

# SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE COLLEGIAN

NOV. 2023 | SEMINOLE, OKLA. | VOL. LIII • ISSUE 3



## HONORING THEIR SERVICE

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Students plant flags ahead of military and veteran campus event. [Page 3](#)

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### NURSING RECEIVES GRANT

The nursing division recently received a million-dollar grant. [Page 5](#)

## NEWS PTA PROGRAM ACHIEVES 100 PERCENT PASS RATE



*Pictured (left to right): PTA Program Director Shakira Stafford, Class of 2023 PTA graduates Matt Ramirez, Chris Howell, Megan Whited, Summer Ralston and Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education Peggy Newman.*

Graduates of Seminole State College's Physical Therapist Assistant program recently achieved a 100 percent pass rate on their licensure exams from the Oklahoma Medical Board.

This marks the second year in a row for SSC's PTA program to achieve a perfect pass rate.

"This cohort demonstrated true grit and resilience throughout the program and into their clinical experiences. We received excellent feedback from our clinical partners regarding their performance and expect that they will all have bright careers in the field of physical therapy," Shakira Stafford, SSC PTA Program Director, said.

Each 2023 graduate is either already working in the field or continuing their education. Matt Ramirez is working as a pediatric therapist at OKC Speech, LLC in the Oklahoma City-metro area;

Chris Howell is working in outpatient care with Athletico Physical Therapy in Shawnee; Summer Ralston is working in outpatient care with Excel Therapy in Durant; and Megan Whited is pursuing her bachelor's degree at the University of Oklahoma and plans to work in an outpatient setting.

The PTA program is sequenced so that students take their prerequisite coursework first and are then admitted into the technical portion of the program. The technical portion consists of physical therapy coursework and on-site clinical education that can be completed in 11 months. Graduates of the program receive an Associate Degree of Applied Science and are eligible to take the licensure examination to become a Physical Therapist Assistant. The program is housed at Shawnee's Gordon Cooper Technology Center.

## 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

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Stay up-to-date with all campus news by visiting [sscok.edu/media](http://sscok.edu/media). You can also view our collection of archives, which includes past issues of *The Collegian*.

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE NASNTI PRESENTS  
CHEROKEE NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR  
DECEMBER 7  
7 PM  
JEFF JOHNSTON AUDITORIUM  
NASNTI is 100% federally funded in the amount of \$450,000 annually.

# MILITARY AND VETERAN RESOURCE FAIR ON THE HORIZON



*SSC students and employees planted 3,000 American flags for an honor field on Oct. 30. The flags were planted in recognition of the upcoming Veteran's Day holiday and the College's Military and Veteran Resource Fair. SSC softball players Leslie Barber of Lexington (left) and Kyleigh Lamont of Broken Arrow (right) volunteered their time to plant flags on Oct. 30.*

Seminole State College will host its inaugural Military and Veteran Resource Fair on Nov. 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Utterback Ballroom, located inside the Enoch Kelly Haney Center.

The event will feature 29 local and regional organizations on-site to assist active members of the armed forces, veterans and their dependents with information about services and available benefits. A full list of the organizations participating can be found at [sscok.edu/media](http://sscok.edu/media).

Sam's Cheesin' It Up, a veteran-owned-and-operated food truck will also be available to attendees. The event is free and open to the public.

"We are thrilled to host this inaugural

Military and Veteran Resource Fair," Stacey Foster, SSC VA School Certifying Officer, said. "We are committed to serving our active military and veteran community. This event serves as a testament to that commitment and provides a platform for service members to access valuable resources and forge connections with organizations dedicated to their well-being. It's an honor to us to be able to host such an event on our campus."

Prior to the event, an honor field of 3,000 American flags will be planted on campus. The honor field is sponsored by American Legion Post 204 of Seminole.

For more information about the event, contact Foster at [s.foster@sscok.edu](mailto:s.foster@sscok.edu) or 405-382-9510.





*The Seminole State College Trojan volleyball team won the NJCAA Region II Tournament on Oct. 24 at the Raymond Harber Field House. In the final matchup of the tournament, Northeastern Oklahoma and SSC faced off. The Trojans swept the first three sets to clinch the victory. The team will go on to host the first round of the Plains A & B District Tournament on Nov. 1 against the number three seed of Region VI.*

## SPORTS VOLLEYBALL AND SOCCER ADVANCE IN POSTSEASON PLAY

*The SSC women's soccer team is headed to nationals! The Trojans defeated Murray State 3-1 to clinch the South District Championship today in Enid. The team will compete in the NJCAA Division I National Tournament in Wichita, beginning Nov. 12. The Trojans enter the tournament ranked number two in the nation.*



## NEWS NURSING PROGRAM RECEIVES MILLION-DOLLAR GRANT

*Nursing Program Director Crystal Bray (far right) directs students through a healthcare scenario in the nursing lab set to be renovated through the HRSA grant.*



Seminole State College's nursing program was recently awarded a congressionally-directed grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in the amount of \$1,050,000. The grant, to be distributed over the next three years, is set to bring transformative changes to SSC's Nursing Department, particularly focusing on the development and expansion of simulation labs.

Crystal Bray, Chair of the Health Sciences Division and Nursing Program Director, said, "This grant will give students the opportunity to work on a variety of clinical skill sets and work with a variety of patients through simulation that they may not always see in a hospital setting when they're doing their clinicals."

This multi-faceted initiative will involve the reconstruction of SSC's ex-

isting nursing laboratory, converting it into a cutting-edge simulation lab. Four specialized rooms, designed to replicate hospital environments, will provide students with a realistic setting for hands-on learning. Two of these rooms will feature audio and video capabilities, enabling students to engage in real-time patient care simulations, complete with one-way mirrors and interactive technologies.

"Students will be able to make decisions on their own on a mannequin in a safe environment," Bray said.

A significant portion of the grant will be directed towards the acquisition of high-fidelity mannequins that simulate various medical conditions, delivering a lifelike and immersive learning experience. The mannequins will perform actions ranging from walking to having seizures, providing students with an ar-

ray of potential patient scenarios.

Bray highlighted the grant's significance in bridging the gap between training mannequins and real-world patients, "This shift aims to better prepare students for the challenges of the healthcare field, where they will encounter patients of various sizes and conditions."

SSC is also exploring the integration of virtual reality (VR) technology into its nursing programs. VR-based clinical simulations would allow students to experience complex medical situations and scenarios, enriching the learning experience.

The grant will also fund the purchase of advanced medical equipment, such as medication dispensing systems and computerized charting systems, to help students familiarize themselves with the exact technologies they will use in their

future careers.

The grant award marks the culmination of a two-year effort by SSC's dedicated team, spearheaded by Crystal Bray, alongside former Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Linda Goeller, current VPAA Dr. Amanda Estey, and Vice President for Fiscal Affairs Melanie Rinehart.

SSC President Lana Reynolds said, "We are so grateful for the team that worked so hard on this grant, and we're appreciative of former U.S. Senator James Inhofe for his initial invitation to apply for these funds and his efforts to direct these funds to our campus. As SSC continues its mission to enhance nursing education, the support of HRSA and the grant's implementation will significantly contribute to preparing future nurses for the diverse challenges of healthcare."

# TRICK OR TREAT TRAIL

2023



Hundreds of little ghosts, goblins, superheroes and princesses visited Seminole State College to load up on candy Oct. 26 for the College's annual Trick or Treat Trail event.



Trick-or-treaters walked along the walking path in Henderson Park as faculty, staff and student organizations passed out candy.



Online Degree Office Navigator Caitlin Brown (left) and Coordinator of Distance Education Laura Votaw (right), dressed as the duo of coffee and doughnuts, greeted costumed visitors and passed out candy at the event.

# SSC TO CELEBRATE NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE AT TRIBAL FEST



*Seminole Nation Chief Lewis Johnson*

Seminole State College will host Tribal Fest on Nov. 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on campus. The event is organized and sponsored by the College's federal grant programs: Student Support Services/SSS STEM, Talent Search, GEAR UP, NASNTI and Upward Bound.

Tribal Fest's opening ceremony will feature comments from Seminole Nation Chief Lewis Johnson in the Cook Commons, the courtyard outside of the David Boren Library. Chief Johnson was elected in 2021. He has more than 30 years of experience in tribal government. Prior to his current position, Chief Johnson served as Assistant Chief, served two terms on the General Council and was a Band Chief for the Tallahassee Band.

In the Commons, several tribes will have booths set up, providing information on resources available for education, career, housing, nutrition, graduation regalia and more. The Citizen Potawatomi, Choctaw, Sac and Fox, Muscogee, Chickasaw, Seminole, Ab-



*Musician Frank Waln*

santee Shawnee and Cherokee Nations will all be represented.

Between classes at 8:50 a.m., 9:50 a.m., and 10:50 a.m. fancy dancing and drumming will be performed. SSC graduate and Mr. Indigenous OU Asa Samuels will be one of the performers. Tribal princesses will also be present to meet and greet guests.

At 12:00 p.m., Sicangu Lakota rapper Frank Waln will take to the stage in the Jeff Johnston Auditorium. Waln grew up on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. He has won three Native American Music Awards. He graduated from Columbia College Chicago with a bachelor's degree in Audio Arts and Acoustics. In addition to a musical performance at the event, Waln will also speak about achieving educational and career goals from a first-generation student perspective.

For more information about Tribal Fest and other upcoming campus events, visit [sscoc.edu/events](http://sscoc.edu/events).

# EMPLOYEES PRESENT ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



*Two Seminole State College employees presented at the National Council for Workforce Education's annual conference on Oct. 4-5 in Baltimore, Maryland. SSC Business and Industry Coordinator Scarlet Figueroa (left) and SSC Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Amanda Estey (right) presented on the College's partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. In the last year, SSC has assisted in the training of DOC employees through the development of job-specific curricula, assessments and credentialing.*

## CAMPUS CALENDAR



For all upcoming events, visit [sscoc.edu/events](http://sscoc.edu/events) or scan the QR code.



# DOCUMENTARY TO BE SCREENED AT SSC

Seminole State College will host a documentary screening of “Searching for Sequoyah” on November 2 at 9:30 a.m. in the Jeff Johnston Auditorium. Following the screening, a panel discussion featuring the filmmakers will take place at 11 a.m. The event is sponsored by the SSC Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) federal grant program. The screening and panel discussion are free and open to the public.

The 56-minute documentary chronicles the accomplishments and mysterious death of the famed 19th-century Cherokee visionary, Sequoyah. Details about Sequoyah’s life are revealed through oral stories from five of his modern day descendants. While the history surrounding Sequoyah’s creation of the Cherokee syllabary, or writing system, is well known, the film seeks to uncover more

about the man’s personal life. The film seeks to answer the question of how did an illiterate man go on to invent a writing system that transformed the future of the Cherokee people? “Searching for Sequoyah” also explores the man’s final quest to reunite the Cherokee people in Mexico, the mystery surrounding his death and the legacy he left behind. The film was originally released in November 2021 across PBS stations nationally.

The panel includes Roy Boney, Dr. Todd Fuller, LeAnne Howe, Joshua Nelson, and will be moderated by Professor Jim Wilson. Booney is an award-winning artist and the manager of the Cherokee Language Program. He was selected as a Sequoyah Fellow by Northeastern State University in 2022. Dr. Fuller teaches creative writing and Native American literature courses at the University of Oklahoma. He is also



the curator of OU’s Western History Collections. Howe served as a producer and writer for the film. She currently serves as the Eidson Distinguished Professor in the English department at the University of Georgia-Athens. Nelson was the narrator and co-producer of the film. He is an associate professor of English at the OU.

Wilson, the moderator for the panel, lectures in the English Department at the University of Georgia. He teaches First Year Writing and Honors Multicultural Literature. Wilson is a former SSC professor.

SSC’s NASNTI grant program is 100% federally funded in the amount of \$450,000 annually. In addition to hosting a wide array of cultural experiences on campus, the grant also provides support for students with disabilities by training faculty and staff in best practices, implementing assistive devices and technology and redesigning foundational courses to ensure they best support online students with disabilities.

For more information or questions, contact SSC NASNTI Director Kay Wallace at 405-382-9646 or k.wallace@sscok.edu.

# COLLEGE HOSTS CONGRESSIONAL AIDES LUNCHEON

*Several Congressional Aides visited Seminole State College on Oct. 27 to meet with President Lana Reynolds and SSC Rural Business Resources Center Director Danny Morgan about federal funds coming to the college through grant programs and special appropriations. The group also heard about financial assistance provided to area businesses through the RBRC and the economic impact of the SSC Foundation’s new sports complex. Pictured (left to right) are: Amy Albro, Representative Stephanie Bice’s Office; Joshua Sharum, Senator Lankford’s Office; Mack Savala, Senator James Lankford’s Office; Laramie Cochran, Senator Lankford’s Office; Quiton Gray, Senator Lankford’s Office; and Lacey Pitman, Senator Markwayne Mullin’s Office.*





## EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED AT STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

Three Seminole State College employees were honored at the 56th annual Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Conference held on Oct. 6 at Tulsa Community College. During the event, Nursing Program Director Crystal Bray was named SSC Faculty Member of the Year, NASNTI Director Kay Wallace was named Professional Staff Member of the Year and Lead Custodian Christie McKee was named Classified Staff Member of the Year.

Bray received her associate degree in Nursing from SSC, her bachelor's degree in Nursing from Wesleyan University and her master's degree in Nursing Education from Southern Nazarene University. She has worked at SSC for 11 years. In addition to serving as the Director of the Nursing Program, Bray also serves as the Chair of the Health Sciences Division.

Outside of SSC, Bray serves as the President of the Wetumka Fire Department Women's Auxiliary and Secretary of the Wetumka First Assembly of God. She and her husband, Roll, make



*Pictured (left to right): honorees Crystal Bray, Kay Wallace and Christie McKee were recognized for their achievements by SSC President Lana Reynolds at the 56th Annual OACC Conference on Oct. 6 at Tulsa Community College.*

their home in Wetumka. They have two daughters, Randi and Allison.

Wallace received her bachelor's degree in Home Economics from East Central University, her master's degree in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix and her master's

degree in Grant Writing Management and Evaluation from Concordia University. As the Director of the NASNTI program at SSC, Wallace has spearheaded a number of projects to improve accessibility for students and organized a number of cultural events highlighting

Native American culture. A grant proposal written by Wallace recently led to an award of more than \$150,000 to fund a number of additional future events on SSC's campus focusing on Native languages.

Wallace is involved in several community organizations. She is a member of the Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church, a Seminole Nation Museum Board Member, an SSC Professional Staff Council member and serves on the College's Student Success Committee. She resides in Wewoka.

McKee graduated from Seminole High School and attended the Tulsa Welding School. She has worked at SSC for four years. In her role, she supervises the custodial team, manages supply inventories, sets up events hosted at the College and cleans buildings across campus.

She is a member of SSC's Classified Staff Association. She has two daughters, Kim and Jessie. She resides in Seminole.

## SGA OFFICERS ATTEND LUNCHEON WITH CAMPUS LEADERSHIP

*Seminole State College Student Government officers met with members of the college's Administrative Council on Oct. 23 for lunch and a discussion of topics surrounding enrollment, physical safety, personal data security, food service and sports activities. Pictured (left to right) seated on the couch are: SGA officers - Vice President Trenton Stewart of Holdenville, President Benjamin Parker of Shawnee and Secretary Elizabeth Smith of Agra. Standing (left to right) are: Lana Reynolds, Mechell Downey, Marc Hunter, Dr. Bill Knowles, Dr. Amanda Estey, Melanie Rinehart and SGA Sponsor Talina Lee.*



# NASNTI PROGRAM AWARDED SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT

Seminole State College's Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI) program has been awarded a supplemental grant award of \$150,694. The grant proposal was written by NASNTI Director Kay Wallace and includes several initiatives to promote Native American language and culture.

"We are thrilled to receive this supplemental grant award," Wallace said. "These initiatives will help us promote Native American language and culture and provide our students with unique opportunities to learn about their heritage."

The grant will be used between now and September 30, 2024, to fund the following initiatives: bringing the Cherokee National Youth Choir to campus, publishing the SSC NASNTI newsletter in 5 native languages, a roundtable discussion about "Native Language in the Workplace" and a Native American Language Symposium that will focus on "The Methods of AI in Preserving and Revitalizing Native Languages" that will

have a keynote speaker and three breakout sessions with expert presenters/speakers.

"Kay Wallace's hard work and dedication to the NASNTI program has been instrumental in securing this grant award. We are proud of her accomplishments and look forward to seeing the positive impact these initiatives will have on our students," SSC President Lana Reynolds said.

Since the beginning of the fall semester, the NASNTI program has sponsored multiple events spotlighting Native American culture, including the Osage Ballet, a presentation by "Killers of the Flower Moon" author David Grann, a discussion on Native language and culture by photographer Matika Wilbur and an upcoming screening of the documentary "Searching for Sequoyah" on Nov. 2.

SSC's NASNTI grant program is 100% federally funded in the amount of \$450,000 annually. In addition to hosting cultural experiences on campus, the grant also provides support for students



*The SSC NASNTI program recently received a supplemental grant to provide more Native American language and culture events and resources to the College. The grant proposal was written by NASNTI Director Kay Wallace (right) pictured with "Killers of the Flower Moon" author David Grann (left) at a campus event on Sept. 21.*

with disabilities by training faculty and staff in best practices, implementing assistive devices and technology and redesigning foundational courses to ensure they best support online students with

disabilities.

For more information or questions, contact SSC NASNTI Director Kay Wallace at 405-382-9646 or [k.wallace@sscok.edu](mailto:k.wallace@sscok.edu).

## NEWS LEGISLATOR TOURS SSC'S CAMPUS



*Speaker Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State House of Representatives Kyle Hilbert (R-Bristow) visited the Seminole State College campus on Oct. 26. During his tour, the legislator stopped in on a nursing class in the Haney Center. Rep. Hilbert also met with SSC students who were hosting a business skills seminar for area high school students. SSC Rural Business Resources Center Director Danny Morgan and Rep. Hilbert then toured the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex*

# SSC PRESIDENT RECEIVES LEADERSHIP AWARD



*SSC President Lana Reynolds (center) received the 2023 Distinguished Leadership Award at Leadership Oklahoma's Fall Forum on Oct. 19 in Tulsa. Pictured alongside Reynolds is Chair of the Leadership Oklahoma Board Sammye Cravens (left) and Leadership Oklahoma President and CEO Dr. Marion Paden (right).*

Seminole State College President Lana Reynolds was awarded the Distinguished Leadership Award at Leadership Oklahoma's Fall Forum on October 19 at the Helmerich Research Center at OSU-Tulsa.

The Forum event centered on the theme "AI: Byte into the Future" and featured several experts speaking on the burgeoning field of artificial intelligence. The forum featured two keynote speakers: Hart Brown, CEO of Future Point

of View, a consulting firm that assists companies in implementing technology to create competitive advantages; and Wilder Lopes, the Chief Architect for Machine Learning at Permion, a company specializing in the development of advanced AI capable of learning and cognitive modeling.

During the forum's luncheon, Reynolds was presented with the Distinguished Leadership Award by LOK President and CEO Dr. Marion Paden.

Reynolds was a part of Leadership Oklahoma's Class XVII and is a lifetime member. The award celebrates exemplary service to the organization over the course of the last year. Selection is based on the nominee's engagement and participation in member events and activities, along with their support and contribution of talents to the mission and vision of the organization.

Reynolds has dedicated more than 35 years to higher education in Oklahoma. She assumed her role as the institution's first female President on July 1, 2017.

Reynolds is also actively involved in numerous state and local organizations, including serving as a Past Chair of Leadership Oklahoma's state-wide Board of Directors. She serves on the Board of the Oklahoma Children's Hospital Foundation and currently co-chairs the Children's Hospital Board of Advocates. Additionally, Reynolds is a member of the Board of Directors for the Oklahoma Academy for State Goals and the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. Her commitment extends to the Governing Board of Oklahoma Christian University.

Reynolds presently holds the role of Chair of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Council of Presidents and serves on the Executive Committee of the Council of Two-Year College Presidents. She is also a Past President of

the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum Board of Trustees, the Seminole Rotary Club and the Seminole Chamber of Commerce. In recognition of her community involvement, she was named Seminole's Citizen of the Year in 1991.

She was acknowledged as one of The Journal Record's "50 Women Making a Difference" in the state in 2000, 2012, and 2013. Her continued commitment to education was honored in the publication's "Power 2021 Education" edition, which recognized the top 25 educational leaders in the state in 2021. In 2022 she was named to the inaugural class of "55 Inspiring Oklahomans" and was recognized last spring by the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women as the recipient of the Kate Barnard award.

Reynolds is an alumna of Oklahoma Christian College, where she earned her bachelor's degree in English. She also holds a master's degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma.

Leadership Oklahoma is an organization that focuses on the personal and professional development of individuals that includes educational seminars, experiential learning and exposure to various facets of the state. The organization provides a platform for individuals from diverse backgrounds and industries to connect, collaborate and exchange ideas. For more information, visit [leadershipoklahoma.com](http://leadershipoklahoma.com).

**SPRING ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN**

Speak to an advisor today  
to secure your classes for Spring 2024.

# SEMINOLE CHAMBER HONORS SSC PERSONNEL



*Faculty Member of the Month Shakira Stafford (left) and Staff Member of the Month Andrita Chavez (right) were recognized at the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum Oct. 11.*

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their hard work and dedication during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Fo-

rum on Oct. 11. Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program Director Shakira Stafford was named Faculty Member of the Month, and Financial Assistance

Clerk Andrita Chavez was named Staff Member of the Month.

Individuals are nominated from across the campus and chosen by SSC administrators to receive the honor.

Stafford has worked at SSC for seven years. She wrote and developed the PTA program at its outset. In addition to directing the program, she also instructs students in a number of subjects. Of the 352 PTA program directors reporting in 2022, she was the only Native American to hold the position. She is a member of the Choctaw Nation.

She received her Bachelor of Science at the University of Central Oklahoma and her Master of Physical Therapy degree at Wichita State University.

Outside of her work for the College, she is a United States Commission Corp. Lieutenant in the inactive reserves. She is a member of the SSC Faculty Senate,

the Shawnee Junior Service League, the Northridge Church of Christ and volunteers at the Shawnee Free Medical Clinic.

She and her husband, Adam, reside in Shawnee. They have a daughter named Chiara.

Chavez has worked at SSC for two years. As the Financial Assistance Clerk, she assists students with the completion of their FAFSA, offering guidance on paying for college and manages the Financial Aid department's social media accounts.

She is a member of the SSC Classified Staff Association and plans to enroll in courses at the College in the fall of 2024, majoring in Business.

Chavez resides in Seminole, and she has four children, Mya, Chaz, Tavan and Ian.

# EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION HOSTS GOLF TOURNAMENT



*The Seminole State College Educational Foundation hosted its 27th Annual Golf Tournament at the Jimmie Austin Golf Course in Seminole Sept. 29. This year's event raised nearly \$30,000 for student scholarships and campus capital projects. A total of 94 players, comprising 24 corporate teams, took to the links to show their support for the College.*



## SSC RECEIVES CLEAN EXTERNAL AUDIT AT BOARD MEETING

The Seminole State College Board of Regents met Oct. 26 to review the College's annual external audit report and approve a name, image and likeness (NIL) policy for student-athletes.

The meeting opened with a review of the College's recent expenditures by Vice President for Fiscal Affairs Melanie Rinehart. Then SSC President Lana Reynolds presented her President's Report, which included an update on the College's personnel changes and information about campus activities.

The review and approval of the 2023 fiscal year external audit was the first action item on the agenda. The Board approved the audit conducted by Hinkle and Company, P.C. of Tulsa. The audit focused on College operations from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Prior to the meeting, the report was presented to the Board Audit Committee, composed of Regents Kim Hyden, Bryan Cain and Curtis Morgan. Matt Bauman, a representative of Hinkle and Company, P.C.,

provided a summary at the meeting. The accounting firm communicated that they found no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. They issued an unqualified — or clean — audit.

Next, the Board approved a new policy regarding compensation and the use of student-athletes' name, image and likeness. Any student-athlete may earn compensation if it is provided by a third party that is not affiliated with SSC. Compensation cannot be provided in exchange for attending SSC or for athletic performance, including playing time or statistical opportunities. Any agreement between a student-athlete and a third party cannot conflict with clauses found in the Student-Athlete SSC Agreement. A student-athlete may obtain professional representation for the purpose of securing compensation for the use of their NIL, but they cannot obtain professional representation for the purpose of future representation in professional sports without risking



*Matt Bauman, a representative from Hinkle and Company, P.C., discusses SSC's financial audit at the Board Meeting on Oct. 26.*

amateur status with the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

With the final action item, the Board approved the Agreement for Exchange of Services with the SSC Educational Foundation. The document is presented every other year to both the SSC Board of Regents and the SSC Educational Foundation Board of Trustees.

Under the consent agenda, the Board approved program modifications for the

Psychology Associate Degree in Science, the Pre-Engineering Associate in Science, and the Computer Science Associate in Science.

Board members present at the meeting were: Vice Chair Bryan Cain, Marci Donaho, Curtis Morgan and Robyn Ready.

The next SSC Board of Regents meeting is set for Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023.

## PLC STUDENTS VISIT THE GATHERING PLACE



*The Seminole State College President's Leadership Class toured the Gathering Place public park in Tulsa on Oct. 5. The 66.5-acre park features unique playgrounds, gardens, trails, boat rentals, restaurants and hosts several concerts and outdoor events throughout the year.*

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