

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE COLLEGIAN

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WELCOME BACK

TANNER HALL

SSC hosted a series of Welcome Week activities for students to begin the semester. **Page 4**

NEW PLC CLASS

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Submitting to The Collegian

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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 to Celebrate Constitution Day with Special Presentation



Seminole State College will host a Constitution Day program, "The Story of the Bill of Rights," presented by Professor of Government Jeffrey Christiansen, at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 17, in the Haney Lecture Hall. Complimentary pocket editions of the Constitution will be available to attendees. The event is free and open to the public.

Healthcare Leader and SSC Alumna Visits New Nursing Simulation Lab



SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital - Shawnee President Angi Mohr (left) and Seminole State College Nursing and Health Sciences Program Director Dr. Misty Gray (right) explore the new federally-funded simulation lab at the college. Mohr, who is a graduate of the SSC Nursing Program, a member of the SSC Alumni Hall of Fame, and a Trustee of the SSC Educational Foundation, met July 16 with Gray and SSC President Lana Reynolds to discuss possible partnerships between the hospital and the college.

Orientation Kicks Off Semester



Students fill the Jeff Johnston Auditorium during Seminole State College's New Student Orientation on Aug. 16. The program introduced campus technology, financial aid and student support resources, and offered time to connect with faculty and staff.



SSC Student Support Services/SSS STEM Director Jana Wilson-Byrd (left) and President Lana Reynolds (right) welcomed students as the New Student Orientation event began.

SSC Staff 'Power Up' at Fall 2025 In-Service



Seminole State College's full-time faculty and staff gathered in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on Wednesday, Aug. 13, for the Fall 2025 In-Service. With the theme "Power Up Your Potential," the day featured campus updates from leadership, an esports spotlight, a keynote on the Dignity Index and a lunchtime SSC Bookstore fashion show.



NASNTI Computer Science Specialist Alecia Bailey discussed SSC's new esports program during In-Service.



SSC sophomore volleyball players Adisen Williamson of Mustang (left) and Caeli Schaefer of Stillwater (right) walked the runway to showcase SSC Bookstore merchandise during a fashion show held during lunch.

SSC WELCOMES STUDENTS BACK TO CAMPUS



With classes beginning Aug. 18 for the fall semester, Seminole State College welcomed students back to campus. Each day, SSC Student Activities offered free programming for students to enjoy as part of “Welcome Week,” including Waffles on a Stick, a welcome-back barbecue with an esports demo, a photo booth for back-to-school pics and do-it-yourself air plants.



SSC coaches, administrators, faculty and staff speak to 205 student-athletes during orientation on Aug. 18 inside the Raymond Harber Field House. This is the largest group of student-athletes in the college’s history.



Nursing students enjoy a back-to-school tailgate party provided by nursing faculty and staff on Aug. 19 in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center.



SSC students go head-to-head during an esports demonstration inside the E.T. Dunlap Student Union on Aug. 19.

GEAR UP Hosts Summer Camps for Area Students



Seminole State College's Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) welcomed more than 160 students from 12 partner schools to campus this summer for two weeks of educational camps. The events were designed to provide sixth and seventh grade students with a glimpse into college life while building STEM skills and promoting academic success.

Students from Asher, Maud, We-woka, Seminole, Varnum, Strother, Konawa, Okemah, Tecumseh, We-tumka, Holdenville and Moss participated in the camps, which offered a mix of campus tours, hands-on lessons and recreational activities.

During the first week, 90 students attended the camp and explored two college campuses, Oklahoma Baptist University and Redlands Community College. SSC science faculty provided an engaging lesson on water physics, allowing students to explore concepts such as buoyancy through

interactive experiments. Students also visited the Oklahoma City Zoo and ended the week with a splash at Hurricane Harbor water park.

The second week welcomed 75 students, who participated in a two-day app development workshop. Working in teams, students created their own mobile apps and presented them to their peers, who voted on the best design for a prize. The week also included activity rotations in volleyball, basketball, esports and arts and crafts.

Seminole State College's Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs – Believe and Achieve initiative is funded by a \$6.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, providing \$934,400 annually through 2031. The initiative serves more than 1,100 students across 12 school districts, beginning in sixth and seventh grades and continuing through their first year of postsecondary education.

Upward Bound Embark on Summer Educational Trips



Upward Bound students pose for a photo inside the Dallas Cowboys locker room at AT&T Stadium during their "Big Trip" to Dallas.

Seminole State College's Upward Bound federal grant program hosted a series of summer camps and trips for nearly 160 area high school students, offering academic enrichment, college readiness and cultural experiences.

Approximately 125 students who recently completed their 9th through 11th grade years participated in a residential camp on the SSC campus from May 27 to June 26. These students attend 20 partnering high schools.

During the camp, students attended core academic classes designed to prepare them for the upcoming school year. The program also offered weekly educational and cultural field trips. The camp concluded with a "Big Trip" to Dallas, Texas, where students toured the University of North Texas and explored major cultural institutions such as the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum, and the Dallas World Aquarium. They



Graduated seniors from SSC's Upward Bound Bridge program stand outside the Air Force Armament Museum in Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

also visited AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys.

In addition, 31 graduated seniors participated in the Upward Bound "Bridge" program. These students completed two college courses and held work-study positions on campus and in the Seminole community to prepare for their transition to higher education and future careers.

Their summer concluded with a trip to Fort Walton Beach, Florida. During their visit, they toured Northwest Florida State College and the University of West Florida – Emerald Coast Campus. The students also visited the Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park, the Air Force Armament Museum and attended a careers in hospitality presentation.

Upward Bound is a program 100% funded by the U.S. Department of Education, providing services at no cost to participants that support academic success and postsecondary enrollment.

New President's Leadership Class Announced



Freshmen members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class attended a reception at the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum on Aug. 26.

Seminole State College has selected 26 freshmen students for Class XIX of the President's Leadership Class.

The leadership students, along with their parents, attended a reception held at the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum on Tuesday, August 26.

SSC President Lana Reynolds opened the evening with a warm welcome to students and their families. Members of the college's Administrative Council then shared insights about their departments and how they contribute to student success. Speakers included Dr. Bill Knowles, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs; Melanie Rinehart, Vice President for Finance, Grants & Enrollment; Jessica Isaacs, Dean of Instruction; and Marc Hunter, Director of Information Technology and Chief Information Security Officer.

Eileen Castle, Executive Director of the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum,

delivered a keynote message encouraging students to embrace the importance of play and engagement in their daily lives. She also highlighted meaningful ways to get involved in the local community through volunteerism.

Director of Community Relations Kim Pringle provided an overview of the year's planned activities for the PLC, including community service expectations, leadership training sessions, and civic engagement opportunities.

Following the program, students and their families enjoyed exploring the museum's interactive exhibits.

The 2025-26 President's Leadership Class XIX includes: Addy Askew of Palmer, Texas; Ty Bonnett of Azle, Texas; Ella Cantrell of Shawnee; Taylon Elliott of Purcell; Talan Fairless of Panama; Carson Garner of Seminole; Layla Griffin of Seminole; Felicity Hamilton of McLoud; Caleb Hines of Edmond; Hannah

Jo Jones of Tecumseh; Emily Lazzara of Prague; Will Lundquist of Norman; Bella Mattingly of Flower Mound, Texas; Jozlynn Milliman of Prague; Colt Moore of Haskell, Texas; Hattie Morris of Piedmont; Larron Morris of Shawnee; Nate Quickstad of Keller, Texas; Nicci Stimson of Pryor; Sebastian Stone-Moore of Wewoka; Andrew Taber of Oklahoma City; Sylvia Thomas of Davenport; Alivia Wapskineh of McLoud; Avery Wharton of Wilson; Alex Wilhite of Bristow; and Kashtin Wilson of Prague.

The President's Leadership Class is a two-year scholarship program designed to develop student leadership through civic engagement, volunteerism, and mentorship opportunities with campus and community leaders.

"The President's Leadership Class offers students meaningful opportunities to strengthen their leadership skills while also supporting their academic develop-

ment," SSC President Lana Reynolds said. "We're excited to work with this exceptional group of students. Throughout the year, they'll engage with state leaders, explore government and philanthropy, study leadership models and give back through volunteer service," she said.

School officials throughout the College's service area of Seminole, Lincoln, Pottawatomie, Hughes and Okfuskee counties are invited by President Reynolds to nominate high school seniors as candidates for the scholarship program. Other students are nominated by SSC Educational Foundation trustees and community leaders. Participants are selected based on ACT scores, academic performance in high school and demonstrated leadership ability. Invitations for PLC Class XX will be extended in December of 2025.

SSC Secures Two Federal Grants for Student Support

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Seminole State College two federal TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) grants. The first is a traditional SSS grant totaling \$1,532,570, and the second is a STEM SSS grant totaling \$1,361,820. Both grants are for a five-year period and are designed to improve college retention and graduation rates among low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities.

Through services including academic tutoring, financial aid, scholarship guidance, career exploration, counseling and mentoring, TRIO SSS helps students overcome barriers to success and graduate or transfer with minimal debt.

"This grant allows Seminole State College to deepen our commitment to ensuring that all students—regardless of background—can thrive academically and personally," Janna Wilson-Byrd, SSS / STEM SSS Director said. "Student Support Services helps level the playing field and equips our students with the tools and confidence to graduate and lead."

Nationally, the SSS program has a proven track record. According to a 2019 evaluation by the U.S. Department of Education, students in SSS at two-year colleges were 48 percent more likely to earn an associate degree or transfer, and those at four-year institutions were 18 percent more likely to graduate with a bachelor's degree.

"TRIO programs generally and TRIO

SSS, in particular, transforms students from the least resourced backgrounds into college graduates," Kimberly Jones, President of the Council for Opportunity in Education in Washington, D.C., said. "This vital program makes all the difference for nearly a million students each year across the country."

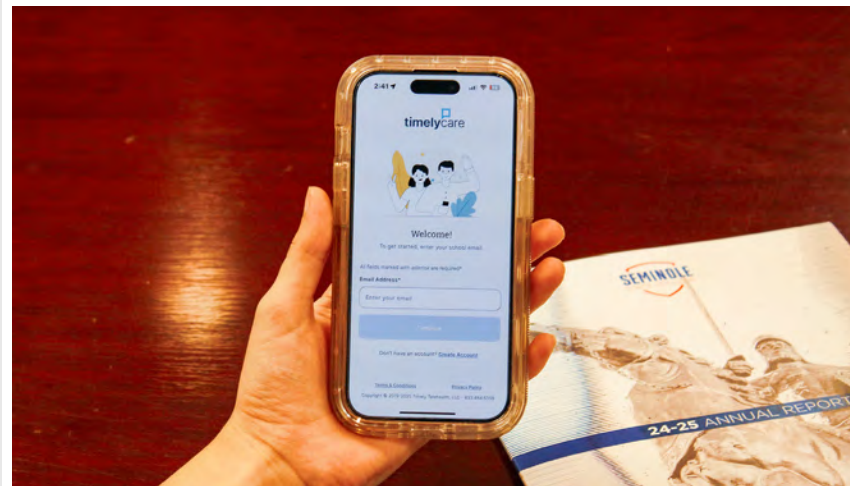
SSS is one of eight federal TRIO programs funded under the Higher Education Act of 1965 to remove social, academic, and cultural barriers to higher education. Since its inception in 1968, SSS has helped millions of low-income, first-generation students graduate from college and contribute to their communities and the economy.

"These grants enable us to provide focused support that helps students succeed in their studies. We appreciate the support of U.S. Congresswoman Stephanie Bice and other members of the Oklahoma Congressional delegation for their ongoing efforts on behalf of SSC's federal grant programs," SSC President Lana Reynolds said.

Notable TRIO SSS alumni include former NASA astronaut José Hernández, U.S. House Clerk Cheryl Johnson, and Michael Cashman, Supervisor of the Town of Plattsburgh, N.Y.

For more information about TRIO Student Support Services at Seminole State College, visit www.sscok.edu or contact Janna Wilson-Byrd at j.wilson-byrd@sscok.edu.

Telemedicine App Expands Health Support at SSC



With the start of the fall semester, SSC is now offering free virtual health support to all students.

Seminole State College has launched TimelyCare, a virtual health and well-being platform that gives SSC students 24/7 access to care at no cost and without traditional insurance barriers, delivered by licensed physicians and counselors in all 50 states.

Students can use TimelyCare on a phone or other device to get on-demand or scheduled medical care, TalkNow for immediate emotional support, mental health counseling by appointment (up to six sessions each academic year), health coaching, basic needs assistance, care navigation, a peer support community and digital self-care resources.

"TimelyCare puts help in students' hands the moment they need it," Christal Knowles, Professor of Psychology and SSC Help Center Coordinator, said. "Whether it's late-night stress, anxiety before an exam or a routine medical question, this service removes barriers

and helps our students stay focused and healthy."

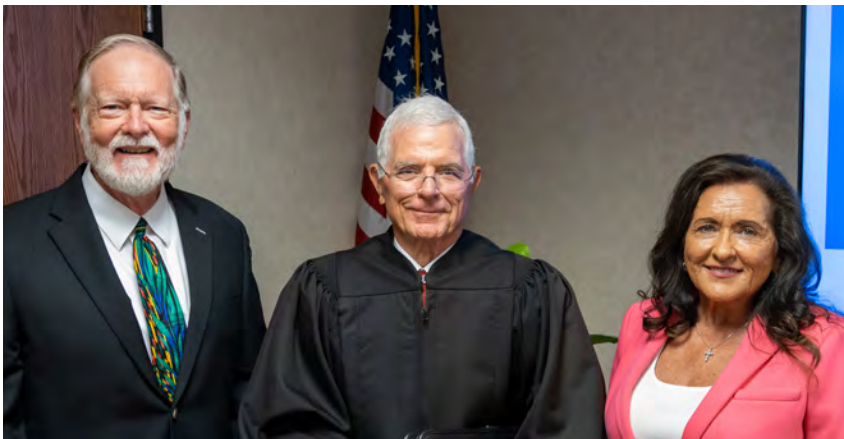
The platform improves access to care outside regular office hours and reduces wait times: about half of TimelyCare mental-health visits occur after hours or on weekends, and students can typically connect with a provider in less than five minutes.

How to access: Download the TimelyCare app or visit the TimelyCare website and follow the prompts to verify eligibility.

TimelyCare complements SSC's on-campus resources and supports the College's commitment to student success and well-being.

For information about SSC's mental health and wellness resources, contact the SSC Help Center at helpcenter@ss-cok.edu or visit ss-cok.edu.

New Regents Sworn in, Election of Officers Held at Board Meeting



Barry Tims (left) and Mona Adkisson (right) were sworn in at the July 17 meeting of the SSC Board of Regents. Former District Judge George Butner (center) administered the Oath of Office.

The Seminole State College Board of Regents held their monthly meeting on July 17 in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center Board Room.

The meeting began with the swearing-in of two new Regents, Mona Adkisson and Barry Tims. Former District Judge George Butner administered the oath of office. Both Adkisson and Tims reside in Seminole. Adkisson and her

husband, Sam, are owners of Ecoat.us. Tims is an independent insurance agent. Adkisson succeeded former Regent Bryan Cain, whose term concluded June 29. Gov. Stitt appointed Tims to assume the seat vacated by former Regent Ryan Pitts, who resigned in the spring after being appointed as Special District Judge. His appointment will be considered for approval by the Oklahoma State Senate

Education Committee and confirmation by the Oklahoma State Senate in Spring 2026.

Next, SSC President Lana Reynolds presented her report to the Board, highlighting recent personnel changes, enrollment updates, and campus activities. She also discussed the College's participation in the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education budget hearings and reviewed grant updates, including a \$25,000 award from The Teagle Foundation.

The first item of business was the election of Board officers. Following past precedent, Regent Marci Donaho was elected Chair. Curtis Morgan was named Vice Chair, and Ryan Franklin was selected as Secretary.

With the second item on the agenda, the Board ratified a declaration of emergency made by President Reynolds for urgent repairs to a main water line in Tanner Hall. The repairs, totaling \$16,000, were necessary following unex-

pected damage during bathroom renovation work in June.

The Regents also approved an updated version of the Seminole County Education Sales Tax resolution. The revised document now accurately specifies Seminole State College as a beneficiary for capital improvements and corrects language regarding the tax's duration.

A bid from Jerry Pratkanis & Son Concrete of Prague for campus sidewalk repairs was reviewed. The bid was for 15,000 linear feet of sidewalk replacement in the amount of \$151,400. The bid was approved by the Board.

Two new policies were also adopted by the Board. The first responds to federal requirements under the "Stop Campus Hazing Act," mandating the disclosure of hazing incidents in SSC's annual security report. The second addresses the "Student Location" regulation, requiring the College to track the state in which a student resides for licensure-related academic programs.

Professors Race in 5K Fundraiser

Seminole State College Professor of STEM Dr. Ricky Streight (left) and Associate Professor of STEM Wendy Rich (right) participated in the Gordon Cooper Technology Center Foundation's Rocket Man 5k Run on Aug. 22 on GCTC's campus. Dr. Streight finished in 8th place with an overall time of 22:40.



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