

Report on
**Accomplishments
and Highlights**
for 2014
Seminole State College

Seminole State College

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Office of the President

January 15, 2015

Dear Regents:

As we look to the future at the beginning of each calendar year, we traditionally review past accomplishments made at Seminole State College. The following document provides an overview of 2014.

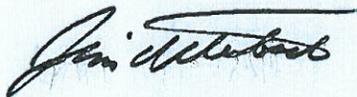
The highlights of the past year remind us how fortunate we are to have outstanding faculty, staff, regents and community supporters who are committed to making this College one of the best two-year institutions in the country. It is a privilege to work with people dedicated to helping individuals and communities improve themselves through the power of education.

This month I am completing my eighteenth year as President of this SSC. It seems incredible that the time has passed so quickly. A lot has changed since January 21, 1997. Reflecting on these years at this institution, I recognize that there is much of which to be proud. Your support, and the support of those with whom I work, has been critical in these successes.

More importantly than our past accomplishments, I am excited about the future of Seminole State College. President John F. Kennedy was quoted as saying, "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." There are great things on the horizon for this College. I look forward to working with you as we continue to strengthen the services we provide to our students, employees and the community. I appreciate your continued cooperation and encouragement.

With Best Wishes for a Wonderful 2015!

Sincerely,



James W. Utterback, Ph.D.
President

JANUARY

Upward Bound Welcomes New Members

Seminole State College's Upward Bound Projects welcomed 75 students at their new member orientation. Current Upward Bound members were there to help welcome the new participants, and parents were given information about the program and upcoming activities.

Higher Education Chancellor Presents Legislative Agenda

With the demand for employees who have certificates and degrees continually increasing, college completion remains the top priority in the State of Oklahoma. That was the message delivered by Chancellor Glen D. Johnson as he presented the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's FY 2015 legislative agenda to an audience of lawmakers, community leaders and educators from Southeast Oklahoma at Pete's Place in Krebs.



Saying Goodbye

Friends and colleagues gathered to say goodbye to longtime Seminole State College Admissions Clerk Debbie Hammond who retired at the end of January after 28 years of service to SSC.

FEBRUARY

Former Trojans Come Home to Kick-Off Baseball Season

Former Seminole State College baseball players, along with community supporters and members of the 2014 Trojan squad, gathered on the SSC campus for the annual Trojan Season Kick-off Banquet. Speaker for the 1984 team was Scott Hamilton. Chris Dean spoke on behalf of the 1994 Trojans. Cody Merrill spoke on behalf of the 2004 team. Former Trojan and Los Angeles Dodgers closing pitcher Eric Gagne was the special guest for the event and was interviewed by master of ceremonies and former Trojan Harvey Friesen.

SSC Delegation Attends Higher Ed Day

A large delegation of campus and community leaders representing Seminole State College attended "Higher Education Day at the Capitol" in Oklahoma City. The event, sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, is held annually to demonstrate grassroots support for Higher Education funding.

Sosbee Attends Nigh Institute

Seminole State College student Carson Sosbee of Wewoka was one of 30 Oklahoma college and university students selected to attend the Nigh Institute Leadership Conference held in Oklahoma City.



Utterback Honored by OETA

Dr. Jim Utterback, President of Seminole State College, was presented a “Big Bird Leadership Award” for his service for the past two years as chair of the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority Board (OETA).

SSC Offers Seminar for Area Educators

Area high school officials heard experts speak on the prevention of bullying and how to deal with teen suicide during a Seminole State College workshop. During the training session, presentations were made on college admissions standards, financial aid and college programs and services.

Lady Leaders

Several members of the Seminole State College Presidential Leadership Class attended a luncheon to learn about the National Education for Women’s Leadership Institute. The summer leadership program is coordinated by the Carl Albert Center for Congressional Research and Studies at the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

Scott Awarded Kirk Global Studies Scholarship

Katie Scott, an art major at Seminole State College, was the winner of the 2014 Kirk Global Studies Scholarship. She joined the June 16th “Grand Tour of Italy.” Scott is a graduate of Seminole High School and in her second year of studies at the College.

Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel

Two Seminole State College employees were honored for their outstanding dedication and work during the monthly Chamber of Commerce Engineering faculty member Readiness Program Secretary recognized as “Educator of the Month,” respectively.



employees were honored for and work during the monthly Forum. Math, Science and Dave Helseth and Employment Christina Parsons were “Staff Member of Month” and “Educator of the Month” respectively.

MARCH

SSC Celebrates Black History Month

In celebration of Black History Month, the Seminole State College NASNTI staff presented “The Forgotten First: Remembering African Americans in U.S. History” in the Jeff Johnston Fine Arts Auditorium. The musical, literary and artistic entertainment was interspersed with four video presentations of African Americans who accomplished historic “firsts.”

Students Inducted into Mu Alpha Theta National Mathematics Honor Society

Mu Alpha Theta National Mathematics Honor Society of Seminole State College inducted new members into their organization. The society began in 2013 at SSC to encourage students who are seeking mathematics intensive degrees.

SSC Students Participate in Oklahoma Academic Mind Games Challenge



Three Seminole State College students, who participated in the first round of a state-wide academic “Mind Games” competition, defeated a team from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami, Okla. The competition aired on KSBI Television Channel 52, as part of the Oklahoma Academic Challenge. Literature major Megan Goff, from Mason; fine arts major Cole Kilpatrick, from Tecumseh and zoology major Garrett Stinnett, from Maud composed the SSC team.

Wind, Rain and Hail – Oh My!

Members of the President’s Leadership Class at Seminole State College toured the National Weather Center in Norman. OU meteorology student David King showed the SSC students storm tracking vehicles, equipment and technology used in the field and at the center.

Local Student Receives OACC Scholarship

Seminole State College freshman Allyson Hanan was selected as an Oklahoma Association of Community College Scholarship recipient and was recognized at the organization's annual awards luncheon.

College and Bank Partnership Honored

Seminole State College and First United Bank were among education and business partnerships honored during an Economic Development Partnership Recognition program at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

Kilpatrick Receives Global Studies Scholarship

Cole Kilpatrick, an art major at Seminole State College, was named to receive a 2014 Kirk Global Studies Scholarship. He joined the College's international summer studies program - "Grand Tour of Italy."

SSC Hosts Creativity Symposium

The Language Arts and Humanities Division at Seminole State College hosted their Fourth Annual "Howlers and Yawpers Creativity Symposium: A Showcase of Oklahoma Artists, Musicians, Actors, Writers, and Dancers." This year's featured presenters were Keynote Speaker Rilla Askew, award-winning novelist, and Special Guest, Dustin Mater, acclaimed Chickasaw visual artist.



Native Students Visit Museum

Students in Seminole State College's Native American Literature class visited the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum (AICCM).

Plant Tour

Members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class toured the Oklahoma Gas and Electric power plant in Konawa.

Students Travel to New York Over Break

Seminole State College Business and Information Technology Division instructors Fred Bunyan and Brad Schatzel traveled with ten students to New York City during Spring Break. Elements of the tour complimented the curriculum of business division studies at Seminole State.

Students Inducted into Honor Society

Thirty-two SSC students were inducted into the Alpha Theta Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges.

SSC Board Awards Tenure at March Meeting

During their March meeting, the Seminole State College Board of Regents reviewed and approved granting tenure to Mona Ridley, Assistant Professor of Psychology; Christal Stevenson, Assistant Professor of English/Psychology; Jeffrey Christiansen, Assistant Professor of Government; and Dr. Linda Goeller, Assistant Professor of Math/Science. Subsequently, in accordance with Board policy, the instructors were promoted to Associate Professor status.

APRIL

The Sound of Music at SSC



Close to 200 guests filled Foundation Hall in the Seminole State College Haney Center to hear a benefit concert by guitarist Edgar Cruz and trumpeter David B. Hooten. The event was sponsored by the SSC President's Leadership Class to raise funds for their global studies visit to Denmark in June.

SSC Nursing Program Receives Continued Accreditation

The Seminole State College Nursing program received notification that the Oklahoma Board of Nursing granted the program continuing full approval for five years.

SSC Math Students Tour Enviro Systems

Students in the Seminole State College Mu Alpha Theta Math Club toured Enviro Systems, Inc. of Seminole.

Students Inducted into SSC English Honor Society

Seminole State College's Upsilon Alpha chapter of the English Honor Society Sigma Kappa Delta inducted 13 students in an evening ceremony.

Get Your Baskets Ready

Members of the Seminole State College women's basketball and volleyball teams volunteered to help the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum prepare for "Jazzy's Egg Run" by stuffing 8,500 eggs in less than two hours for the free community event.

Norman, Downey Honored by Chamber

Two Seminole State College employees were honored for their outstanding dedication and work during the monthly Chamber of Commerce Forum. Web Specialist Teresa Norman and Administrative Assistant to the President Mechell Downey were recognized as the "Educator of the Month" and "Staff Member of the Month," respectively.



Medical Laboratory Program to Host Open House

Seminole State College's Medical Laboratory Technology Department hosted an Open House to show what goes on behind the scenes in a laboratory.

Politics and Medicine

Students in the Seminole State College Medical Laboratory Technology Program visited with Oklahoma Speaker of the House Jeff Hickman during a visit to the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Wind Power

Members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class toured the Crosswinds Wind Farm near Canton, OK to learn about the growing alternate energy source.



Students Inducted into Psychology Honor Society

Twelve Seminole State College students were inducted into the College's chapter of the PSI Beta National Psychology Honor Society.

Bunyan, Helseth to Retire



Two long-time Seminole State College instructors, Fred Bunyan and Dave Helseth, were honored at a retirement reception. Bunyan taught accounting and other business courses in the Business and Information Division for the past 38 years and Helseth has been an adjunct instructor at SSC since 2001, and became full-time in 2006.



PSI Beta Students Tour OU

Seminole State College PSI Beta Psychology Honor Students toured the University of Oklahoma campus and learned about transfer opportunities and scholarships after graduation.

Turpen to Speak at SSC Commencement

Mike Turpen, Oklahoma State Regent for Higher Education and a partner in the law firm of Riggs, Abney, Neal, Turpen, Orbison and Lewis, was the featured speaker at the 81st Commencement Exercises for Seminole State College.

Alums and Staff Honored by SSC

Over 400 friends and supporters of Seminole State College attended the SSC Educational Foundation's annual recognition banquet. Long-time Seminole State College employee Don Gill received the "Distinguished Service Award" Also during the banquet, Rick Best, of Denver, Colo.; Ryan Kelly, of Houma, Louisiana; and Carl Packwood, of Shawnee were inducted into the Seminole State College Alumni Hall of Fame. The event raised over \$32,000.

Franklin to Serve as Seminole State College Regent

Former Seminole State College Trojan, St. Louis Cardinals pitcher and Olympic Gold Medal winner Ryan Franklin was appointed by Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin to serve on the Seminole State College Board of Regents.



Six SSC Students Receive National Scholarships

Six Seminole State College Medical Laboratory Technician students were selected to receive 2014 Siemens/American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Scholarships. The unprecedented six of only fifty scholarships awarded nationwide were presented to: Jamie Vazquez, Seminole; Becky Wilson, Seminole; Dessirae Stingley, Shawnee; Stephen Mullins, Prague; Stephen McDonough, Ada; and Suzan Izaguirre, Shawnee.

Graduating PLC

Graduating sophomores in Seminole State College President's Leadership Class received awards recognizing their completion of two years in the program. Graduating members were: Allen Blankenship, Vanoss; Paige McAlvain, Seminole; Dylan Helms, Eufaula; Erin Bonner, Shawnee; Trisha Kingsbury, Prague; Kaliann Kincade, Wewoka; Clayton Powell, Stroud; Brian Hatcher, Tecumseh; and Monica Belles, Seminole.

Area Seniors Honored

Over 450 area high school senior honor students, family members, bankers and educators attended a "Recognition of Excellence Honors Ceremony" at Seminole State College. The event, sponsored by First United Bank, SSC and East Central University, recognized students from 38 area schools for their academic and leadership achievements.



Cain Appointed as Regent

President of Security State Bank Bryan Cain, of Wewoka, was appointed by Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin to serve on the Seminole State College Board of Regents.

SSC Board Approves Promotions

During the May meeting, the Board approved the promotion of Dean of Instructional Compliance Dr. Tom Mills to fill the open position of Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Board also approved the promotion of Dr. Mark Ames, Dean of Student Services, to fill the open position of Vice President for Student Affairs.

SSC Nursing Students Participate in Disaster Training

Seminole State College took an active role in training nursing students for potential disasters. The nursing class of 2014 participated in a day long training module designed to help them understand what qualifies as a disaster, how to triage patients and resources, and how to work with other agencies to access quick medical care.

Students Arrive for Summer Residential Program

Seminole State College Upward Bound Projects welcomed over 200 students from 22 surrounding high schools to their summer camp. The federally-funded Upward Bound project simulates a college environment that includes hands-on interactive enrichment classes, social activities, overnight field trips and other social, educational and cultural events.



PLC Students Visit Denmark

President Utterback and Vice President for Fiscal Affairs Katherine Benton accompanied 13 freshman members of the President’s Leadership Class to Denmark on an educational and cultural tour in June. The group visited Silkeborg Business College with which an exchange program is currently ongoing.



Denmark Interns

Two students from the Silkeborg Business College in Denmark served as interns at Seminole State College assisting with the Upward Bound summer program for area 8th – 12th grade students.

Summer Youth Projects

Over 120 area youth participated in SSC Business and Industry’s Kids Summer Camp, a series of one-week and two-week camp activities held at the College. Focused on a variety of kid-friendly learning activities, Kids Camp includes classes in pottery, reading, swimming, sports, Lego construction and Minecraft activities.

Lots of Helping Hands

Approximately 175 Seminole State College Upward Bound Projects participants volunteered at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma where they helped package needed food for hungry Oklahomans.

Retirement Party

Over 130 friends and colleagues of Seminole State College employees Mona Griffin, Becky Moreland, Janet Waddell and Jeanie Nix gathered to honor the four ladies’ retirement. Griffin was Head Cashier at the College, Moreland served as Communications Clerk, Waddell was an Admissions Clerk and Nix was Director of Financial Aid. All four retirees are members of the Seminole community.



Board Promotes Vice President

During the June meeting, the Board voted to change Vice President for Institutional Advancement Lana Reynolds' position to clearly designate her as the administrative officer in charge in the absence of the President. Utterback said Reynolds' longevity as an administrator and her close exposure to the daily operations of the President's Office will serve her well in this new role. In conjunction with this designated responsibility, her title was changed to Executive Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

JULY

Hospital Volunteers Award Scholarship

Seminole State College Medical Laboratory Technology student Becky Wilson was awarded a scholarship from Integris Seminole Medical Center Volunteer Services. Wilson, of Seminole, is completing requirements for an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Medical Laboratory Technology.

GEARing UP to Drive

Twenty-one students from area high schools completed a summer Driver's Education Academy through Seminole State College's GEAR UP program. The academy was conducted with the use of a courtesy vehicle provided by Seminole Ford.

AUGUST



SSC Medical Laboratory Instructor Honored

Seminole State College Medical Laboratory Technology Program Director Malinda Browning was selected for two special recognitions by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP). Browning was named "2014 ASCP Regional Member Award for the South Central Region" of the national organization. She was also invited to serve as the Hematology Representative on the ASCP Joint Generalist Committee. Her term began following the organization's fall meeting in October.

Fall In-Service Training

Seminole State College employees gathered for In-Service training prior to the start of the Fall term. In addition to professional development sessions on transformative teaching and learning, the employees heard presentations on the College's history, relationship with the community and plans for the future.

Smile - You Are in PLC!

Sophomore members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class helped freshmen PLC members get acquainted with campus during a photo scavenger hunt as part of a special orientation session.

SEPTEMBER

SSC Welcomes Presidential Leadership Class VIII

The 21 students selected for Class VIII of the SSC Presidential Leadership program, and their parents, were guests at a program orientation held at the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum.

SSC Leadership Students Grow Through Challenges

Freshmen members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class worked "high and low" on team building activities and to accomplish personal goals on a ropes challenge course at St. Crispin's Conference Center.

SSC Hosts Constitution Day Observance

In celebration of Constitution Day 2014, Seminole State College hosted a public presentation featuring Associate Professor of History, Dr. Ronald Petrin. In observation of Constitution Day, Petrin discussed "The Constitution, Same Sex Marriage and Modernity: A Historical Perspective."

Dousing for Dollars

Faculty and staff at Seminole State College participated in the Ice Bucket Challenge to raise money and awareness of ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. Students were invited to Henderson Park on the SSC campus for free hamburgers and hot dogs and the opportunity to pour ice water on the employees who volunteered for the fund raiser. Everyone was invited to donate to the cause. Over \$500 was raised at the event and forwarded to ALS.



Oklahomans Visit Washington

Representatives from Seminole State College joined over 150 business leaders from across Oklahoma for the State Chamber of Commerce Fly-In to Washington D.C. Rural Business and Resources Director Larry Smith, Executive Vice President for Institutional Advancement Lana Reynolds, Regent Bryan Cain and President Dr. Jim Utterback all attended the event.

Learning about Children’s Health Care

Members of the Seminole State College President’s Leadership Class toured The Children’s Hospital – OU Medicine in Oklahoma City. The group heard a presentation about the Children’s Miracle Network and the Children’s Hospital Foundation, toured the facility, and explored the Children’s Village – an outdoor, rooftop playground for children and their families.

SSC Faculty Present at National Conference

Assistant Professor of Psychology Kendall Rogers and Assistant Professor of English Yasmina Choate spoke to higher education colleagues from across the nation on “Strategic Planning and Best Practices for Online Learning at the Rural Community College” at the Rural Community College Alliance (RCCA) Annual Conference in Arizona. Both instructors are members of the Distance Education Committee at Seminole State College and are experienced online teachers.

OCTOBER

SSC Presents Program on Benefits of Creative Writing Degree

A presentation on “Creative Writing, OBU, and YOU: The Benefits of a Creative Writing Bachelor’s Degree” was presented at Seminole State College in October. The program, sponsored by SSC’s Language Arts and Humanities Division featured Dr. Ben Myers, Crouch-Mathis Associate Professor of Literature at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee.

Training Day

Staff members from Seminole State College attended the “People, Purpose and Passion” workshop as part of the annual Support Staff Conference of the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges at Rose State College in Midwest City.

Trojan Tennis Player Wins National Championship

Seminole State freshman Guy Iradukunda, from the country of Burundi, won the NJCAA Singles National Tennis Championship in Sumter, South Carolina.



Fond Farewell to SSC Nursing Professor

Current and former Seminole State College nursing faculty members, as well as other colleagues and students, gathered to celebrate the retirement of longtime SSC nursing professor Dr. Jorge Neuhaus. Neuhaus taught at the College since 1982.

Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel

Two Seminole State College employees were honored for their outstanding dedication and work during the monthly Chamber of Commerce Forum. Robin Crawford and Christal Stevenson were recognized as “Staff Member of the Month” and “Educator of the Month,” respectively.



Study Abroad

Seminole State College sophomores Sierra O’Dell of Konawa and Marques Christopher Marshall of Dallas, Texas, have been selected to represent Seminole State College on an international study trip to the Dominican Republic in May, 2015.

SSC President Leads Way on Safe Room Funding

Seminole State College was awarded a \$469,820 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the addition of the safe room to the Dan and Andrea Boren Center construction project. The new building project, being funded largely through private donations from the Borens and the Chickasaw Nation, has been a joint undertaking by the Seminole State College Board of Regents and the SSC Educational Foundation. SSC President Dr. Jim Utterback and his wife Karrie stepped forward to jump start a fund raising effort to help make this safe room a reality. They pledged \$10,000 for the project.



SSC Breaks Ground on Boren Center

Over 200 friends and supporters of Seminole State College crowded into the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on campus to witness a ground breaking ceremony for the Dan and Andrea Boren Center. Numerous sponsors, community members and friends of the College attended in support of the new building and to participate in “turning dirt.”

Passing of the Gavel

Out-going Chair of the Seminole State College Educational Foundation Board of Trustees Paige Sheffield, of Wewoka, passed the gavel to newly-elected Chair Ray McQuiston, of Seminole, at the Foundation’s meeting in October.

Shakespeare in the Park

Seminole State College Language Arts and Humanities students attended a performance of Shakespeare’s Macbeth, presented in Wintersmith Park in Ada.

Trick-or-Treat Trail a Success

Seminole State College hosted its first Trick-or-Treat Trail on campus. Over 25 tables were set up along the walking trails of Henderson Park with various SSC teams and groups who passed out candy to community trick-or-treaters. Several hundred kids and their family members walked through the trail to receive Halloween sweets.

Downey Assumes Presidency at ACCT Conference

Mechell Downey, Administrative Assistant to the President of Seminole State College, attended the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) - Leadership Congress in Chicago, Illinois where she was installed as President of the Professional Board Staff Network (PBSN) a national organization affiliated with ACCT.



SSC Students Get Tested

Approximately 200 Seminole State College students took the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency Test given in the Haney Center on campus. An important part of the SSC assessment process, the academic test is designed to measure general education foundational skills typically attained in the first two years of college.

Big Business

Members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class visited Homeland corporate headquarters in Oklahoma City on Oct. 28 to learn about the business' operations.

SSC SGA President Attends National Conference

Seminole State College Student Government President Chris Marshall along with Faculty Advisor Bill Knowles attended the American Student Government Association (ASGA) National Summit in Washington Oct. 1-5.



NOVEMBER

MLT Students Hear Guest Speaker

Seminole State College Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) students heard about a special online training program from guest speaker Dr. Sallie Ruskoski. Ruskoski, who is the Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) Program Director at Northeastern State University (NSU) in Tahlequah, presented information about the online transitional MLT to MLS degree program available at NSU.



Hump Day Event

Students, faculty and staff at Seminole State College celebrated "Hump Day" on Wednesday, Nov. 5 with camel rides, an activity organized by the SSC Campus Activities Board.

SSC PTK Honor Society Inducts New Members

Twenty-seven Seminole State College students were inducted into the Alpha Theta Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges. Students are selected based on their scholarship, leadership and service qualities. The chapter provides programs, activities and participation in community service projects.

SSC MLT Students Tour Chickasaw Nation Medical Center Laboratory

Seminole State College Medical Laboratory Technology students and the MLT Orientation class visited the Clinical Laboratory at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada. This visit enabled students to learn more about a career in the medical laboratory technology field and to see firsthand how a laboratory operates.

Holiday Food Drive

Seminole State College's Leadership Development Class and Student Government Association teamed up to collect non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army before the Thanksgiving holidays.

NASNTI Hosts "Native November"

The Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions Student Development Center at Seminole State College hosted "Native November" on campus to celebrate Native American Cultural Heritage Month. Events included "Native Style" Jeopardy, De Wagen Kwek (Ladies Drum Group) a Traditional Fashion Show, "Fashions of Tradition." Guest speakers visited all Personal Academic Success Strategies classes and the campus was also encouraged to "Roc Your Mocs" (wear your moccasins) all week long.



Backpack Packing

Members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class volunteered at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. The students packed food for backpacks to be sent home with kids from schools across the state for weekend nourishment. The students packed, weighed, sealed, boxed and stacked pallets of boxes for shipment. Collectively, the group prepared 436 cases with a total weight of 6,920 lbs. which equated to preparation of 5,767 meals.

Speaker encourages GEAR UP students to live a life with no more excuses

High School students from schools served by the Seminole State College GEAR UP Project came together for assemblies in November and were encouraged by speaker and author Grant Baldwin to answer the question "How are you going to live your life with no more excuses?" After the presentations, Baldwin stayed to visit with the students and autographed copies of his book *Reality Check*. Written as "the student's guide to the real world," the book includes practical advice and insights on issues like creating a budget, applying for scholarships, dealing with relationships and finding a career.

DECEMBER



Santa's Helpers

The Seminole State College Classified Staff Association organized a campus-wide effort to collect holiday gifts for “Little Angels” identified by the Salvation Army and Department of Human Services. This year a total of 40 angels were sponsored by the campus.

SSC NASA Students Learn About Seminole Nation

Seminole State College Native American Student Association (NASA) visited the Seminole Nation Museum in Wewoka to learn about the tribe’s history and culture.

SSC Night at the Lights

Seminole State College hosted their annual “SSC Night at the Lights” event at the community Snowman Wonderland Light Display showcased at Magnolia Park in Seminole. Children created holiday crafts with the help of SSC student athletes and everyone snacked on hot chocolate, apple cider and cookies.

Utterback Speaks on Community Colleges and MSIs Panel

Seminole State College President Dr. Jim Utterback traveled to Washington, D.C. in early December to participate in a blue-ribbon forum on Community Colleges and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs). The AACCC forum and panel highlighted best-practices and effective collaborations between community colleges and MSIs that lead to college success and completion. The focus of the forum was to develop potential guidelines that will aid in the development of partnerships between community colleges and MSIs.

Testing the Waters

Seminole State College students enrolled in the Introduction to Engineering class this fall were challenged to design, build, wire and test a Remotely Operated Vehicle-an underwater vehicle-for their final class project. Each vehicle was required to turn left and right, move forward and backward and go up and down.

Finals Eve Breakfast

Seminole State College faculty and staff served a late-night breakfast at the beginning of finals week to over 100 students from the college’s residence halls. Students were invited to bring their books to the E.T. Dunlap Student Union to study for final exams while they were served a full-course breakfast starting at 9 p.m.



Santa's Workshop

Seminole State College student athletes volunteered their time and talents to wrap over 700 gifts for the Rotary Christmas Dinner. The presents were distributed at the annual community dinner on December 25.

Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel



Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their hard work and dedication during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum. Mathematics Instructor Melissa Bryant was honored as “Educator of the Month” and Financial Aid Clerk Sonja Sigman was honored as “Staff Member of the Month.”



Smalley Meets Student Leaders

Members of Seminole State College’s Presidential Leadership Class met with newly-elected Oklahoma State Senator Jason Smalley (Stroud - R) following his community presentation at the Seminole Chamber of Commerce December Forum.

Fuel for Finals

Seminole State College’s dance team members provided coffee, hot chocolate and all the fixings to treat students who were studying in the Seminole Nation Residential Learning Center for finals this week. SSC organizations across campus are encouraged each year during finals week to sponsor tables with drinks and snacks for residential students to enjoy while studying.

Coffee with the President

Seminole State College faculty and staff took an early morning break on Dec. 12 to enjoy coffee and hot apple cider with President Dr. Jim Utterback. The “Coffee with the President” event allows employees from across campus a chance to visit with each other and the President while enjoying a few treats before the end of the fall semester.

