendance and \$26,000 raised for the Foundation. Ray Alford of Fort Worth, Texas, Mike Langley of Shawnee, and Paige Sheffield of Wewoka were inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame.

- The Foundation’s golf tournament hosted by State Senator Harry Coates and State Representative Ryan Kiesel raised over \$11,000.
- In October, the SSC Educational Foundation appointed several new trustees. New trustees included Kelly Cook, Cook Oil Co. of Wewoka; David Hill, Integris of Seminole; Doug Humphreys, Paluca Oil Inc. of Holdenville; Mike Langley, Langley Management of Shawnee; Ed Smith, Police Chief of Seminole; and Darlene Wallace, Columbus Oil of Seminole.
- The Seminole oil community purchased a 7 ft. Baldwin Grand Piano to be housed in Foundation Hall of the Enoch Kelly Haney Center. Concert pianist Peter Simon, of Denver, Colorado, performed an inaugural concert for the community and a series of children’s concerts on the new instrument in December.
- The SSC Educational Foundation sponsored a Holiday Event at the Shawnee Country Club for SSC employees and friends of the College. The event raised over \$14,000.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Honoring the memory of his aunt, a long-time social worker in Seminole and Hughes Counties, former Seminole State College Regent and current Trustee of the SSC Educational Foundation Ben Walkingstick, established a scholarship trust fund to provide financial assistance for generations of students. “Miss Galela” Walkingstick was the inspiration for this endowment.
- Former Regent Melvin Moran and his wife Jasmine donated to the SSC Educational Foundation to support additional nursing and medical laboratory technology scholarships.

- The Foundation also received numerous memorial donations in honor of two long-time friends of Seminole State College who passed away in early 2008. A scholarship was established in honor of former Vice President for Student Affairs Wayne Day. Memorial gifts were given to the SSC baseball program in honor of John Conn.
- The SSC Educational Foundation awarded nearly \$40,000 in scholarships to students at the college during the 2008 calendar year. The Foundation also supported numerous educational activities.

MILESTONES

- Despite a reduction in state funding from the previous year, the College was able to award a 3% increase in base salaries for all employees.
- Shawnee Superintendent of Schools Marilyn Bradford was appointed in late spring to serve a seven-year term to the Seminole State College Board of Regents. She was sworn-in at the July Board meeting. Ms. Bradford replaced William Harrison, Jr., who served two seven-year terms as a Regent.
- Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Rebecca Kennedy and long-time SSC groundskeeper Ernie Conatser both retired last summer after years of dedicated service to the institution. Near the end of the calendar year, three other long-time employees, Norma Gillespie with the GEAR UP Office, Director of Business Services Jim Coleman and Academic Counselor Cynthia Yerby, retired from the college.
- In recognition of Dr. Rebecca Kennedy's long service to Oklahoma Higher Education and her years as Vice President of Academic Affairs at Seminole State College, the "Kennedy Distinguished Teaching Award" was established at her retirement to reward an outstanding faculty member at the college.

TECHNOLOGY

- Technology advances on campus this year included purchasing computers for two labs in the Colclazier Technical Building and upgrading other campus labs.
- Five new multi-media classrooms were set up on campus, while 15 other classrooms received presentation equipment upgrades.
- SSC replaced over 80 campus phone units and expanded campus communication systems to enhance services to students, employees and community members with disabilities.

SAFETY

- Emergency response planning included the development of a campus response team.
- With the threat of natural disasters and in the wake of many tragic events on campuses across the country, the College purchased a siren to help notify the campus in the event of an emergency. The siren can be heard within up to a one-mile radius and has five different warning sounds that can be used to alert the campus about different emergencies.
- Video surveillance systems were installed in various locations to enhance campus security.
- Dr. Brad Walck and SSC Police Chief Dan Factor received certification in Simulation-Based Training for Command Post Personnel from the Department of Homeland Security.
- In August, the Board of Regents approved a cross-deputization agreement with Seminole Nation, the City of Seminole, City of Wewoka, Chickasaw Nation Lighthouse Police Department and Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse Police Department.

- Nationally known expert on campus violence and police psychologist, Dr. John Nicoletti of Denver, Colorado, was brought to campus to speak to faculty and staff during in-service training. He spoke on “Threat Assessment... Building Barriers to Violence.”
- A Seminole Community Emergency/Disaster Management Drill was held on campus in September to strategize how area emergency response units, local businesses and other key services would respond to a catastrophic event. The scenario for this drill was a tornado hitting the Seminole Nation Residential Learning Center at the College.

OUTSIDE FUNDING

- SSC was one of only six institutions from across the country selected to receive a Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions (NASNTI) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The \$1.2 million award will fund a two-year program to improve and expand the institution's capacity to serve Asian American and Native American Pacific Islanders and Native Americans. All students, regardless of race or ethnicity, will be eligible to participate in the grant's programs and receive services provided through the grant.
- The Veterans Upward Bound and Talent Search programs began new four-year funding cycles in September. The six TRiO programs, GEAR UP, the Congressional Award for the Medical Laboratory Technology Program and the NASNTI grant brought over \$2.1 million in federal funds to Seminole State College during the 2008 calendar year.
- The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education renewed the “Peek Into Engineering” Summer Academy grant in the amount of \$25,400 for the summer of 2008.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS OUTREACH

- SSC's federally-funded TRiO programs provided educational services to over 1,100 students, including 6th through 12th grade secondary school students, veterans, and SSC college students.

- The new Upward Bound (UB) and Upward Bound Math-Science projects were fully staffed and recruiting students. By April 1, 2008, both programs demonstrated sufficient progress to receive continued funding for the 2008-2009 year.
- Of the 165 UB participants served by the College's three high school UB programs, 132 attended the six-week summer residential camp at SSC. Of the six UB seniors who completed the original UB project, five enrolled in college for the fall, 2008 term.
- The Talent Search Project conducted a three-day summer residential camp and a day camp for 41 younger students. Of the seniors served by the Talent Search Project during the past year, 81 graduated from high school and 63 enrolled in College for the fall, 2008 term.
- The Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) grant is in the fourth year of a six-year cycle and brought additional federal dollars to campus to provide college readiness activities, preparation and resources for nine partnership schools and 573 students and their families.
- GEAR UP hosted 120 students in their summer day camps; provided breakfast and a presentation to students and their families about okcollegestart.org and Oklahoma's Promise; held monthly workshops for each of the nine partner schools; provided professional development training for 25 area teachers; and hosted 16 field trips for students.
- Tutoring was provided in GEAR UP partner schools reaching 420 students during 127 tutoring sessions.