

Report on
2009
**Accomplishments
and Highlights**
for
Seminole State College
BOARD OF REGENTS

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Prepared January, 2010
by
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President

Seminole State College

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Office of the President

January 28, 2010

Dear Regents:

As we look to the future at the beginning of each calendar year, we have traditionally reviewed past accomplishments at Seminole State College. This document provides an overview of 2009. Although there are numerous highlights of the past year presented in the following pages, there are three major accomplishments that are significant in the history of this institution.

First, and foremost, we successfully completed our self-study process and received a recommendation for the maximum ten years of accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission. Everyone associated with this process should take great pride in our success.

Another milestone of 2009 was the completion and opening of the new Student Services Building – a massive, beautiful, customer-friendly facility that will focus our efforts on better serving students. Finally, enrollment in the Fall topped 2,400 – an all-time high for the college. This was particularly impressive in light of reductions in funding which challenged our ability to provide basic services. Everyone truly worked together to serve more students with less resources.

This month, I begin my fourteenth year as President. I continue to be impressed with the team of Regents, administrators, faculty, staff, students and community supporters who play such important roles in the success of Seminole State College. I hope you will enjoy reviewing 2009 and will join me in looking forward to a great 2010!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Utterback', written in a cursive style.

James W. Utterback, Ph.D.
President

2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS and HIGHLIGHTS

ACADEMICS

➤ *MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!*

TEN-YEAR ACCREDITATION!!!! After years of planning and preparation, Seminole State College completed an extensive self-study process, submitted an outstanding written report and hosted four higher education consultant/evaluators for a site visitation. Results were glowing reviews of our work and the recommendation from the visitation team for the maximum ten-year accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of North Central.



➤ *Nursing Accreditation*

A site visit for the Nursing program's accreditation was held on February 11 and 12. The program received the maximum five years accreditation from the Oklahoma Board of Nursing.

➤ *Child Development Accreditation*

Last spring, the Child Development Program received national accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

➤ ***Commencement***

Over 300 students were awarded degrees in 2009. Commencement exercises were held on May 15 and featured guest speaker Reggie Whitten. A Seminole native, Mr. Whitten is an attorney, philanthropist and advocate for educating youth about the dangers of drugs and alcohol abuse.

➤ ***Global Studies***

Students and community members participated in two international trips with the College's Global Studies Program. Egypt was the destination for a trip during Spring Break. During the summer, a Seminole State College group visited London and Scotland.

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS



➤ ***New Student Services Center***

The construction of the new Student Services Center was completed in 2009. The 16,600 square-foot facility, designed as a one-stop enrollment center, opened to serve students at the end of the year.

➤ ***Henderson Park***

Campus and community friends gathered on April 28 to celebrate the completion of a multi-year planning and development process for a campus park. The newly-renovated area contains fountains, waterfalls,



two bridges, a pavilion, benches, statues and hundreds of trees. “Henderson Park” was named in recognition of the generous gifts and labor provided by Kenneth and Rose Henderson, who spearheaded the efforts to build the park. “Roesler Trails” – a walking/ jogging trail which

circles the pond, and the “J. Smart Family Foundation Pavilion” were dedicated in honor of the Leilani Roesler and Jim and John Smart families for their generous support of improvements to the area.

➤ ***Information Technology Building***

Renovation of the building which previously housed the maintenance department created new space for the offices and operations of the Information Technology Department.



➤ ***Virtual Classrooms***

In June, the Board of Regents approved the purchase of a Classroom Video Capture System from SKC Communication Products, using NASNTI grant funding. The system will allow for the creation of virtual classrooms.

➤ ***Online Course Management***

A new online course management system, *Timecruiser*, was purchased to improve online course service to students. The software was touted by faculty as being highly user-friendly.

➤ ***Enhanced Security***

The video security system in the Roesler Residential Learning Center was upgraded.

➤ ***Multimedia Classrooms***

Two new multimedia classrooms were created on campus, and four multimedia classrooms were upgraded with new projectors and computers.

EXTERNAL FUNDING

➤ ***Grant Renewals***

Seminole State College received notice of the renewal of several grant programs, including: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Scholars for Excellence in Child Care, GEAR UP, Upward Bound I & II, and the Math & Science Upward Bound.

➤ ***Dramatic Local Impact***

Approximately 1,700 area junior high and high schools students are served through the College's federal grant programs each year. These programs help students stay in school, transition to college, and be successful in their educational pursuits. At any given time, these programs employ over 30 full-time and approximately 65 part-time individuals.

➤ ***Textbook Rental Program***

Seminole State College received a \$300,000 (over two years) federal grant to implement a new textbook rental program to help reduce the expense of books for students. The program was implemented in late fall for several core curriculum courses.

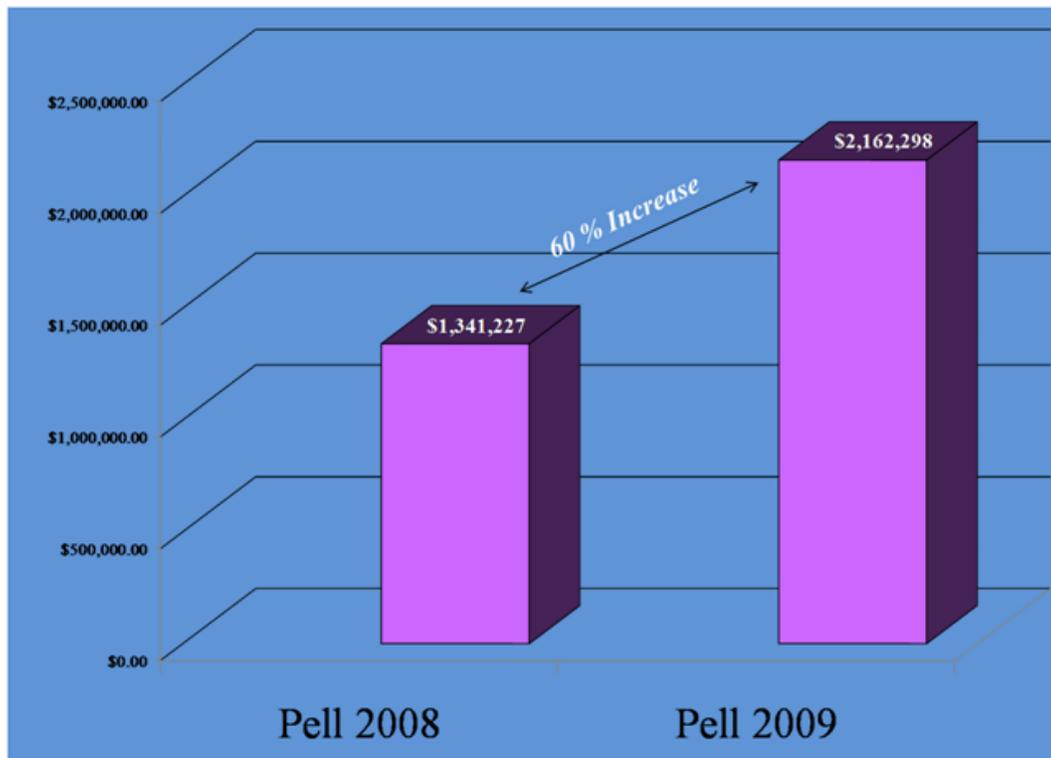
➤ ***Federal and State Grants and Awards***

Federal and state grants in 2009 brought over \$3.4 million in external funding to the College, and included:

- \$662,905 – Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions Grant
- \$837,380 – Upward Bound
- \$334,898 – Talent Search
- \$237,380 – Student Support Services
- \$431,206 – GEAR UP
- \$287,340 – Veterans Upward Bound
- \$95,279 – Medical Laboratory Technology Grant
- \$150,000 – Textbook Rental Grant
- \$95,000 – Congressionally-directed Award for Technology
- \$196,113 – Employment Readiness (TANF)
- \$70,809 – Child Development Program
- \$26,400 – Peek Into Engineering (PIE) Academy Grant
- \$13,321 – National Science Foundation – ECU Partnership

➤ ***Increase in PELL Awards***

The amount of federal PELL financial assistance to students attending Seminole State College increased 60% in Fall, 2009 over Fall, 2008. PELL disbursement grew from \$1,341,227 in Fall, 2008 to \$2,162,298 in Fall, 2009.



EMPLOYEE ISSUES

➤ ***Expanded Benefits***

Beginning in 2009, employee benefits were increased when the SSC Board of Regents removed the cap of contribution for first-year employees to the Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System.

➤ ***Retirement Incentive Annualized***

The College's retirement incentive program was institutionalized in March. The new policy annualized the retirement incentive plan which has been implemented each year since the Spring of 2002.

➤ ***Insurance Costs Addressed***

The SSC Board of Regents authorized the College to enter into a consortium of Oklahoma colleges to provide employees with new group insurance. The year-long process involved consultation with various campus employee groups and SSC retirees. The change came after problems arose from the current state insurance program not paying bills for doctor office visits and hospital stays, and increasing rates and co-pay amounts for employees.

➤ ***Employee Tuition Reimbursement Program***

The College's "Employee Tuition Reimbursement" program provided over \$19,000 to employees seeking completion of higher education degrees. This annual amount has increased by over \$15,000 since 2001.

PROGRAMS

➤ ***Prevention Program***

Over 400 students and interested community members attended the "Crystal Darkness" town hall meeting in January – educating the public about methamphetamine addiction.

➤ ***Campus Concert***

The College joined with the Seminole Arts Council and the Seminole Chamber of Commerce to bring Flamenco guitarist Ronald Radford to campus for a concert.

➤ ***Pow-wow on Campus***

SSC's Native American Student Association (NASA) hosted a Spring pow-wow on campus in April. Over 400 community members, students and dancers participated in the event. Supporters from Oklahoma, several surrounding states and as far as South Dakota were in attendance.

➤ ***Staff Trained on Diversity***

A mandatory campus-wide training session was held in July for all employees on the important topic of dealing with diversity issues on campus. Cornelius Gilbert was the guest presenter for the training.

➤ ***'Changing Lives through Education'***

Television and motion picture actor William Allen Young spoke to faculty and staff during the annual back-to-school in-service training on the topic, "Changing Lives through Education." Young, a popular motivational speaker, is founder and president of the non-profit Young Center for Academic and Cultural Enrichment in Los Angeles, Calif.



➤ ***Emergency Operations Plan***

Campus safety continued to be an emphasis in the development of policies and training on campus. In July, the Board adopted an "Emergency Operations Plan" created in response to Governor Brad Henry's CLASS Task Force.

SPORTS

➤ ***Baseball Pros Return to Campus***

Former Trojan Reggie Willits, now with the Los Angeles Angels, was the featured speaker at the 2009 season kick-off dinner. Former Trojan Coach Lloyd Simmons gave a memorial tribute to long-time fans John Conn and Jay McAlvain who passed away during the previous year. Special guests at the event included former Trojans – St. Louis Cardinal Pitcher Ryan Franklin and Pittsburg Pirate 1st Baseman Adam LaRoche.

➤ ***Women's Golf***

Two members of the women's golf team traveled to Daytona Beach, Florida for the national competition last Spring.

➤ ***Tennis National Tournaments***

Competing in national tournaments, the men's tennis team placed 5th in Plano, Texas and the women placed 11th in Tucson, Arizona in the Spring. Last fall, after winning Regionals in men's doubles, Martin Arguello and Mbonisi Ndimande advanced to the championship of the International Tennis Association national tournament in Mobile, Alabama in October. The doubles team of Ryan Coffee and Corey Huggins finished in 4th place.

➤ ***Softball to Nationals***

The Trojan softball team won the Region II Championship to qualify for nationals. The team placed 3rd in the nation at the NJCAA World Series in St. George, Utah.

➤ ***Baseball to Nationals***

The Trojan baseball team won the Region II Tournament in Bartlesville and the South Central District Championship in Kansas City, Missouri to earn a spot in the national tournament. The team competed in the JUCO World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado – finishing among the top ten teams in the nation.

➤ ***Academic All-Americans***

Ten Trojan athletes, from various sports, were named Academic All-Americans. Katy Cox, Andrew Carter, Cassie Kleber and Katie Sanderson were named Distinguished Academic All-Americans. Emily Kiesel, Drew Taylor, Courtne St. Clair, Ky Burgess, Delany Pennock and Nick Stiefer were named Academic All-Americans. Barbara Oliveira and Martin Arguello, members of the SSC tennis team, were named to the International Tennis Association All-American list.

➤ ***Volleyball to Nationals***

Last fall, the women's volleyball team won the Region II title and travelled to Council Bluffs, Iowa to compete in the NJCAA National Tournament. This was the second time in the short history of the SSC program that the team qualified for nationals.

STUDENTS

➤ ***Record Enrollment***

Student enrollment at SSC topped 2,400 in the fall - reaching an all-time high in the history of the institution. The numbers reflected a 20% increase over the previous year.

➤ ***Nigh Institute Scholar***

Ashley Owens of Shawnee was selected as a recipient of the Nigh Institute Scholarship. She represented the College at the Institute's Leadership Academy in February in Oklahoma City.

➤ ***All-Oklahoma Academic Team***

Natasha Rodgers and Cody Barlow were recognized as the All-Oklahoma Academic Team during a luncheon held as part of the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges annual conference.

➤ ***‘Smiles to the Hospital’***

The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society donated stuffed animals to the local hospital for small children as part of the “Smiles to the Hospital” program. The group also organized fundraisers to raise money for non-profit organizations – the American Red Cross, the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, Interfaith Ministries Food Bank and the Better World Books Project.

➤ ***Books for Daycares***

The college’s English Honor Society, Sigma Kappa Delta, donated over 300 children’s books to local daycares and schools.

➤ ***‘Toys for Tots’***

The Psi Beta Psychology Honor Society participated in the “Toys for Tots” program.

➤ ***Cookout at Henderson Park***

“Welcome Week” during the beginning of the Fall term included activities for students such as a cookout at Henderson Park, a presentation by a hypnotist and a campus dance.

➤ ***Luncheon for Native American Students***

A Native American Student Welcome Luncheon was held September 22. Dr. Jim Utterback and tribal representatives spoke to the students in attendance and discussed campus resources available to help them be successful in college.

➤ ***Students Attend Summit in D.C.***

Student Government Officers, Calli Wood and Autumn Wiles, attended the National Student Government Summit in Washington, D.C. in September.

➤ ***Honor Students Attend Convention***

Members of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society sent representatives to the 91st International PTK Convention in Grapevine, Texas.

➤ ***SGA Reps Attend Congress and Retreat***

Representatives of SGA attended the Oklahoma Student Government Association Fall Congress at the State Capitol and the Student Leadership Retreat in Tulsa.

➤ ***PLC Students Tour State***

The President's Leadership Scholars Program provided selected honor students with a variety of activities and out-of-class experiences, including tours of: the



Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester, the Oklahoma State Capitol, the Oklahoma Supreme Court, and a tour of Tinker Air Force Base.

➤ ***Intercollegiate Legislature***

Eleven SSC students became the college's first delegation to the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature (O.I.L.). Autumn Wiles, Vallon Williams, Tonio Catero, Ieisha Shaw, Kree Lester Ashley Groves, Chance Marsey, Jennifer Votaw, Donesha McVea, Nick Norton and Jessica Shaw participated in O.I.L. activities in the Fall. The organization is a student-run mock government that replicates all three branches of state government.

➤ ***Veterans Day Observance***

Students and staff working with the Veterans Upward Bound program organized a campus observance of Veterans Day in November. Veteran and former Seminole Nation Chief Jerry Haney was guest speaker for the event.

➤ ***Native American Cultural Celebration***

The SSC All Nations Student Development Center (NASNTI Grant Program) and the Native American Student Association (NASA) hosted a Native American Cultural Celebration in November. Pow-wow dancers and representatives from various tribes shared information about their culture and resources available to tribal students.



➤ ***Israeli Exchange Students***

SSC partnered with Seminole High School in hosting a delegation of high school exchange students from Israel on campus in November.



➤ ***Campus Food Drive***

Members of the Leadership Development Class joined with members of the Student Government Association to host a campus talent show in early December. Admission for the event was canned goods which were added to the organizations' campus food drive to benefit the Salvation Army.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

➤ *Partnership with Wewoka Honored*

SSC and the Wewoka Industrial Authority were honored at the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Economic Development Partnership Recognition Program in April.

➤ *Higher Ed Day*

A large number of campus and community leaders participated in Higher Education Day at the Capitol on February 10, demonstrating grassroots support for funding. A luncheon, hosted by SSC at the OU Faculty House prior to an afternoon program at the Capitol, was attended by Senator Harry Coates, Representative Ryan Kiesel, Senate Minority Leader Charlie Laster, House Minority Leader Danny Morgan, and Representative Shane Jett.



➤ *Alumni Inducted in Hall of Fame*



The SSC Educational Foundation Recognition Banquet was a success with over 400 in attendance and \$28,000 raised for the Foundation. Former students Rick Berg, Senator Harry Coates and Tony Tiger were inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame.

➤ ***Golf Tournament Raises Foundation Funds***

Corporate and individual friends of the College supported the SSC Educational Foundation with sponsorships and team registrations at the benefit golf tournament in late August. The event was hosted by State Senator Harry Coates and State Representative Ryan Kiesel. Over \$13,000 was raised for the Foundation through the event.

➤ ***Survey on Fund Raising Commissioned***

A comprehensive “Planning for the Future” survey was commissioned by the SSC Educational Foundation, the SSC Athletic Booster Club and the College to garner feedback from people on and off campus about possible fundraising efforts. The survey report showed tremendous support for increasing private fund raising efforts to increase scholarships, expand and enhance academic programs and support faculty, staff and student travel and cultural opportunities.

➤ ***Area Services Fair***

An Area Services Fair was held on September 11 to introduce students and faculty to businesses and organizations in the community.

➤ ***Small Business Forum***

Partnering with the Small Business Advocacy Group of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, the College hosted a Small Business Forum in late September. Special guest speaker for the event was Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins.

➤ ***New Tribal Leaders Visit Campus***

President Utterback hosted newly-elected Seminole Nation Chief Leonard Harjo and Assistant Chief Ella Coleman for a special luncheon and campus visit at the end of September. Chief Harjo is a former Regent for Seminole State College.

➤ ***Seminole State College of Florida***

In October, the SSC Regents passed a resolution in support of a proposed name change of Seminole Community College of Florida to Seminole State College of Florida. The school was changing its name in response to mandated changes in the Florida community college system.

➤ ***RBRC Assists with Area Economic Development***

The SSC Rural Business and Resources Center assisted 67 clients in its efforts to start or grow businesses in the College's service area. Awareness about the services offered and events sponsored by the RBRC grew tremendously in the past year. Over the past four years, the center has assisted 200 clients.

➤ ***Oklahoma Southeast***

SSC Rural Business and Resources Center Director Larry Smith and President Utterback helped host business prospects and economic development consultants from across the country during a meeting of the *Oklahoma Southeast* organization held in Durant last summer.

➤ ***Haney Center Activities***

During its seventh year of operation, the Enoch Kelly Haney Center continued to be a popular site for local, regional and state conferences, as well as banquets, proms, weddings, job fairs and meetings. Over 20,000 people attended over 300 special meetings and events in the facility in 2009 – in addition to hundreds of students who attended classes in the Center.

➤ ***State Leaders Visit Campus***

Partnering with the Seminole Chamber of Commerce, the College hosted monthly community forum luncheons that brought state leaders and programs to campus. Speakers included: Senator Harry Coates, Representative Ryan Kiesel, State Auditor and Inspector Steve Burrage, U.S. Congresswoman Mary Fallin, Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins and Attorney General Drew Edmondson.

➤ ***Holiday Event Raises Funds for Foundation***

Friends of the SSC Educational Foundation sponsored the annual "Holiday Event" at the Shawnee Country Club in early December raising over \$20,000 for the Foundation.

➤ ***Staff Support Holiday Project***

Members of the Classified Staff Association organized “Fostering Little Angels” for their 2009 holiday project. Offices and individuals on campus adopted eighteen foster children to sponsor with a variety of gifts during the holidays. The organization also purchased a Wii Fit for the Veteran’s Retirement Home in Sulphur.



INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

➤ ***Retirements***

Several faculty and staff members reached a milestone in their higher education careers with retirement from Seminole State College in 2009: Jim Coleman, comptroller; Cynthia Yerby, counselor; Dr. Diana Lynd, child development instructor; Larry Birdwell, math instructor; Dr. Richard Wood, social sciences instructor; and JoAnn DeArmond, nursing division secretary.

➤ ***Employees Honored by Chamber***

The Seminole Chamber of Commerce Education Committee honored faculty and staff several times during the year as Educators and Staff Members of the Month. Honorees in 2009 included: Christian Morgan, Donnie Blankenship, Mary Whitley, Marc Hunter, Jessica Isaacs, Sherry Combs, Malinda Browning and Karla Beavers.

➤ ***Teaching Ideas Shared***

English instructor Kelli McBride participated in the G.I.F.T. contest during the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges annual conference in March. The contest is designed to encourage faculty from across the state to share their teaching ideas.

➤ ***Walck Leads Organizations***

Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Brad Walck served as President of the Seminole Lions Club and Chair of the State Regents' Council on Student Affairs (COSA) this year.

➤ ***Henderson Appointed Regent***

Seminole civic leader Kenneth Henderson was appointed by Governor Brad Henry to serve a seven-year term to the Seminole State College Board of Regents in late Spring. He was sworn in at the July meeting of the Board.

➤ ***Nansel Completes Term***

Roger Nansel, President of BancFirst of Seminole, completed his seven-year term as a member of the SSC Board of Regents.

➤ ***President's National Leadership***

Dr. Jim Utterback continued to serve as a Board member for the American Association of Community Colleges, and served as co-chair of the AACC Commission on Economic & Workforce Development. He was an invited presenter for AACC's "Future Leaders Institute" in Chicago in July.

➤ ***Latchaw Interviewed on PBS***

Medical Laboratory Technology Program Director Perthena Latchaw was interviewed for PBS NewsHour with Jim Lehrer about her travels to Africa and work with AIDS prevention efforts.

➤ ***Utterback Serves as OETA Officer***

Dr. Jim Utterback was selected last Fall as Vice Chair of the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA) Board. He is serving his fourth year on the Board which oversees the state's educational and public television services.

➤ ***Bolin Awarded Doctorate***

Steve Bolin was awarded a Ph.D. in history from Oklahoma State University in December. Dr. Bolin is a faculty member in the Social Sciences Division.

