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SSC students and employees recently planted flags in honor of upcoming Military & Veteran Resource Fair.
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POSTSEASON SUCCESS
Soccer earned an eighth straight national berth, while volleyball advanced to district play.
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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.

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

NEVER MISS A GAME OF **SSC SPORTS**

Students and employees can attend every SSC athletic event for free with a campus ID. View sports schedules at **sscathletics.com**.

SSC Announces Student Government Officers



The Seminole State College Student Government Association has selected its officers for the 2026-2027 academic year. The new officers were welcomed into their roles at a luncheon on Oct. 27 with SSC President Lana Reynolds, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Bill Knowles, and SGA Advisor Melinda Sims. Pictured (left to right) are: Vice President Felicity Hamilton of McLoud, President Nicci Stimson of Pryor and Secretary Alexia McDonald of Tuttle. SGA is dedicated to promoting the interests of the student body by formulating and proposing ideas to the SSC administration.

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SSC Leadership Class Gives Back Through Annual Food Drive



Seminole State College's Leadership Development class collected more than 425 food items for the Salvation Army and SSC Food Pantry during its annual food drive, held Oct. 13-29. Donations included boxed and canned goods, as well as ready-to-eat and microwaveable meals. "This project is always one of the most direct and meaningful ways to support our neighbors and students," said Professor of History Marta Osby, who teaches the class. Osby credited the hard work of students, support from SSC employees and generosity of community donors for the drive's success.

SSC Representatives Attend Microcredential Summit

Seminole State College Dean of Instruction Jessica Isaacs and Business and Industry Coordinator Jacob Harrington attended the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and UpSkillOK Employer Microcredential Summit on Oct. 21 in Oklahoma City. The event brought together higher education representatives, employers and workforce leaders to explore how industry-aligned microcredentials can address skills gaps, strengthen talent pipelines and support workforce development across Oklahoma.



SSC to Host Fourth Annual Military and Veteran Resource Fair













Seminole State College students and employees planted 5,000 American flags on campus Oct. 26 near the intersection of Highways 9 and 3. The honor field, made possible by American Legion Post 204 of Seminole, pays tribute to those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. The display coincides with the College's fourth annual Military and Veteran Resource Fair, scheduled for Nov. 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Enoch Kelly Haney Center.

Seminole State College will host its fourth annual Military and Veteran Resource Fair on Thursday, Nov. 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Enoch Kelly Haney Center, located at 2701 Boren Blvd. in Seminole. The event is free and open to the public.

The fair will feature dozens of local, state and federal organizations offering resources for veterans, active-duty service members and their families. Attendees can receive assistance with health and disability claims, employment opportunities, job training, education benefits, mental health services and programs supporting veteran-owned businesses.

Representatives from both the federal Department of Veterans Affairs and the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs will be on-site to assist with claims and benefits. Veterans will also have the opportunity to meet with representatives from the VA's Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program and federal VA Education Services.

"Our goal is to make it easier for veterans and their families to access the benefits and services they've earned," SSC VA School Certifying Officer Stacey Foster said. "Having representatives from so many organizations in one place gives attendees the opportunity to ask questions, get answers and connect with people who can help. Whether someone needs assistance with a VA claim, is exploring educational opportunities or is looking for employment, we want them to know there are resources available to support them."

Other participating organizations will offer information about military family support, healthcare resources, higher education opportunities and employment services. A complete list of participating vendors is available at www.sscok.edu/media.

In preparation for the event and in recognition of Veterans Day, SSC students and employees planted 5,000 American flags on campus Oct. 26 near the intersection of Highways 9 and 3. The honor field, made possible by American Legion Post 204 of Seminole, serves as a tribute to the men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

"The 5,000 flags on our campus are a visible reminder of the sacrifices made by the men and women who have served our country," Foster said. "The resource fair is another way we can show our appreciation by providing meaningful support to veterans and their families. We're grateful to American Legion Post 204 for making the honor field possible and to all of the organizations that help make this event a success."

For more information about the event, contact SSC VA School Certifying Officer Stacey Foster at 405-382-9510 or s.foster@sscok.edu.

SSC Nursing Students Receive Specialized Training



Child Advocacy Center of Central Oklahoma SANE Program Administrator Chrissie Boatman spoke to Seminole State College nursing leadership students about the role of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) in caring for survivors of sexual assault on Oct. 22 in the nursing lab on the first floor of the Kelly Haney Center.



SSC nursing students participated in four hours of Lethality Assessment Protocol and Victimology training Oct. 22 in the Kelly Haney Center Lecture Hall. The training counted toward students' required clinical hours and provided insight into available resources and coordinated responses to individuals experiencing violence. Pictured: Lethality Assessment Coordinators Scott Hawkins, David Folkert and Jaiden Balthrop-Russell speak to nursing students during the training

SSC Leadership Students Explore Oklahoma's Military History



Seminole State College President's Leadership Class students recently toured the Oklahoma National Guard Museum in Oklahoma City. The museum, which opened a new facility in June 2026, preserves the history of the Oklahoma National Guard and the 45th Infantry Division. Exhibits highlight Oklahoma's contributions to World War II, the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp and the stories of National Guard members who received the Medal of Honor.



Seminole City Attorney and Oklahoma Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Brad Carter visits with Seminole State College President's Leadership Class students during their tour of the Oklahoma National Guard Museum.

Trick or Treat Trail Draws Large Crowd







Seminole State College's annual Trick or Treat Trail drew one of the largest crowds in the event's history on Oct. 27 in Henderson Park on campus. From 5 to 6:30 p.m., SSC students and employees distributed candy at stations along the walking trail surrounding the north pond. The event was free and open to the public, and children were encouraged to wear Halloween costumes. The college's Campus Activities office organized the event, which was coordinated by Director of Residential Life and Student Activities Melinda Sims.



Pictured, from left, are Danny Morgan, SSC Rural Business and Resources Center; Amy Britt, Seminole Chamber of Commerce; Tsanceria Hernandez, Gordon Cooper Technology Center; Kimberly Elliott, Tecumseh Chamber of Commerce; Clarence Prevost, Gordon Cooper Technology Center; Lucia Dickinson, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; Bert Robison, Wes Watkins Technology Center; Samantha Stanfill, City of Seminole; Jessica Steele, City of Seminole; Theresa Barkhimer, City of Holdenville; Jim Greff, City of Prague; Roberta Davis, Holdenville Chamber of Commerce; Bob Pearman, City of Stroud; Jeff Stiner, City of Stroud; and Kim Pringle, Seminole State College. Others attending, but not pictured, were: Jared Cooper, Oklahoma Department of Commerce and Dana Reed, Wetumka/Wewoka ECO Family Center.

Regional Leaders Gather at SSC for Economic Development Summit

City and chamber of commerce leaders from across the region gathered at Seminole State College on Oct. 6 for the Rural Economic Development Summit, held at the Enoch Kelly Haney Center. The event brought together representatives from Hughes, Lincoln, Okfuskee, Pottawatomie and Seminole counties for discussions on regional economic development, workforce development and opportunities for collaboration. The summit featured representatives from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

SSC Instructor Named Among Oklahoma's 100 Great Nurses

Seminole State College Assistant Professor of Nursing Butch Cantrell's path to nursing began with an offer from his wife: $100 if he would apply to nursing school.

At the time, he had spent about a decade working in church creative arts, handling music, audio and video. Nursing was not a career he had planned to pursue.

On Oct. 4, Cantrell was recognized among Oklahoma's Great 100 Nurses during a celebration at the Hard Rock Casino in Catoosa. The Great 100 Nurses Foundation annually honors 100 registered nurses in the state for their concern for humanity, contributions to nursing and dedication to mentoring others.

SSC Assistant Professor of Nursing Malinda Figueroa nominated Cantrell. The two also work together at SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital – Shawnee, where Cantrell serves as an emergency department charge nurse on weekends. He said her nomination addressed his work at both the hospital and the college.

Cantrell initially thought Figueroa was submitting his name for an internal hospital award. Even after learning he had been selected for the Great 100 honor, he did not fully appreciate its scope until he arrived at the banquet.

"It was bigger than what I thought it was going to be," he said.

His introduction to nursing had been similarly unexpected. Cantrell already held a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma Baptist University and had



Pictured from left are SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital – Shawnee Clinical Educator Karen Romine, House Supervisor Mary Love and Seminole State College Assistant Professor of Nursing Butch Cantrell. The co-workers attended the Great 100 Nurses celebration Oct. 4 at the Hard Rock Casino in Catoosa, where Cantrell was honored among 100 Oklahoma nurses recognized for their compassion, contributions and mentorship.

spent three years on a waiting list for physical therapy school before taking a full-time church position.

Years later, with three children at home, his wife, Jacklyn, told him about the University of Oklahoma's accelerated nursing program for people who already held a degree in another field. Her offer persuaded him to apply. He completed the application, attended an interview and soon started classes.

"Even though at the time I didn't think it was a great decision, it turned out to be a good decision," Cantrell said.

He found a connection between his former work and his new profession: helping people through difficult circumstances.

Now seven years into his work at SSM Health, Cantrell has served in emergency care, the cardiac stress lab and an infusion clinic. He said he spent about three months researching and developing the clinic's processes, including policies, procedures and insurance authorization.

In the emergency department, he also serves as a preceptor, helping newly graduated nurses develop their skills.

He recalled recently taking over care of a critically ill patient assigned to a new nurse who was managing several patients.

Cantrell stayed with the family, explaining medications, vital signs and what was happening.

He said the family later thanked him for remaining with them and helping them understand the situation.

That hospital experience also informs his teaching. Cantrell joined SSC as an adjunct clinical instructor in fall 2024 before becoming a full-time faculty member.

His weekend hospital schedule allows him to continue practicing while teaching.

"A big reason why I wanted to get into teaching is I see the need for relevance," he said.

He regularly brings recent clinical experiences into classroom discussions, connecting course material with current practices and changes in patient care.

"I'm all about consistency and showing up and whatever your best is that day, give your best that day," he said.

Some nurses he first taught as students are now his hospital colleagues. He has watched them progress from their final semester of nursing school through orientation and into nurses he trusts to care for critically ill patients.

For Cantrell, that development is one of teaching's most rewarding aspects. He wants students to consider how they will eventually guide others, whether as preceptors or nursing educators.

"I'm hoping that I'm shaping the next generation of nurses to want to give back to nursing," Cantrell said.

Chamber of Commerce Honors Two SSC Employees

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their dedication and service during the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on Thursday, Oct. 8. Office Manager of the Language Arts and Humanities and Social Sciences Divisions Alisha Riojas was honored as Staff Member of the Month, and Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Dr. Brenda Prochaska was named Faculty Member of the Month.

The Seminole Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, along with the Lions Club and Kontoor Brands/Wrangler, recognizes SSC employees several times during Forum each year. Honorees are nominated from across campus and selected by College administrators.

Prochaska joined SSC in August 2025 and is in her second year as Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice. In addition to teaching criminal justice courses, she serves as advisor for Phi Theta Kappa and is a member of the College's Assessment Committee and Professional Development Committee.

Prochaska earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Northeastern State University and a Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in Criminal Justice from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

She is involved with the Oklahoma Criminal Justice Association and the Community College Division of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Outside of work, Prochaska enjoys hiking, camping and cycling. She resides in Norman with her husband, Cody.

Riojas has worked at SSC for nearly three years and serves as Office Manager for the Language Arts and Humanities and Social Sciences Divisions. She helps coordinate the daily operations of both divisions and oversees the Seminole State College mailroom.

An SSC graduate, Riojas earned an Associate of Science and was named to the President's Honor Roll. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Psi Beta and Sigma Kappa Delta honor societies. In 2025, she was recognized as SSC's Support Staff Member of the Year by the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges.



Seminole State College Office Manager Alisha Riojas, left, and Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Dr. Brenda Prochaska were recognized during the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on Oct. 8. Riojas was named Staff Member of the Month, and Prochaska was named Faculty Member of the Month.

Riojas serves as treasurer of SSC's Classified Staff and is involved with the organization's Fundraising and Scholarship committees. Outside of work, she enjoys painting and has taught art classes for children and adults through the Oklahoma Arts Council at the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art in Shawnee. She is also the author and illustrator of a published children's educational ABC book and enjoys collecting vinyl records with her husband.

Riojas resides in Shawnee. She credits her late mother with instilling the work ethic and independence that continue to guide her personally and professionally.

SSC Professor Presents on Cybersecurity Education at National Conference

Seminole State College Assistant Professor of Computer Science Alecia Bailey represented SSC at the 2026 AISES National Conference, held Oct. 15-17 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon. Bailey served on a panel focused on developing cybersecurity education programs, building partnerships and preparing students for careers in the field.



SSC Soccer Earns Eighth Straight National Berth; Volleyball Advances to District Tournament



The Seminole State College women's soccer team is pictured at the Advance Soccer Complex in Enid after capturing the Central Plains District championship with a 1-0 victory over Rose State College on Oct. 31.



The Seminole State College volleyball team is pictured following its 3-0 victory over Rose State College in the Region II Tournament on Oct. 30 at Raymond Harber Field House.

Seminole State College's women's soccer and volleyball teams extended their postseason runs with victories over Rose State College, sending soccer to the national tournament for the eighth consecutive year and volleyball to the Plains District Tournament.

The soccer team defeated Rose State 1-0 on Oct. 31 to capture the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Central Plains District championship at the Advance Soccer Complex in Enid.

SSC opened the tournament with a 5-1 victory over NorthWest Arkansas Community College on Oct. 30.

Led by Women's Soccer Head Coach Dan Hill, the Trojans hold a 16-3 overall record and went undefeated in conference play at 9-0.

SSC will compete in the NJCAA Division I Women's Soccer National Tournament at Blanchard Woods Park in Evans, Georgia.

The national tournament is scheduled for Nov. 15-21.

The volleyball team swept Rose State 3-0 in the Region II Tournament on Oct. 30, earning a spot in the opening round of the Plains District Tournament.

The Trojans will continue postseason play at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4, at Kansas City Kansas Community College.

The district tournament brings SSC into competition with teams from Region VI.

Head Volleyball Coach Bobbi Leitha was also named Region II Volleyball Coach of the Year in her first season leading the program.

The volleyball team enters district play with a 14-20 overall record and a 3-1 conference record.

For postseason updates, visit sscok.edu.

Seminole-Area Leaders Attend Statewide Education Town Hall

Several Seminole-area residents participated in the Oklahoma Academy for State Goals' Town Hall on education Oct. 18-21 at WinStar World Casino and Resort in Thackerville. The four-day conference, themed "Challenges to Change: Shaping Tomorrow's Classrooms," brought together more than 150 participants and observers to hear from speakers and participate in panel discussions addressing challenges facing Oklahoma's K-12 education system and exploring opportunities for improvement.



Pictured, from left, are Seminole State College President Lana Reynolds; Seminole Chamber of Commerce CEO Amy Britt; SSC Educational Foundation Chair and Seminole Public Schools Board Chair Mark Schell; SSC Educational Foundation Trustee Kim Hyden; SSC students Caden Pierce and Mia Reich; Seminole Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Bob Gragg; and SSC Director of Community Relations Kim Pringle.

SSC Regents Accept Annual Audit, Approve Policy Updates

The Seminole State College Board of Regents accepted the College's annual external audit, approved revisions to three Board policies and adopted a new policy governing sponsored programs and grants during its Oct. 29 meeting in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center.

During the President's Report, President Lana Reynolds shared updates on personnel, enrollment, athletics, the Haney Center roof project, campus activities and upcoming events. SSC Educational Foundation Chair Mark Schell and Foundation Investment Committee Chair Lance Wortham also provided an update on the Scott Empowerment Fund investments.



Chance Allison of Finley & Cook CPAs presents Seminole State College's fiscal year 2026 external audit to the Board of Regents during its Oct. 29 meeting in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center. The Board approved the audit following its review.

The Board accepted the College's fiscal year 2026 external audit, conducted by Finley & Cook CPAs. Chance Allison, representing the firm, presented the report and discussed its findings. Finley & Cook issued an unqualified—or clean—audit. The Audit Committee, composed of Chair Curtis Morgan and Regents Robyn Ready and Teresa Burnett, met before the full Board meeting to review the audit.

Regents approved revisions to the Board policy regarding Mission, Functions, Accreditation and History. The changes added the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, the accrediting agency for SSC's Physical Therapist Assistant Program, to the College's list of accrediting bodies. The revisions also updated the institution's presidential history to include Reynolds' service.

The Board approved changes to its retirement policy clarifying continuous-service requirements for eligibility for certain post-retirement benefits, including continued insurance contributions and retirement incentive payments. It also updated years of service requirements for state retirement eligibility.

Regents also approved revisions to the College's Expressive Activity Policy to align its language with a state law enacted this summer. The updates clarified that generally accessible outdoor areas of campus are public forums where members of the College community may engage in expressive activities, including peaceful assembly and protests. The revisions also included free-expression training requirements and other guidelines governing campus expression.

The Board adopted a Sponsored Programs and Grants policy establishing an internal approval process for grant applications and assigning responsibility for managing outside funding.

The policy required proposals and budgets to receive approval before submission and limited signing authority to the President or designated Vice Presidents.

It also established requirements for tracking grant spending, documenting employee work paid through grants, submitting reports and retaining records.

Through the consent agenda, the Board approved deletion of the Associate in Applied Science in Engineering Technology. The action followed consistently low enrollment and aligned with recommendations from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to reduce programs with low enrollment and graduation numbers. The College will continue to offer its Pre-Engineering degree.

Regents present were Chair Curtis Morgan, Mona Adkisson, Teresa Burnett, Haley Coates and Robyn Ready. The Board's next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 10.



An Evening with Peter Simon
Nov. 10 | 6:30 p.m. | Haney Center

Free Piano Concert

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2701 BOREN BLVD
SEMINOLE, OK 74868