



Seminole State College

2016

Year In Review

Seminole State College

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Office of the President

January 19, 2017

Dear Friends,

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 2016.

This week marks my 20th anniversary as President of this outstanding institution. Working with dedicated faculty and staff under the guidance and leadership of a visionary board, and with the support of a host of friends and community leaders, we have seen great things happen at Seminole State College. Together, we have increased enrollment, expanded academic and athletic programs, promoted opportunities for under-represented groups, transformed the physical appearance of campus, increased technology, created new global education opportunities and partnerships, strengthened the SSC Educational Foundation, and successfully achieved maximum accreditation status for the institution and numerous programs.

I am proud of our shared accomplishments. As we have worked together to shape the future of Seminole State College, it has always been the PEOPLE involved with this institution that are its greatest strength. I appreciate the service of our employees and the trust bestowed in us by our students. Indeed, it is the education of these students that makes all of our lives, and our world, so much better.



With Best Wishes for a Wonderful 2017!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jim Utterback".

James W. Utterback, Ph.D.
President

January

Coach of the Year

Seminole State College Head Baseball Coach Lloyd “Z” Simmons was honored as “College Coach of the Year” by the Oklahoma Baseball Coaches Association.

SSC Supporters Attend Regional Higher Education Legislative Tour

Supporters of Seminole State College were guests at the Southeast Oklahoma Legislative Tour hosted by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in McAlester.

SSC Baseball Signs Franklin, Son of Former Trojan and MLB Pitcher

Shawnee High School senior Logan Franklin, son of former Trojan and professional baseball pitcher Ryan Franklin, signed to play baseball at his father’s alma mater – Seminole State College.



AT&T Supports SSC President’s Leadership Class Program

To help Seminole State College prepare students for leadership roles in their communities and the State, AT&T made a \$10,000 contribution in support of the President’s Leadership classes.

Senator Pittman Speaks at SSC in Honor of MLK Day

As part of a special Martin Luther King Day program, Oklahoma State Senator Anastasia Pittman visited the campus and spoke to students, faculty and staff.

February

SSC Administrators Get Their Hands Dirty

As part of Seminole State College’s “Let’s Talk Trash” campaign, the College’s administrative team braved wind and cold temperatures to pick-up trash across campus.

SSC Hosts Free Volleyball Clinic

The Seminole State College Volleyball Team organized a free one-day clinic for Seminole middle school and high school girls. Each participant was partnered with an SSC player to work with for the evening.



SSC Employees Participate in Wellness Challenge

Over 35 Seminole State College employees made a commitment to a healthier lifestyle by agreeing to participate in an eight-week Wellness Challenge. The College's Wellness Committee, sponsored by Blue Cross/Blue Shield, presented this challenge to encourage those of all ages, abilities and incomes to make healthier living choices.

SSC Honors Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, Seminole State College hosted a special program on campus entitled "The Power of Words." The program, sponsored by the Native American Serving Non-tribal Institutions grant program, featured a Greek Step Show and guest performer Phetote Mshairi.

SSC Delegation Attends Higher Ed Day

A delegation of Seminole State College students and employees attended "Higher Education Day at the Capitol" in Oklahoma City. The event is held annually to demonstrate grassroots support for Higher Education funding.

FAFSA Days Event

The Seminole State College Financial Aid Office hosted "FAFSA Days," a three-day event to help students complete their Free Application for Student Aid.

Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their hard work and dedication during the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum. Assistant Professor in the Business and Education Division Jeff Cheng was honored as "Educator of the Month" and Heating and Air Technician Tommy Bighead was honored as "Staff Member of the Month."



Former Trojans Return Home to Kick-Off Baseball Season

Former Seminole State College baseball players, along with community supporters and members of the 2016 Trojan squad, gathered for the annual Trojan Season Kick-Off Banquet. Former Trojan, Atlanta Braves pitcher and pro scout Joe Nelson was the special guest speaker for the evening.

PLC Students Participate in Women's Leadership Luncheon

Female members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class had the opportunity to visit with three local women of service – Regents Marci Donaho and Karen James and SSC Executive Vice President for Institutional Advancement Lana Reynolds – during a special Women's Leadership Luncheon.

March

Denmark Students Arrive at SSC

Seminole State College welcomed a group of 26 Danish students to campus as part of the College's cultural and educational exchange program with the Silkeborg Business College in Denmark.

SSC Students Deliver Easter Cheer to Local Nursing Home

The Seminole State College Special Projects in Art class, in collaboration with the Art Club and Future Business Leaders of America, created Easter corsages and boutonnieres for residents at the Pioneer Nursing Home in Seminole.



Clapper and Isaacs Read at Creative Writing Festival

Two Seminole State College faculty members, Associate Professor of English Rayshell Clapper and Professor of English Jessica Isaacs, were selected to present their writings at the 11th Annual Scissortail Creative Writing Festival at East Central University in Ada.

Student Support Programs Host Dr. Dee Terrell

The Student Support Services and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Student Support Services at SSC hosted speaker Dr. Dee Terrell, Assistant Professor of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the OU Health Sciences Center, on campus to speak with students in both programs.

Eggs, Eggs and More Eggs

Members of the Seminole State College women's basketball team stuffed 8,500 eggs for "Jazzy's Egg Run," an annual event at the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum.

SSC PTK Honor Society Inducts New Members

Sixteen Seminole State College students were inducted into the Alpha Theta Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges.



College and OKSE Partnership Honored

Seminole State College and *Oklahoma Southeast* were honored during a Business Partnership Excellence Award Luncheon sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The award honors outstanding partnerships that lead to significant contributions in educating and developing Oklahoma's workforce.

SSC Students Recognized at OACC Ceremony

Seminole State College students Maria Goodnight and Janay Nix were honored as members of the All-Oklahoma Academic Team at the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Recognition Ceremony.

SSC Inducts Members of MAT National Mathematics Honor Society

The Seminole State College Mu Alpha Theta National Mathematics Honor Society recognized ten new members of the organization for 2015-2016.

SSC Art Club Hosts Successful Chili Cook-Off Event

The newly-formed Seminole State College Art Club held their very first fundraiser – a Chili Bowl Cook-Off – where the organization raised over \$1,000. The proceeds were used to fund student field trips and bring visiting artists to campus.

White Attends Nigh Institute

Area Seminole State College student Katie White of Carson, Okla. attended the Nigh Institute Leadership Conference in Oklahoma City.

April

SSC Attends Oklahoma’s Promise Day at the Capitol

Seminole State College students and staff members attended the Oklahoma’s Promise Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol in support of the scholarship program.

Let’s Play Ball...

Seminole State College Trojan baseball players worked with members of “A League of Their Own” at the Seminole Softball Quadruplex. The “League” was established to allow individuals with cognitive or physical disabilities to play baseball, who would not be able to play in a more competitive league.

Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their hard work and dedication during the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum. Assistant Professor of Political Science Steve Hendrix was honored as “Educator of the Month” and Registrar Corey Quiett was honored as “Professional Staff Member of the Month.”



Former President of Enviro Systems Visits SSC Students

Craig Froelich, former president and Chief Executive Officer of Enviro Systems in Seminole, spoke to business and calculus students at Seminole State College about his experiences and the importance of education.

SSC Hosts Annual Creativity Symposium

The Language Arts and Humanities Division at SSC hosted their Sixth Annual “Howlers and Yawpers Creativity Symposium: A Showcase of Oklahoma Artists, Musicians, Actors, Writers, and Dancers.”



PLC and Danes Visit Woolaroc

Members of the Seminole State College President’s Leadership Class and visiting students from Silkeborg College in Denmark toured Woolaroc near Bartlesville. The land of “wood, lakes and rocks” was the summer home and Western culture entertainment center for famous Oklahoma oil man and philanthropist Frank Phillips.

May

Community Development Seminar

Seminole State College co-hosted a community development seminar with the Rural Community College Alliance where SSC President Dr. Jim Utterback and SSC Rural Business and Resources Center Director Larry Smith made a presentation on “Utilizing Community College Foundations.”

SSC’s Coach Simmons Reaches 1,800th Win

Seminole State College Head Baseball Coach Lloyd “Z” Simmons reached his 1,800th win Sunday, May 1 by defeating Eastern Oklahoma State College 17-7 at home.



Cooperative Effort between SSC and GCTC Saves MLT Program

The Seminole State College Board of Regents approved a proposal for a cooperative agreement with Gordon Cooper Technology Center to allow the continuation of the College’s Medical Laboratory Technology Program.

Leone Named Head Baseball Coach at SSC

Former Seminole State College Trojan and current Assistant Baseball Coach Dax Leone was named head coach of the Trojans to succeed Lloyd Simmons following his retirement at the end of June.

Alumni, Employees and Students Honored by SSC

Over 450 friends and supporters of Seminole State College attended the SSC Educational Foundation’s annual recognition banquet April 28. SSC alumni Dr. Wayland Billings, Dr. Jequita Billings Snyder and Cynthia Yerby were inducted into the Seminole State College Alumni Hall of Fame. The event also included recognition of college alumni, employees and students.



Senator Smalley Speaks at SSC Commencement

SSC held its 83rd Commencement Exercises and Senator Jason Smalley, a Republican member of the Oklahoma State Senate, representing District 28, was the featured guest speaker.

MLT Students Receive National Scholarships

Eight Seminole State College Medical Laboratory Technology students were chosen to receive scholarships from Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics and the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

SSC Students Inducted into PSI BETA

Twelve Seminole State College students were inducted into the Psi Beta Psychology Honor Society for two-year colleges.

Sprockets Team Visits Exchange Students at SSC

The Sprockets Team 2341 from Gordon Cooper Technology Center visited a group of Danish exchange students at SSC to explain their program and give a demonstration of their robot.

June

SSC Students Return from Denmark

Nine Seminole State College students and two faculty members went on a 14-day trip to Denmark, Germany and the Czech Republic as part of a cultural and educational exchange program with the Silkeborg Business College.



SSC Employees Volunteer at Community Youth Camp

Several Seminole State College employees, in collaboration with the 2016 Leadership Seminole class, hosted an arts and crafts class for participants in the Seminole Family Resource Center's Making a Difference Summer Youth Program.

Trojan Players Make All-American, Selected in MLB Draft

Four Seminole State College baseball players were honored as NJCAA All-American athletes and five players were selected during the 2016 Major League Baseball Draft.

Global Studies Returns from Summer Trip

Seminole State College's Global Studies program travelled to Paris, Normandy and London. The nine-day trip took travelers to popular sites including Notre Dame, the Normandy beaches, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Eifel Tower and Buckingham Palace.

Smalley Visits SSC Campus

State Senator Jason Smalley (R-Stroud) visited the campus, where he talked with students and met with President Dr. Jim Utterback to discuss recent budget cuts made to Seminole State College and other higher education institutions.

SSC Board of Regents Convene for June Meeting

During the June Board of Regents Meeting, SSC President Dr. Jim Utterback presented outgoing SSC Board of Regents Chair Karen James with a gavel and plaque in appreciation of her service and dedication to Seminole State College.



Saying Goodbye

Friends, family and colleagues gathered to celebrate the retirement of Seminole State College administrators Katherine Benton and Dr. Mark Ames. Ames served SSC as Vice President for Student Affairs and Benton served as Vice President of Fiscal Affairs.

Mathews Awarded AllianceHealth Scholarship

Seminole State College Medical Laboratory Technology student Asheleigh Mathews was awarded a scholarship from the AllianceHealth Seminole Women's Volunteer Auxiliary.

SSC Upward Bound Camp Begins

Seminole State College's Upward Bound Projects welcomed 210 students from over 20 surrounding high schools to the college campus for a six-week summer camp. The camp is designed to simulate college life through participation in interactive enrichment classes, social activities and educational field trips.

St. John Named SSC Athletic Director

Seminole State College named Mike St. John as the new Athletic Director. St. John came to SSC from Carl Albert State College in Poteau where he served as the athletic director and head men's basketball coach for the past 12 years.

A Fond Farewell

Seminole State College Trojan Baseball Coach Lloyd Simmons, who built a dynasty in collegiate baseball during his 30 years of service at the College, retired from SSC.

Internal Audit Report

Seminole State College received a "clean" FY16 Internal Audit Report from BKD, CPAs & Advisors. The report covered payroll and miscellaneous claims for the College and was reported with no noted exceptions.

July

SSC Agriculture Program Approved by OSRHE

Seminole State College students may now earn an Associate in Science in Agriculture – a new degree program at SSC that received approval by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education on June 30, 2016.



And The Award Goes To...

SSC Coordinator of Media Relations Kristin Dunn and Executive Vice President for Institutional Advancement Lana Reynolds received an excellence award in the best news headline category during the Oklahoma College Public Relations Association's annual awards banquet.

Brown and Knowles Assume New Roles on Campus

Braden Brown, former Director for Business Services and the Physical Plant, assumed the role as Vice President for Fiscal Affairs and Bill Knowles, former Chair of the Social Sciences Division and Director of Student Services assumed the role of Vice President for Student Affairs.

SSC Women's Soccer Team to Begin this Fall

SSC hired Dan Hill to develop and lead the new women's soccer program at the College. Hill came to SSC from Harrah High School where he was the men's and women's soccer coach for 8 years.

August



Saying Goodbye

Coworkers, friends and family celebrated the retirement of long-time Seminole State College employee Brenda Cates. Cates served in several different roles during her 20 years at the College, including TRiO Office Manager, Talent Search Advisor, Enrollment Management Specialist/High School Recruiter and her most current position as Student Support Services Adviser/Americans with Disabilities Act Specialist.

SSC Welcomes Presidential Leadership Class X

Seminole State College welcomed 20 new students for Class X of the SSC Presidential Leadership program. PLC is a two-year scholarship program created to help students develop leadership skills and provide personal and professional growth opportunities.

A Heart of Service

Six Seminole State College sophomore nursing students volunteered time during summer break to mentor and lead the upcoming freshmen class. They helped the new students understand how the two-year nursing program is designed, and assisted them with study and organizational tips.

Talent Search Grants Renewed at SSC

Seminole State College received notification from the U.S. Department of Education of the renewal of two federal Talent Search grants. Talent Search Central and Talent Search West will be funded for another five years and will bring in over \$2.7 million to the institution.

Welcoming A New Semester

Faculty and staff at Seminole State College celebrated the beginning of the new academic year with an in-service program built around the theme “SSC – We Can Do It!”



PIE Academy Completes Camp at SSC

A group of 37 high school students from across Oklahoma completed a week-long Peek Into Engineering Summer Academy at Seminole State College. The camp targets rising ninth through twelfth grade students with a strong interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

September

SGA President Meets with Chancellor Johnson

Taylor McClure, president of the Student Government Association at Seminole State College, participated in a special meeting in Oklahoma City with Oklahoma State Higher Education Chancellor Glen D. Johnson. Ms. McClure joined other Oklahoma college SGA student presidents to learn about higher education issues and discuss student concerns

SSC Awarded \$1.7 Million Federal Grant

Seminole State College received word from the U.S. Department of Education that the Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions grant will be funded in the amount of \$1.7 million. The NASNTI grant helps support institutions of education in their effort to increase their self-sufficiency by improving academic programs, institutional management, and fiscal stability.

Boosters, Burgers and Buns, Oh My!

Seminole State College student-athletes were welcomed to campus and the community by the SSC Booster Club during a cook-out at the College's Softball Complex. Players included 111 students from Oklahoma, 35 students from out-of-state and 16 international students.

Learning the Election Process...

Members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class visited the Oklahoma State Election Board offices in Oklahoma City where they learned about voting machines and the election process.



Former SSC Player Signs First Professional Contract in Sweden

Jabril Durham, former Seminole State College basketball player, signed a one-year professional contract with Jamtland Basket of the Swedish Basketligan. Durham played for SSC during the 2013-2014 season under Head Coach Don Tuley.

October

SSC Pre-Engineering Students Tour Enviro

Seminole State College pre-engineering students toured Enviro Systems, Inc. of Seminole where they learned about the company and discussed a variety of employment opportunities for college graduates with math or science related degrees.



SSC Trick-or-Treat Trail a Success

Several hundred kids and family members participated in Seminole State College's 3rd Annual Trick-or-Treat Trail on campus. SSC teams, organizations, students and employees passed out candy to area trick-or-treaters.

SSC Art Clubs Hosts Guest Speaker

The Seminole State College Art Club hosted guest artist Keven Stark to discuss the business side of the art industry with students on campus. Stark visited with the group about his experiences as an artist and gave them advice about marketing their work.

SSC Signs Consortium Agreement with ECU

Seminole State College and East Central University entered into a consortium agreement, making it possible for students to pursue an Associate in Science in Elementary Education by enrolling in courses at both SSC and ECU.

Oklahoma's River-Port

Members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class toured the Port of Catoosa, a shipping complex and 2000-acre industrial park that has an estimated \$300 million economic impact on the State.

SSC PTK Honor Society Inducts New Members

Twenty-nine Seminole State College students were inducted into the Alpha Theta Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges.

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. Assistant Professor of Art Angela Church was honored as "Educator of the Month" and Admissions/Records Clerk Sheila Morris was honored as "Staff Member of the Month."



Seminole State Employees Present at National Conference

Assistant Professor of Psychology Kendall Rogers and Advisement Director Jamie Mills of Seminole State College recently attended the Rural Community College Alliance National Conference in Orange Beach, Ala., where the two employees held a follow-up workshop over their award-winning presentation from last year's conference.

SSC Staff Attend OACC Conference

Staff members from Seminole State College attended the annual Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Support Staff Conference at Oklahoma City Community College in OKC.

Palmer and Sidmore Awarded AllianceHealth Scholarship

Amber Palmer and Elizabeth Sidmore, two nursing students at Seminole State College, each received a \$1,000 AllianceHealth Seminole Women's Volunteer Auxiliary Scholarship.



SGA Students Attend Retreat

Seminole State College students Taylor McClure and Nadia Martinez attended the 2016 Student Leadership Retreat at Rose State College. McClure serves as Student Government Association President and Martinez serves as Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society President.

SSC Hosts Zombie Fun Run/Walk Fundraiser

The Seminole State College Classified Staff Association hosted a Zombie Fun Run/Walk on campus to help raise funds for student scholarships and to support campus and community projects.

November

NASA Students Visit Choctaw Nation

Several SSC NASA students visited the program offices at the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to learn about career opportunities and how the Choctaw Nation helps its members through education and other training and certifications.



Lunch with the President

Seminole State College Student Government Officers met with SSC President Dr. Jim Utterback and his administrative team for a luncheon where the group discussed ways that they could work with administrators to improve academic services and campus life for students.

Business Students Visit ECU

A group of 35 Seminole State College business students visited East Central University in Ada to view the Stonecipher School of Business, a \$14 million facility.

Isaacs Presents as Featured Poet at MLA Conference

Seminole State College Professor of English Jessica Isaacs attended the 2016 South Central Modern Language Association Conference in Dallas where she presented during the special “Poets Corner” portion of the conference.

SSC Employees Attend Campus Safety Training

Seminole State College employees Bill Knowles, Sam Rivera and Kristin Dunn participated in the 2016 Campus Safety and Security Summit in Midwest City. During a concurrent session at the conference, Knowles participated in a panel discussion on “Campus Connections: Channels for Strategic Communication.”

Aggies in Action

Seven Seminole State College Agriculture Ambassadors attended the National Future Farmers of America Convention in Indiana. The students were among 65,000 FFA members and guests at the convention.



MLT Students Tour Chickasaw Nation Medical Center

Seminole State College/Gordon Cooper Technology Center Medical Laboratory Technology students visited the clinical laboratory at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada where students learned more about a career in the medical laboratory technology field and saw firsthand how a laboratory operates.

SSC Students Volunteer at Regional Food Bank

Members of Seminole State College's President's Leadership Class volunteered at the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank and packed 378 boxes containing canned goods, pasta, oats and dry packaged foods to be delivered to families in the need over the holidays.



Lady Leaders Luncheon

Female members of the SSC President’s Leadership Class visited with three local women who have demonstrated leadership in their professions and service to their communities at a Lady Leaders Luncheon. Regents Leesa Adams and Marci Donaho joined SSC Executive Vice President for Institutional Support Lana Reynolds for the panel discussion.

SSC Hosts “Native November” Activities

The Seminole State College Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions Program sponsored a variety of “Native November” activities on campus to celebrate Native American Heritage Month.

External Audit Report

Seminole State College received a “clean” FY16 External Audit Report from Finley & Cook, Certified Public Accountants. The report covered items for the entire campus for the year.

December

SSC Students Participate in Food Drive

The Seminole State College Leadership Development Class sponsored a holiday food drive on campus as part of a service-learning project for their humanities course. Donations were delivered to the Interfaith Social Ministries community food pantry.

Kindness Campaign

In an attempt to combat the negative environment surrounding the presidential campaign and election, the Seminole State College Student Government Association sponsored a “Campus Kindness Campaign” where students and employees participated in a variety of friendly gestures to those on campus.

Coffee with the SSC President

Seminole State College faculty and staff enjoyed coffee, hot apple cider and snacks with President Dr. Jim Utterback during “Coffee with the President.”

De-Stressor Week at SSC

To help relieve stress during finals this semester, the Seminole State College Campus Activities Board and Residential Life hosted a week of free “de-stressor” activities for students and employees to enjoy.

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. Title III Advisor and Instructor Jason Cook was honored as “Educator of the Month” and Coordinator of Media Relations Kristin Dunn was honored as “Professional Staff Member of the Month.”



SSC Athletes Wrap Gifts for Rotary Christmas Dinner

Seminole State College student-athletes and coaches volunteered their time to wrap over 700 gifts that were passed out during 2016 Rotary Christmas Dinner.

SSC Operation Appreciation and Holiday Cheer

Seminole State College students, faculty and staff, along with members of the community, worked together to sign over 250 holiday cards that were delivered to Veterans and military personnel. The “Operation Appreciation and Holiday Cheer” project was organized in order to thank those who serve our country and to bring them holiday cheer.

SSC Completes Walking Challenge

Seminole State College employees completed a six-week step-based wellness challenge where participants tracked their steps or step equivalents, which included running, biking and swimming. These steps were then calculated to see how far each participant had traveled, had they been walking along the famous Route 66 Highway in Oklahoma.

SSC Collects Holiday Gifts for Kids

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. A total of 41 angels were sponsored by the SSC organization.



SSC Ag Student Presents at IAC

Seminole State College freshman agriculture major Zach Ilbery traveled to Las Vegas for the annual Intertribal Agricultural Council where he gave a presentation to 60 youth attendees and also participated in a panel discussion.

