

# SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE

## COLLEGIAN

VOL. XLX • ISSUE NO. 2

OCTOBER 2020

DIGITAL EDITION

SEMINOLE, OKLA.



**SOFTBALL TEAM RECOGNIZED  
FOR LENDING A HAND  
TO STUDENT IN NEED**

PAGE 3

## 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.

## Enrollment Open for 8-Week Courses

Seminole State College students may now enroll in online eight-week courses.

The second eight-week classes will begin on Monday, Oct. 12, and will conclude on Friday, Dec. 11. The last day to enroll for these courses is Oct. 14.

"We're committed to meeting the schedules of our students at SSC. Eight-week courses offer another level of flexibility. They're also a great entry point for new students," SSC Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Bill Knowles said.

Eight-week courses offered during the fall semester include American History Since 1877; American National Government; English Composition I and II; Crime, Delinquency and Social Issues Through Film; General Chemistry I and General Chemistry I Lab; General Psychology; Human Anatomy and Human Anatomy Lab; Music Appreciation II; New Testament; Old Testament; Personal Finance; Special Topics in Composition; and Speech.



Those interested may enroll with their assigned advisor or in the Walkingstick Student Services Center, located on Highway 9 on the south side of campus. Students must enroll before classes begin.

Regular office hours at the College are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday; and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday. Visit the College's website at [www.sscok.edu](http://www.sscok.edu) to view current class schedules. For questions about classes or enrollment at Seminole State, contact the SSC Admissions Office at 405-382-9230.

## PLC Registers Students to Vote



Members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class helped students register to vote in honor of National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 22. (Pictured) Jenna Harrison, of Shawnee, guided students through the process at her station in Tanner Hall.



## SSC Softball Players Recognized for Accident Response

*"They were so great. I am very proud of them. They are outstanding young ladies and we are very lucky to have them at Seminole."*

*-Coach Amber Flores*

Seminole State College softball players demonstrated a team effort off the field when they quickly responded to help a fellow student who had a car accident on Highway 9, near their practice area Oct. 2.

After hearing the crash, the girls ran to the road, discovering a student's damaged car on fire. Players called 9-1-1, comforted the upset driver and pulled a water hose to the highway to control the fire until emergency personnel arrived.

Trojan Coach Amber Flores com-

plimented her team for their quick and calm response to the emergency situation. "They were so great. I am very proud of them. They are outstanding young ladies and we are very lucky to have them at Seminole," she said.

The team was recognized Oct. 5 prior to their practice by SSC President Lana Reynolds. President Reynolds commended the team on their courage and compassion before providing cupcakes to the team.

COVID-19 SAFETY  
PROCEDURE MANUAL



CLICK TO VIEW

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](#).

## Student Support Services Hosts Pictionary Event

Student Support Services and STEM Student Support Services sponsored an outdoor Pictionary event for SSC students, faculty and staff on Sept. 29. Several students stopped by to enjoy friendly competition, meet new friends and share some laughs. Pictured (from l-r): SSC student Maggie Neu, STEM SSS Advisor Damon Cravens, student Fred McCree and SSS Peer Coach and student Sierra Josselyn put their artistic talents to test during the event.

SSS and STEM SSS are offering safe weekly activities that enable stu-

dents to connect with one another. STEM SSS Advisor Damon Cravens and SSS Peer Coaches Sierra Josselyn and A-yo Jones are leading the efforts. Both programs invite SSC students to apply for program admittance by visiting the website: [scoke.edu/ss/applytoday/](https://scoke.edu/ss/applytoday/).

SSS and STEM SSS are federally funded programs serving first-generation, economically disadvantaged, and disabled students. Contact SSS and STEM SSS Director Janna Wilson-Byrd at 405-382-9642 for more information.



## SSC Educational Foundation Provides Lawn Chairs to Residential Students

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation provided free, branded lawn chairs to students residing on campus on Sept. 18.

“As is happening across the state and the nation on other college campuses, the biggest challenges we face are keeping students staying in residence hall safe and not gathered in rooms and common areas. To try to help address this problem and to provide some much-needed opportunities for social interaction, the SSC Educational Foundation stepped up and purchased these chairs for our residential students,” SSC President Lana Reynolds.

The SSC Educational Foundation greeted students outside of the Seminole Nation Residential Learning Center and gave away chairs to the first 100 residential students who

stopped by.

Beyond providing chairs for students, the SSC Educational Foundation held its annual golf tournament fundraiser on Sept. 11. The funds raised at that event go directly to student scholarships and campus capital projects. More than 100 individuals participated in this year’s event.

At the beginning of the fall semester, the SSC Educational Foundation also donated 1,500 face coverings to students, faculty and staff.

“We want to thank the SSC Educational Foundation for their support of our students during this difficult time,” President Reynolds said. “This is a great way to get them safely outside to enjoy our campus, stay safe and help with their physical and mental health.”



Pictured (l-r): SSC Educational Foundation Chair Lance Wortham; SSC student Caden Green, of Tulsa; SSC student Meghan Cereceres, of El Paso, Texas; trustee Jim Hardin and trustee Chris Moore.

## How Adversity Inspired One SSC Student to Pursue a Career in Nursing

Seventy-two days – that is how long Seminole State College nursing student Devin Fluitt and her fiancé Westy Carpenter watched their twin daughters fight for their lives in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Her baby girls, Denton and Blakely, were born prematurely at 27 weeks in the Norman Regional HealthPlex Hospital in September of 2016.

During the twins’ journey to good health, Fluitt found herself becoming fixated on numbers – oxygen levels and heart rates. Each time she entered the NICU to see her daughters, she had to scrub her hands for three minutes.

“I’d just stand there, staring at the clock, waiting for it to end, waiting to see them. You don’t realize how long three minutes can seem,” Fluitt said.

Due to their premature birth, her girls struggled with apnea and bradycardia, a slower than normal heart rate, which can become a major concern if the heart does not pump enough oxygen-rich blood to the body. The nurses would talk her through the testing of the girls’ heart rates and the monitoring of their oxygen levels. They also provided advice on caring for premature babies and parenting in general, which Fluitt and her fiancé valued as young parents.

“I remember saying I felt sorry for people who just have a normal baby. They just get a slap on the back and a good luck,” Fluitt said. “I bonded so well with those nurses.”

Fluitt also found reassurance and community with the other parents who had children in the NICU.

“It’s comforting to know you aren’t alone in this. That others have



SSC Nursing student Devin Fluitt and her family pose for a photo to commemorate the one-year anniversary of her daughters getting to come home from the NICU on Nov. 19 2017. Pictured (l-r): Westy Carpenter, Denton, Devin Fluitt and Blakely.

experienced it and are experiencing it. We provide each other emotional support,” Fluitt said.

When her twins were finally healthy enough to be taken home, they were both on oxygen. In the first year of their lives, the girls were in and out of hospitals for surgeries, checkups and Failure to Thrive, a medical diagnosis where a child does not gain weight at the expected rate.

“I saw so many different aspects of nursing during that time,” Fluitt said. “And by the time they turned two, they were completely healthy, thriving. Time slowed down enough for me to pursue what I wanted to

do.”

Through the process, Fluitt discovered a passion for helping others experiencing what her family had endured. She enrolled in the nursing program at SSC in 2018.

“If I can be a nurse in the NICU with my own testimony, I feel like that would be a jackpot for the parents,” Fluitt said.

Becoming a nurse was not something she had planned on prior to the birth of her girls.

“Before I had my children, I was never actually interested in being a nurse. I felt like I can’t do that. I don’t have it in me,” Fluitt said.

“If I can be a nurse in the NICU with my own testimony, I feel like that would be a jackpot for the parents,”

-Devin Fluitt

While going to college full time while raising twin toddlers has been a challenge, she appreciates how well Denton and Blakely get a long so well.

“Since they’re so content to be playing together, I’m able to find the time I need to study,” Fluitt said.

Her girls are now four years old and attend an early developmental school.

“They just love school. I’m not sure if they’ll love it when they go to public schools and they get separated. They’re very close. Scary close. Twins are terrifying at times, watching their minds work. The telepathy is so real,” Fluitt joked.

Fluitt and her fiancé are set to get married in November and she will complete the SSC nursing program in December of 2021.

Her primary motivation for finishing her degree and beginning her career is her children. She has tattoo of the number 72 encircled in the color purple, the symbolic color of prematurity awareness.

“When I get stressed or feel overwhelmed with school, I remind myself that they fought for their lives for 72 days. I can manage a few years of school,” Fluitt said.

# PLC Visits St. Crispin's Conference Center



Seminole State College President's Leadership Class students completed teambuilding exercises at St. Crispin's Conference Center on Sept. 3.



PLC student Jaycee Johnson, of Paden, rope swings during a teambuilding event at St. Crispin's Conference Center.



PLC students (l-r) Uriah McPerryman, of Wetumka; Pepe Casey, of Owasso; Cepado Wilkins, Jr., of Shawnee; Jaxon Pack, of Wetumka; Landry Kyle, of Oklahoma City; and Emily Dobbins, of Broken Arrow, participate in a group jump rope exercise.

# Ed Lemmings Hired as New Director at SSC

Long-time Seminole civil servant Ed Lemmings has been named the Director of Physical Plant and Campus Safety at Seminole State College. Lemmings, who mostly recently worked as the Facility and Operations Manager at Seminole High School, will now monitor campus safety, oversee maintenance and custodial efforts, and help with projects related to COVID-19 responses at the College.

Lemmings and his wife of 38 years, Denise, have resided in Seminole for 30 years. During that time, he has been no stranger to serving the community. In his career, he has held a number of roles for the City of Seminole, including Firefighter, Fire Chief, and Emergency Services Director.

"It's kind of a funny story," Lemmings said, regarding becoming a firefighter. He was asked by a friend to play on one of the Seminole Fire Department's basketball teams in a community fundraiser. He quickly became friends with the other firefighters and soon after would serve in a volunteer capacity. When a full-time position opened, he took the job.

He completed his training at Oklahoma State University's Fire Service program. He would spend 21 years at the Fire Department, 13 of those years serving as Fire Chief. While his start at the Fire Department may have begun due to happenstance, his passion for serving people deepened and his following career changes were intentional.

"It's a conscious effort to give back to the community. If you're a fire chief, it's built into you. You see a lot of horrible things, you see the tragedies people have to endure and

you feel the need to give back," Lemmings said.

For three years, Lemmings served as the City of Seminole's Emergency Services Director. He supervised the Fire Department, Police Department, Emergency Medical Services, Code Enforcement and Building Inspections. During that time, he hired Shane Marshall as Seminole's Chief of Police. Marshall is now the SSC Campus Police Chief.

At Seminole Public Schools, Lemmings oversaw the School Resource Police Officer Program, Maintenance, Custodial, Transportation, Safety Coordination and Food Service.

Since 2008, Lemmings has served as an SSC campus police officer in a part-time capacity and coordinated safety efforts on campus.

Lemmings began his new role as Director of Physical Plant and Campus Safety at SSC on Oct. 1.

"I enjoy being a part of this little community," Lemmings said about the College. "I've known President Lana Reynolds a long time, and she's always been about this town and about this campus. I value the people I've grown to know over the years and seeing the students succeed."

When he is not at SSC, Lemmings enjoys working on his farm with his wife. They take care of cattle, donkeys and a horse. While the farm requires work, both he and his wife see it as therapeutic. The couple have two daughters, Nicole and Tiffany, who are both married and reside in Kansas.

"I think the best thing about working for the College has been the relationships. That's what it all comes down to," Lemmings said, "people and relationships."



SSC recently hired Ed Lemmings as Director of Physical Plant and Campus Safety.



Discover transfer opportunities from more than 10 universities, as well as multiple branches of the military on Oct. 8.

Click [here](#) to sign up.



**SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE**  
2701 BOREN BLVD  
SEMINOLE, OK 74868

## GEAR UP Looks Back on Successful Year

The Seminole State College Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (SSC GEAR UP) recently completed their 2019-20 year in review analysis. Each year the year in review coincides with National GEAR UP Week. National GEAR UP Week highlights significant achievements in each GEAR UP program throughout the United States. The SSC GEAR UP grant serves 10 school districts, Asher, Holdenville, Konawa, Maud, Okemah, Prague, Seminole, Varnum, Wetumka and Wewoka. Of the 1,000 students served, 600 students and parents opted in to receive timely text messages about post-secondary education, Oklahoma's Promise scholarships, and preparation options. There were 160 parent or guardian personal contacts with GEAR UP staff members about academics through parent-teacher con-

ferences at participating schools.

SSC GEAR UP Direct Student Services works with students in activities such as tutoring, mentoring, counseling and providing workshops centered on academics. In 2019-20, more than 1,000 students received academic planners, school supplies and over 500 eighth grade students received calculators. GEAR UP contacted more than 7,000 students and held 213 individual mentoring or counseling sessions. There were 464 students who visited five different colleges in Oklahoma and 76 students took educational field trips to either the Citizen Potawatomi and Iowa tribe career fairs or the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History in Norman. College preparation activities included 731 students participating in the ACT Aspire assessment and 49 freshmen students were provided a voucher for the

ACT test. Services provided through GEAR UP partners included 56 different students receiving 182 personal tutoring sessions averaging 22 minutes each from Tutor.com, 188 different students had personal agents through Student Success Agency receiving 318 hours of virtual mentoring, academic and career counseling. Even though Seminole State College was closed during the summer, GEAR UP hosted its first ever virtual summer camp with 14 students attending. Because many activities were cancelled during the spring of 2020, GEARUP utilized the remaining funds to provide 500 Chromebooks to students this fall when schools decided to implement distance learning.



*Student-Parent Coordinators Jonathan Bennett, Misty Cooper, April Briscoe and Kim Pringle gathered school supplies for local high school students at the beginning of the fall semester.*