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SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE COLLEGIAN

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HLC APPRECIATION CELEBRATION

Seminole State College hosted the HLC Appreciation Celebration event on March 2 at the E.T. Dunlap Student Union.

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Submitting to The Collegian

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SSC Makes Donation to SSM Health St. Anthony of Shawnee



Seminole State College recently donated medical supplies to SSM Health St. Anthony – Shawnee to assist with COVID-19 preparations at the hospital.

The College's Interim Nursing Program Director Linda Brown (left) delivered several boxes of exam gloves and disposable gowns to the hospital's Communications and Marketing Consultant Carla Tollett (right). The donation included 26 boxes of DemaAssist synthetic powder-free exam gloves, 3 boxes of Nitrile gloves and 30 packets of disposable gowns.

"We've had a longstanding relationship with SSM Health St. Anthony of Shawnee. We were more than happy to help them with their

need for supplies during this pandemic," SSC President Lana Reynolds said.

The hospital has long served as a site for clinicals for SSC nursing students.

Reynolds said that the College also reached out to the local Alliance Health facility in Seminole and are looking for ways to assist with their needs. She said the College did not have any of the protective equipment items that Alliance was currently looking for.

The donated supplies were gathered by the College's Nursing faculty, as well as Nursing and Health Sciences Division Chair Dr. Noble Jobe, and members of the Science, Technology and Math Division.



**Enrollment for summer
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Speak to your advisor today.

Student Chases College Rodeo Dreams at SSC

Kimberly Cotter overcame numerous obstacles to compete in college rodeo.



Seminole State College sophomore Kimberly Cotter competes as an independent in a college rodeo event in 2019, while wearing a Seminole State College patch.

Some people mark time by the places they've lived, by the vehicles they've driven. Kimberly Cotter, a sophomore at Seminole State College, marks time by the horses she's owned.

"When I was three, my parents went to a miniature horse sale for fun — just something to do as a family. Well, they ended up buying some," Cotter said, "so I started showing miniature horses at the age of three."

At the age of seven, she wrote an essay and won a Shetland pony.

"The minis were boring from that point on," she joked.

She showed both Shetlands and miniatures. She joined McLoud's 4-H club at age nine and started showing

goats. When she started attending Dale High School, she joined FFA and started showing lambs alongside the goats. Cotter's passion for animals and riding horses in particular continued to grow.

She was, and still is, a confident horse rider. She wanted to try her hand at barrel racing in high school. After practicing and honing her skills as a barrel racer, she and her parents went to a sale and picked out a trained, or patterned, barrel horse. She named the mare Cali, and the two have been inseparable ever since.

She competed in the International Youth Finals Rodeo each year of high school. She's won numerous local, national and international awards,

including two Pinto World Champion titles.

During her senior year of high school, she began applying to colleges with strong agricultural programs, including Kansas State University, Oklahoma State University and SSC.

But just before her high school graduation, her grandmother suffered a stroke. Her grandmother was her neighbor, had watched over her as she grew up on her parent's farm in Shawnee. Cotter decided she would attend college close to home, so she could care for her grandmother.

While a freshman studying agriculture at SSC, she was also her grandmother's full-time caretaker with help from her family. She never considered the situation to be a hindrance to her goals.

"I didn't see it as an obstacle. It was an amazing opportunity. She took care of me when I was little and now I could take care of her and spend time with her. I spent every night there. It was a blessing," Cotter said.

Following the stroke, her grandmother could not speak or walk.

"I knew her so well. I knew what she was trying to convey without communication," Cotter said. She cherishes the time with her grandmother before she passed away.

Despite the emotional toll her grandmother's passing took on her, Cotter continued chasing her rodeo dreams. SSC does not have a college rodeo team, but Assistant Professor of Agriculture Wendy Rich did not want that to hamper Cotter's goals.

"Professor Rich said to me, 'You

know you could do that as an independent, right?' So I started competing," Cotter said.

She has competed in five college rodeo events since she went independent. She wears an SSC patch on her vest as she barrel races.

"I'm so glad I chose SSC," Cotter said. "I'm getting to do all the things I want. If you voice what you want to accomplish here, people will help you find a way to make it happen."

Her accomplishments are not limited to the rodeo arena. She served on SSC's first livestock judging team, she is an Ag ambassador, she's a member of the Aggie Club on campus, as well as a member in three honor societies: Phi Theta Kappa, Sigma Kappa Delta and Nu Alpha Theta.

She shared her experiences at SSC with the College's Board of Regents in the fall of 2019. President Lana Reynolds was so moved by her story that she asked Cotter to represent the College at Higher Ed Day at the State Capitol. Cotter was one of three students who addressed state leaders about the value of higher education.

When she graduates from SSC in the spring, she intends to transfer to OSU and enroll in their animal science/pre-veterinary program. She hopes to become the fifth member of her family to complete the veterinary program in Stillwater, joining her mother, aunt and two cousins.

"I've been given so many opportunities at this college," Cotter said. "Somewhere else, I would have been a number. Here, I've been able to be a part of so much."

SSC Hosts HLC Appreciation Celebration Event



Pictured (l-r) SSC Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Goeller, President Lana Reynolds and Coordinator of Accreditation and Language Arts and Humanities Division Chair Jessica Isaacs mark the occasion by cutting the HLC Appreciation Celebration cake.

Seminole State College hosted the HLC Appreciation Celebration event on March 2 at the E.T. Dunlap Student Union. Faculty, staff, students and community supporters gathered to commemorate the conclusion of the Higher Learning Commission site visit. The site visit marked the last step of the College's recent accreditation process.

Attendees enjoyed cake, punch and a free photo booth. President Lana Reynolds thanked everyone for their hard work during the accreditation process and presented flowers to the Coordinator of Accreditation and Language Arts and Humanities Division Chair Jessica Isaacs.

Fall Enrollment Begins



Seminole State College will begin enrolling current students for the 2020 fall semester on April 6. Open enrollment begins April 13. Students can also enroll for summer and upcoming inter-session courses. A current class schedule can be viewed on the College's website at www.sscok.edu.

Dr. Bill Knowles, Vice President for Student Affairs, encourages students to enroll early before classes start to fill-up. "Although our fall semester doesn't begin until August 17, it's important for students to visit with an SSC advisor sooner rather than later, especially if they are looking to take a specific class at a certain time."

He explained that this is also a great time to consider a summer or inter-session class. "These course options are available to help students complete degree requirements that they weren't able to fit into their fall or spring schedules. We are always looking for ways to provide flexible class offerings for our students."

For help with enrollment, students may email admissions at admissions@sscok.edu or call

405-382-9230. Current students may enroll with their academic advisor. The Walkingstick Student Services Center, where students enroll in-person, is presently closed to the public due to COVID-19 safety precautions. An announcement will be made when the student services center reopens to the public.

SSC students can receive associate degrees in 18 transfer degree programs including majors in agriculture, art, biology, business, child development, computer science, criminal justice, elementary education, enterprise development, health, physical education and recreation, health sciences, liberal studies, pre-engineering, psychology, secondary education and social sciences.

The College also offers several enter-the-workforce degree programs, including business technology, engineering technology, medical laboratory technology, nursing and physical therapist assistant.

For additional information about enrollment at SSC, please call the college's Office of Admissions at 405-382-9230.

SSC Extends Online Delivery of Courses Through the End of the Spring Semester



In an effort to safeguard student and employee health during the COVID-19 pandemic, Seminole State College will utilize online instruction exclusively until the end of the spring semester.

Seminole State College will continue with the online delivery of instruction through the end of the spring semester in light of the coronavirus outbreak.

“We have been constantly monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and are working to keep our students and employees safe, while continuing to provide quality service and instruction,” SSC President Lana Reynolds said.

In accordance with actions taken at other colleges and universities in the state, as well as other recommended health precautions, SSC will close campus to the public beginning March 30 until further notice. Buildings and offices will remain accessible to employees who need

to be on campus to handle essential functions. The college will continue to restrict the number of personnel on campus, but employees will continue to handle student and public inquiries remotely by email and phone.

Computer labs in the David L. Boren Library will remain open to provide needed technology access for students who may not have it. The SSC Food Pantry, also located in the Boren Library, will remain open for students and employees.

SSC will not hold its traditional graduation ceremony this spring. Instead, the College is exploring virtual options to honor students for the completion of their degrees.

“We’re currently working on a

digital solution so we can still recognize our graduates for their tremendous accomplishments,” President Reynolds said.

Once details for the virtual ceremony are finalized, the College will provide an update to its graduating class of 2020.

Campus housing has been closed since before Spring Break and will remain closed for the semester. Arrangements are being coordinated through Student Affairs and Housing to allow students to collect their belongings in a limited, structured method. The College is discussing several options regarding providing credits and pro-rated refunds for room and board. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis and

will be based on many factors, including financial aid status.

“I realize this will continue to be a transition for all of us, and there are still many questions to be answered. However, I know our campus will work together to tackle these challenges as they arise. I am so very proud to be a part of this college, and to work with its outstanding faculty, staff and students. We will get through this together,” President Reynolds said.

Students may check campus announcements regarding the College’s response to COVID-19 at www.sscok.edu/covid19/covid.html.

SSC Student Named Newman Civic Fellow

Tijah Johnson received the honor for her work with student government and the campus Food Pantry.

Seminole State College sophomore Tijah Johnson, of Shawnee, was recently named a 2020-2021 Newman Civic Fellow. The Newman Civic Fellowship is a yearlong program for students from Campus Compact member institutions. The students selected for the fellowship are leaders on their campuses who demonstrate a commitment to finding solutions for challenges facing communities locally, nationally and internationally.

Johnson serves as the SSC Student Government Association President. As a campus leader, she has participated in many events, including representing the College at Higher Ed Day at the State Capitol and state-wide Student Government Congresses. She served as a speaker at the “Women in STEM” campus event. She has also played a role in the planning, organizing and opening of the campus Food Pantry and Help Center, a resource that provides support to students facing mental health issues, seeking counseling referrals or in need of guidance on their academic careers.

“Tijah’s help with the Food Pantry and the Help Center has been instrumental in helping our student body as a whole,” SSC President Lana Reynolds said.

Johnson discovered her passion for ending food insecurity while serving as the Student Government Association President.

“I began to understand the effects of income inequality and how it is a battle for families to provide basic needs and how the bonds

of the family relationship suffers as well,” Johnson said. “I am an advocate for each student on campus and strive to make sure their voices are heard.”

The fellowship is named for the late Frank Newman, one of Campus Compact’s founders, who was an advocate for civic engagement in higher education.

Through the fellowship, Campus Compact provides the students with a variety of learning and networking opportunities that emphasize personal, professional and civic growth. Each year, Fellows are invited to a national, in-person conference of Newman Civic Fellows and participate in numerous virtual training and networking opportunities. The fellowship also provides fellows with pathways to apply for exclusive scholarship and post-graduate opportunities.

“We are proud to recognize each of these extraordinary student leaders and thrilled to have the opportunity to engage with them,” Campus Compact President Andrew Seligsohn said. “The stories of this year’s Newman Civic Fellows make clear that they are committed to finding solutions to pressing problems in their communities and beyond. That is what Campus Compact is about, and it’s what our country and our world desperately need.”

The Newman Civic Fellowship is supported by the KPMG Foundation and Newman’s Own Foundation. Learn more at compact.org/newman-civic-fellowship.



Seminole State College sophomore Tijah Johnson, of Shawnee, was recently honored as a 2020-2021 Newman Civic Fellow.

Local Women Work to Revitalize and Expand Gill Scholarship

Gill Foundation Scholarship partners with SSC to reach more students.

Five local Board Members of the Donald E. Gill Scholarship Foundation are honoring the memory, legacy and wishes of long-time Seminole educator and community volunteer Don Gill by expanding and revitalizing a scholarship program he established to support high school students who plan to attend Seminole State College.

For many years Gill's personal Foundation provided scholarships to five students to help offset costs of attending Seminole State College. Following his death in October, 2018, the Foundation Board has been working to preserve his wishes and to help more deserving students. Shelly Trammell, Jonna Bunyan, Cynthia Yerby, Janelle Zehren and Linda Dearing, all of Seminole, are hoping to increase awareness of the Gill Foundation Scholarship and are partnering with Seminole State College to reach more potential applicants.

The College has extended its scholarship application deadline for this special scholarship to April 15, 2020. The application form may

be found at www.sscok.edu on the Financial Aid Scholarship page and can be returned by email to finaid@sscok.edu, or in person, at the Financial Aid Office in the Walkingstick Student Center on campus.

The group plans to award 10 scholarships valued at \$2,400 over four semesters to high school seniors in Seminole County this spring who will be attending SSC. Students must have a financial need, must earn their high school diploma or an equivalent, must be enrolled full-time at SSC, and must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. The scholarship is designed to assist non-athletes in their academic pursuits. Proof of enrollment and GPA will be evaluated each subsequent semester after the original award is presented in order to qualify for continuation of the scholarship.

In addition to completing the Gill Foundation Scholarship Application, interested students must submit a one-to-two page essay expressing why they feel they should be chosen, as well as their collegiate goals and aspirations.

Gill came to Seminole in 1969 along with former Seminole "Junior" College President Elmer Tanner and several other professors from Claremore. They made up the original faculty of the College as it separated from Seminole High School. He served as Dean of Students from 1969 to 1983 and taught speech in the Language Arts and Humanities Division until his retirement in 1991.

Seminole State College honored Gill with its Distinguished Service Award in 2014 for his longtime support of the College and his commitment to students of the institution.

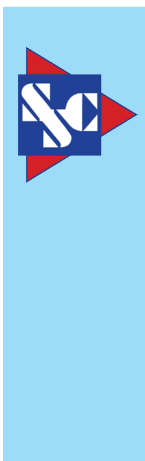
Gill was a member of the Rotary Club, past president of the Seminole Elks and a devout elder in the Presbyterian Church. He was a member of the Maple Grove Chapel Association doing preservation work in the city cemetery. For over 30 years he helped organize and operate the Interfaith Social Ministries programs and the local Seminole Food Bank. For many years Don was the driving force behind the Rotary Club's annual Christmas dinner. He was



Five local Board Members of the Donald E. Gill Scholarship Foundation have revitalized the scholarship established by Gill. Scholarship applications are being accepted until April 15.

on the board of the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum. In recognition of his volunteerism, he was awarded the Seminole Chamber Commerce's "Community Service Award," and in January of 2019, he was posthumously awarded the 2018 "Citizen of the Year."

For more information, contact the SSC Financial Aid office at 405-382-9247 or email finaid@sscok.edu.



SSC IS PRESENTLY CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC DUE TO SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN LIGHT OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

For all campus updates concerning COVID-19, visit sscok.edu/covid19/covid.html.



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SSC and Gordon Cooper Technology Center Partnership Honored

Seminole State College and Gordon Cooper Technology Center were among colleges, schools and businesses honored during a Business Partnership Excellence Awards Luncheon held March 12 at The University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

The award, sponsored by Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE), annually honors outstanding partnerships that lead to significant contributions in educating and developing Oklahoma's workforce.

Seminole State College and GCTC have worked cooperatively for decades, helping students achieve educational goals and, in turn, producing a better-trained workforce for Seminole, Pottawatomie, Lincoln, Okfuskee and Hughes counties.

The GCTC campus has provided classroom sites for numerous SSC college courses, both offered con-

currently to high school students and the public. Additionally, two SSC high-level math courses, Calculus I and Calculus II are offered to GCTC students in Shawnee for college credit. Dramatic cuts in state funding caused SSC to look at closing their long-time medical laboratory technology program in late 2016. Through a partnership with GCTC, the program moved to new facilities provided by the technology center. A physical therapy assistant (PTA) program was also created, received national certification and graduated its first class last spring. Students completing the PTA program receive an Associate in Applied Science degree from SSC and are eligible for a licensure exam. A similar effort to meet local workforce needs has been developed by the two entities through a cooperative program in engineering.



Present at the Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award Luncheon (l-r) were: Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Chancellor Dr. Glen Johnson, OSRHE Vice Chair Ann Holloway, Seminole State College President Lana Reynolds, Superintendent of Gordon Cooper Technology Center Bob Perry, GCTC Director of Partner School Outreach Ashley Fichtner, GCTC Superintendent Administrative Assistant Ronda Brady, SSC Educational Foundation Advancement Coordinator Kelsie Guy, SSC Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Goeller and SSC Rural Business and Resources Center Director Larry Smith.