

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE

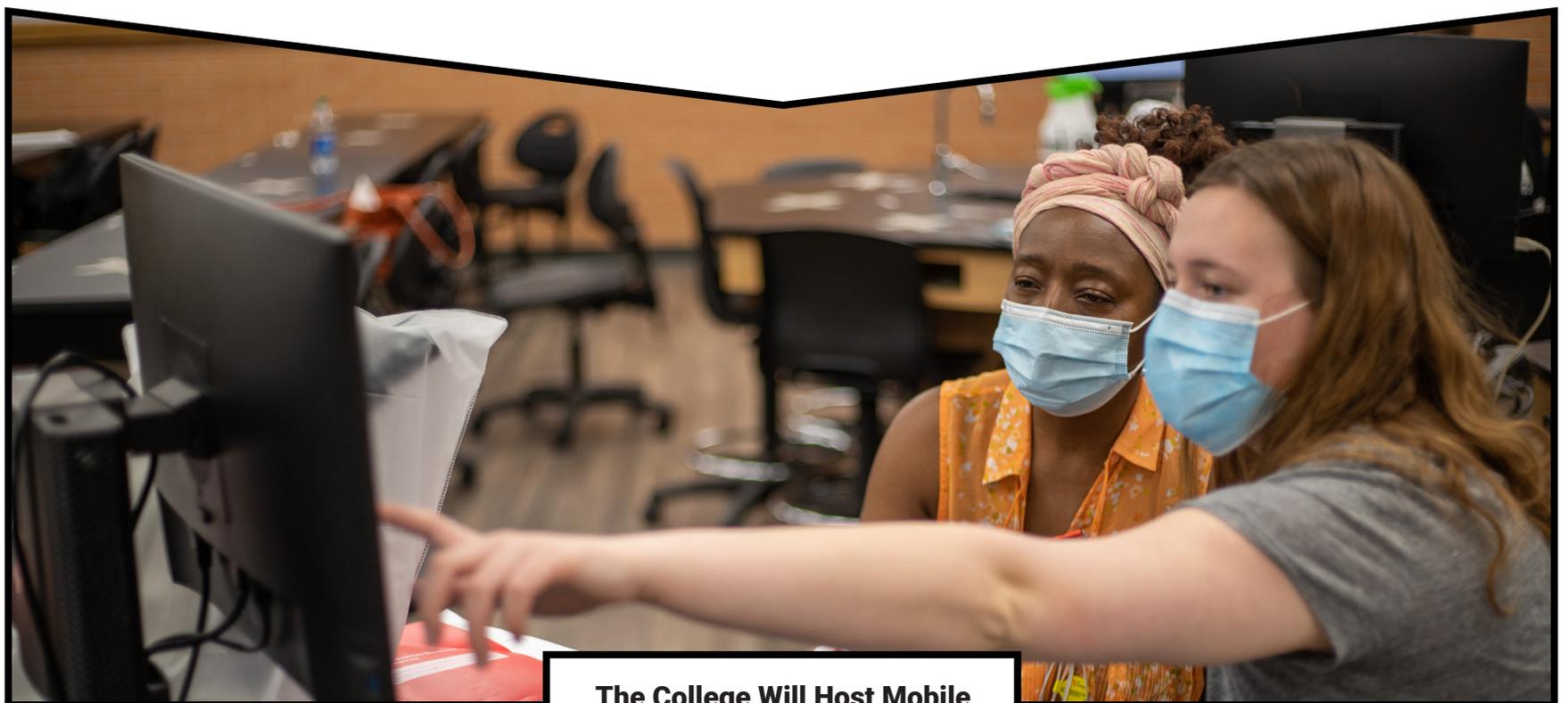
COLLEGIAN

VOL. XLX • ISSUE NO. 7

APRIL 2021

DIGITAL EDITION

SEMINOLE, OKLA.



**The College Will Host Mobile
Enrollment Events Throughout
the Month of April**

read more on page 4 ►

Submitting to The Collegian

"The Seminole State Collegian" is published during the fall and spring semesters by the Seminole State College Office of Media Relations, under the direction of Josh Hutton. 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 more than 300 friends of the college.

Seminole State College, in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, and other Federal laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, handicap, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, employment, financial aid and educational services. Questions and concerns can be directed to Josh Hutton at 405-382-9283.

SSC Nursing Students Help with Vaccination Efforts



Seminole State College Nursing students Macie Davis of Wewoka (left) and Lori Speers of Shawnee (right) recently administered COVID-19 vaccinations at the Medicine Shoppe in Shawnee.

The Seminole State College Nursing program recently partnered with The Medicine Shoppe in Shawnee to administer COVID-19 vaccinations to hundreds of people. Under the direction of SSC Nursing Instructor Sheryl Denton, several nursing students have volunteered at the pharmacy.

"The students have done an outstanding job giving around 100 injections a day to the public," Denton said.

Students have been eager to lend a

hand with the vaccination process. Many of the students gave up time during Spring break to assist with injections.

"This effort speaks volumes about the type of dedicated, caring nursing students we have at Seminole State College," SSC Nursing Program Director Crystal Bray said.

To date, the nursing students have administered more than 850 injections to the citizens of Shawnee and surrounding areas.



Stay up to date with campus COVID-19 safety precautions at SSC's Coronavirus Response page.

Here you'll find important updates, CARES Act scholarship information, mental health resources and links to Centers for Disease Control data.

Explore the Response Page [here](#).

[CLICK TO VIEW](#)

SSC Recognizes March Students of the Month

Five outstanding Seminole State College students were recently honored for the month of March. Each academic division selected one student to honor based on work ethic, academic standing and campus involvement. The students were awarded a certificate from the Academic Affairs Office, a gift certificate to use at the Student Union Grill and a special parking pass allowing them access to park in any spot on campus for a month.

March's students of the month are: Abigail Daily of Earlsboro – Business and Education Division; Andrew Terrell of Prague – Language Arts and Humanities Division; Laura Jacene of Seminole – Health Sciences Division; Dassie May of Shawnee – STEM Division; and Elizabeth Denney of Prague – Social Sciences Division.



Abigail Daily



Andrew Terrell



Dassie May



Elizabeth Denney



Laura Jacene

SSC Women's Basketball Team Wins Conference Championship

The Seminole State College Belles women's basketball team won the Oklahoma Collegiate Athletic Conference title game on April 1. Pre-season predictions placed Seminole State College at sixth in Region II. The Belles demonstrated great effort and resolve as they battled tough competition. During the second half of conference play, the team gathered steam with each subsequent win and entered their final conference game with a nine-game win streak. Seminole

State defeated NOC-Tonkawa 78-62 to solidify their first-place position. The Belles finished as regular season conference champions, a far cry from their initial sixth place seeding. The last time the women's basketball team brought home a conference championship was 2007.

The Belles will enter the Regional tournament with a conference record of 12-3 and 15-4 overall.



SSC to Launch Mobile Enrollment Events Later This Month



Seminole State College will host four mobile enrollment throughout the College's service area in the month of April.

Seminole State College will host mobile enrollment events in Shawnee, Prague, Okemah and Holdenville throughout the month of April. These events are for summer and fall enrollment. An academic advisor, an admissions representative and a recruitment specialist will be present to answer questions and guide perspective students through the enrollment process. There is no minimum GPA or ACT score required for admission.

"We wanted to simplify the process for students across our service area. These events bring the enrollment process directly to anyone interested in higher education. Current and perspective students will be able to apply, meet with an advisor and enroll – all in one short visit," SSC Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Bill Knowles said.

The first of these mobile enrollment events will take place at Gordon Cooper Technology Center in

Shawnee on April 12 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. SSC staff will be setup in Skylab 1 and 2 on the GCTC campus.

On April 16, SSC will hold a mobile enrollment event at Ken's Pizza in Prague from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

SSC staff will then help students with enrollment at BancFirst in Okemah on April 19 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The final event will take place at the Grace M. Pickens Library in Holdenville on April 23 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Anyone interested in applying is encouraged to bring their high school transcript and college transcript, if applicable. The summer semester begins May 10 and the fall semester begins August 16.

For more information, perspective students may contact SSC Recruitment Specialist Britney Honsinger at b.honsinger@sscok.edu or (405) 382-9751.

Bray Hired as Nursing Program Director

Seminole State College recently named Crystal Bray as its Nursing Program Director. Bray served as a full-time nursing instructor for the College from 2010-2019. In 2019, she purchased Country Rose, a home décor, jewelry and clothing boutique in Seminole.

"It took about a year to get the business well established and running, but my first passion has always been nursing," Bray said.

As Bray takes on her new role at SSC, her daughter Randi will take over the day-to-day operations of her business.

Bray received her Associate's in Applied Science in Nursing from SSC, her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Oklahoma Wesleyan University in Bartlesville and her Master of Science in Nursing from Southern Nazarene University in Oklahoma City. She resides in Wetumka with her husband Roll and their two daughters, Randi and Allison.

As the Nursing Program Director, one of Bray's goals is to create fast-track partnerships between SSC and state universities to create a clear path from an associate degree in nursing to a bachelor's degree in nursing. She is also exploring options to bring more online and night courses to the College's LPN program, as well as online and night courses for a paramedic to RN program in the future.

"Being back at SSC feels like coming home. I look forward to working with the new staff in the department and sharing my passion for nursing



Crystal Bray

with students," Bray said.

Alongside her other duties, Bray will teach Pre-Nursing courses in the fall.

"Crystal's expertise makes her more than capable of mentoring new instructors and inspiring a new generation of nurses," SSC President Lana Reynolds said. "We're very happy to have her back at the College."

Bray's predecessor, Linda Brown, served as the Interim Nursing Program Director for one year in a partnership with St. Anthony Hospital – Shawnee. Brown was hired when the College's former Nursing Program Director and Health Sciences Chair Valarie Watts received active-duty orders from the Army Reserves for a 12-month deployment. Following her deployment, Watts resigned from the position.

Bray began her new role on March 1.

SSC Employees Honored by Chamber of Commerce

Seminole State College employees were recognized for their hard work and dedication at the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on March 11. The SSC employees were originally set to be honored in December and February, however, following a surge in COVID-19 cases in early December and the winter storm in February, the Chamber moved to virtual programming for these events and postponed public recognition of the employees.

For the month of December, Kelly Hankal was named the Faculty Member of the Month, and Britney Honsinger was named the Professional Staff Member of the Month. For the month of February, Dr. Deanna Miles was named Employee of the Month, and the Maintenance/Custodial staff were recognized as the Department of the Month.

Hankal has worked for SSC for eight years. She currently serves as the Medical Laboratory Technician Program Director and an Assistant Professor. She received her Associate of Applied Science at SSC, her Bachelor of Science in Biology at East Central University and her Master of Business Administration at St. Gregory's University. In addition to her position at the College, Hankal also works part-time in the lab at the Alliance Health Hospital in Seminole. She is a precinct chair for the Seminole County Democratic Party. Hankal resides in Seminole. She has two adult children, Virginia Hair and Galen Hankal. She enjoys spending time with her six grandchildren in her spare time.

Honsinger has been employed by SSC for two years as a Recruitment Specialist. She is a graduate of the

University of Oklahoma. Her responsibilities include recruitment, advising and building relationships with high schools in the College's service area. She currently serves as the 2020-2021 Professional Staff Association Chair on campus. She is pursuing an MBA and enjoys painting in her spare time. She and her husband Nat reside in Earlsboro. They have three children, Isaac, Kamron, Jaxon, and one granddaughter, Ana.

Dr. Miles has worked at SSC for two years. She currently serves as the COVID-19 Officer and an Assistant Professor in the STEM department. She received her Bachelor of Science in Health Education Sciences from Baylor University, her Master of Healthcare Administration from Grand Canyon University and her Medical Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. She has been integral to the College's COVID-19 procedures, contact tracing, and record keeping efforts. She ensures students and employees understand quarantine and isolation guidelines. She also serves as a member of the Faculty Senate. She resides in Oklahoma City. In her spare time, she enjoys golf and woodworking.

Director of Physical Plant and Campus Safety Ed Lemmings accepted the February Department of the Month Honor on behalf of the Maintenance and Custodial staff. The staff have taken on an increased workload during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their efforts to sanitize and implement various public health safeguards have been key factors in protecting student and employee health. While they were



Pictured (l-r) Kelly Hankal, Ed Lemmings, Dr. Deanna Miles and Britney Honsinger.



The Maintenance/Custodial staff were recognized as the Department of the Month in February.

set to be honored prior to February's winter storm, the College also acknowledged how quick the staff were to help with preventative measures and repairs.

The Seminole Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, along

with the Lions Club and Blue Ribbon Realty, recognize SSC employees several times during Forum each year. Individuals are nominated from across the campus and chosen by SSC administrators to receive the honor.

PLC Attends Virtual Higher Ed Day

Members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class attended a Virtual Higher Ed Day on March 9 in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center. The event featured four members of the Oklahoma State Legislature – Senator Zack Taylor (R- District 28), Senator Shane Jett (R-District 17), Representative Danny Williams (R- District 28) and Representative Dell Kerbs (R- District 26). The speakers spoke with students through video conferencing software, informing them of the current legislative session and answering their questions.

Higher Ed Day is generally held at the State Capitol annually. In an effort to safeguard community health, the event was held virtually this year. The event allows legislators to connect with campus and community leaders to share the value higher education has on workforce development and economic growth.

Senator Taylor was first elected to the state Senate in 2020 to represent District 28, which includes communities in Lincoln, Pottawatomie and Seminole counties. The Seminole Republican first served as a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives from 2017-2019.

Senator Jett assumed office on Nov. 16, 2020. He serves District 17, which includes northern Pottawatomie County and eastern Oklahoma County. Previously, Senator Jett served six years in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, becoming the first Republican to represent District 27.

Rep. Williams is a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, representing District 28. He assumed office on Nov. 16, 2020. He is from Seminole and represents Pot-



Oklahoma State Senator Zack Taylor addresses SSC PLC students during the Virtual Higher Ed Day held on March 9.

tawatomie and Seminole Counties.

Rep. Kerbs represents District 26 in the Oklahoma House of Representatives. He first assumed office on Nov. 16, 2016 and was re-elected in November of 2020. He is from Shawnee and represents Pottawatomie County.

PLC students in attendance were Kandyce Davidson of Wewoka, Kelsey Edminsten of Okemah, Tiffany Maxey of Catoosa, Creed Watkins of Duncan, Pepe Casey of Owasso, Emily Dobbins of Broken Arrow, Brandon Gomez of Oklahoma City, Jenna Harrison of Shawnee, Jaycee Johnson of Paden, Landry Kyle of Oklahoma City, Kaitlyn Matlock of Lexington, Uriah McPerryman of Wetumka, Jaxon Pack of Wetumka, Carson Pierce of Edmond, Hannah Potter of Seminole, Zachary Shelton of Seminole, Cepado Wilkins, Jr. of Shawnee and Sydney Winchester of Prague.

Students Complete Peer Mentor Certification



Seminole State College students Sierra Josselyn (left) and A-yo Jones (right) recently completed the national certification program in peer mentoring from the Peer Leader Center.

Sierra Josselyn and A-yo Jones, two Seminole State students, recently completed qualifications for a national certification in peer mentoring from the Peer Leader Center. Both students are employed by SSC Student Support Services as peer mentors. In their positions, they help guide peers in navigating college, meeting other students, developing basic academic skills and discovering important resources. Josselyn and Jones are the first two students at the college to achieve the certification.

The certification is achieved by completing an eight-hour online course and practicing elements of peer mentoring skills with students. The SSS Director, Janna Wilson-Byrd, then validates the completed work of the peer mentors to the Peer Leader Center. The topics in the course align with the College Reading and Learning Association's recommendations under their Level 1 mentor training certification.

The course includes 14 learning modules and includes reading, activities, scenario practice, quizzes and a

video bank to introduce knowledge and skills in several competency areas. Examples of the competencies include: Understanding the Peer Mentor's Role, Building Communication Skills in Listening and Asking Questions, Preparing Students to Study through Academic Coaching, and Developing a Safe Space. There are 10 total competencies.

"I could not be prouder of Sierra and A-yo. Both of these outstanding students saw this certification as an opportunity to improve their skills. They never saw it as a burden to their academic studies. They accepted the challenge to take on the extra work so they can become the best leaders and helpers for their peers. It is an honor to present them as the first certified peer mentors at SSC. Our ultimate goal is for our Peer Mentors to assist our new program participants with overall success in acclimating to college. Successful college navigation often leads to successful college completion. Sierra and A-yo will have a hand in helping students succeed," Wilson-Byrd said.

SSC Board of Regents Grants Tenure to Faculty Member

The Seminole State College Board of Regents met March 25 to grant tenure to Business and Education Professor Chunfu “Jeff” Cheng, to reaffirm the Board’s commitment to opposing the presence of firearms on campus and to review a bid to replace the heat and air unit for the Raymond Harber Field House.

The meeting opened with the presentation of a plaque to The SSC Belles women’s basketball team in recognition of their 50th season. Belles head coach Rita Story-Schell and sophomore guard Kryslyn Jones of Edmond were present at the meeting to accept the recognition.

The plaque read, “Presented in recognition of providing trail-blazing opportunities for women in sports, bringing pride to the institution with a National Championship victory and an ongoing commitment to excellence on and off the court.”

SSC President Lana Reynolds then presented her President’s Report, which included an update on the College’s personnel changes, campus activities, snowstorm damages and repairs, reports on the decrease in the number of COVID-19 cases and vaccination efforts. She also discussed plans for the 2021 Commencement exercises. At present, the College will limit attendance at graduation to students, faculty and staff in an effort to meet social distancing guidelines. The event will be livestreamed for family and friends of the graduates.

The first action item was the recommendation to grant tenure to Business and Education Professor Chunfu “Jeff” Cheng. Cheng has been employed by SSC since 2011. In that time, he has served as an instructor, the Business and Education Division Chair, Faculty Senate President and

as the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Advisor. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education at Northeastern University in Boston, Mass. Following the review of his application materials, the Board approved his tenure status.

The second action item was the reaffirmation of the College’s ban on firearms on campus. The reaffirmation was a response to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education’s request to a commitment against allowing firearms on campus to help counter any proposed legislation that amends current law. With the third action item, the Board approved the removal of Policy III-4-2 regarding Financial Disclosure statements. The policy, adopted in 2000, required Board members and administrators to complete financial disclosure documents and make them available to the Oklahoma Ethics Commission. The Commission’s rules changed in 2016. The College’s legal counsel in the Oklahoma Attorney General’s Office informed the Board that financial disclosures are no longer required except for elected officials and judiciary subject to retention.

The Board then tabled the fourth action item, a bid to replace the heat and air unit for the Raymond Harber Field House. The College will seek additional bids, and the Board will make a decision at a later meeting.

Next the Board approved the process to seek \$875,000 in financing through the State of Oklahoma’s Master Lease Program to address other major maintenance projects on campus. The projects to be addressed with this funding include parking lot repairs, replacement of the Raymond Harber Field House roof and renovation of the natatori-



The Seminole State College Board of Regents approved tenure status for Business and Education Professor Chunfu “Jeff” Cheng at their meeting on March 25. Pictured (l-r): President Lana Reynolds, Professor Jeff Cheng, Board of Regents Chair Curtis Morgan and Vice President for Academic Affairs Linda Goeller.



The SSC Board of Regents presented the Belles women’s basketball team a plaque in recognition of their 50th season at the meeting. Pictured (l-r): Regent Marci Donaho, Regent Bryan Cain, Regent Curtis Morgan, Belles Basketball Head Coach Rita Story-Schell, Belles sophomore Kryslyn Jones and Regent Kim Hyden.

um area where the pool was located.

Bids were considered and awarded to A-Tech Paving for \$448,695 for parking lot repairs and Silver Star for \$93,684 for renovation of the natatorium. An item to consider bids for roof replacement in the Raymond Harber Field House was tabled.

Board members present at the

meeting were: Chair Curtis Morgan, Bryan Cain, Marci Donaho and Kim Hyden.

The next SSC Board of Regents meeting is set for Thursday, May 20, 2021.



SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE
2701 BOREN BLVD
SEMINOLE, OK 74868

SSC Launches President's Cabinet

In an effort to enhance communication among campus leadership, Seminole State College has launched the President's Cabinet. The group's first meeting took place on March 10 at the Utterback Ballroom in the Haney Center with some members attending via Zoom video conferencing software.

The President's Cabinet will meet periodically to talk about issues affecting the College. These meetings will allow the campus leadership to share news, present ideas, pose questions and voice concerns.

The Cabinet includes more than 30 members and is composed of directors and supervisors across campus, as well as representatives from employee organizations and the Student Government Association. Included positions were reviewed by Human Resources and the Administrative Council.

Members of the President's Cabinet are: President Lana Reynolds, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Goeller, Vice Pres-

ident for Student Affairs Dr. Bill Knowles, Vice President for Fiscal Affairs Courtney Jones, Director of Community Relations Kristin Dunn, Director of Information Technology Marc Hunter, Executive Assistant to the President Mechell Downey, Faculty Senate President Yasminda Choate, Professional Staff Association Chair Britney Honsinger, Classified Staff Association President Sherri Dykes, Student Government Association President Kelsey Edminsten, Business and Education Division Chair Tammy Kasterke, Language Arts and Humanities Division Chair Jessica Isaacs, Social Sciences Division Chair Dr. Steve Bolin, STEM Division Chair Jason Cook, Health Sciences Division Chair Dr. Noble Jobe, Nursing Director Crystal Bray, Medical Laboratory Technology Program Director Kelly Hankal, Physical Therapy Assistant Program Director Shakira Stafford, Advisement/Recruiting Director Carmen Hutchins, Athletic Director Mike St. John, Bookstore



Seminole State College President Lana Reynolds addresses campus leadership during the first meeting of the newly formed President's Cabinet on March 10 at the Utterback Ballroom.

Director Natasha Rodgers, Comptroller Melissa Nugent, Chief of Police Shane Marshall, Director of Employee Readiness Veronica Taylor, Director of Financial Assistance Melanie Rinehart, GEAR UP Director Julie Hix, NASNTI Director Carol Parker, Student Support Services and STEM SSS Director Janna Wilson-Byrd, Talent Search Director Mary Ann Hill, Upward Bound Di-

rector Richard Thornton, Human Resources Director Holly Wilson-Byrd, Registrar Sheila Morris, Director for Physical Plant and Campus Safety Ed Lemmings and Director of Great Western Food Services Mark Hudson.