

# 2017 SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE YEAR IN REVIEW

## TOP MOMENTS OF 2017

LANA REYNOLDS BECAME FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT OF SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE

DR. JIM UTTERBACK RETIRED AFTER 20 YEARS AS PRESIDENT OF SSC

DAN & ANDREA BOREN CENTER RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY



SSC AND THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION DISBURSED OVER \$2M of FINANCIAL AID

A red graduation cap icon is positioned between the text 'OVER \$2M' and 'of FINANCIAL AID'.

### FALL PROMO VIDEO



**VIDEO VIEWS**  
Number of times the video was viewed



**MINUTES VIEWED**  
Total number of minutes the video was watched

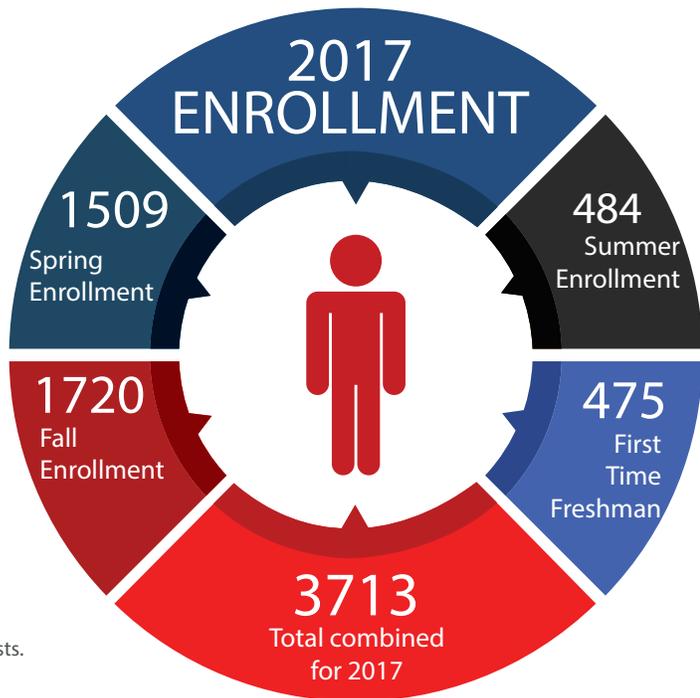


**ENGAGED**  
The total number of reactions and comments the video received on the original post and shared posts.



REACHED 21,502

A white silhouette of a person standing next to the number '21,502'.



# ***Seminole State College***

P.O. Box 351 – 2701 Boren Blvd. – Seminole, Oklahoma 74818-0351

Phone: (405) 382-9200 Fax: (405) 382-7912

---

## *Office of the President*

January 18, 2018

Dear Friends,

As we look to the future at the beginning of each calendar year, we traditionally review past accomplishments made at Seminole State College. The following document provides an overview of 2017.

This past year has been one of transition at SSC. We said farewell to former President Dr. Jim Utterback after his 20 years of service to this institution. I was honored to be named his successor, taking office July 1, 2017. During these times of change, and in the face of continued budgetary constraints, you will see in this document that great things are continuing to happen at Seminole State College.

I am very proud to work with dedicated faculty and staff, a visionary board, and friends and community leaders who understand the importance of education and share my love of the College. Together, I know we will work to continue to offer outstanding academic opportunities, guidance and support for all SSC students and well as provide valuable resources for our surrounding communities.

Our college campus is an exciting and rewarding place to work and I am honored to serve as SSC President. I appreciate all of your support and encouragement as we enter this new year together.



Best Wishes for a Wonderful 2018!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lana Reynolds". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lana Reynolds  
President

# January

---



## **Woodall Honored by SSC**

Dixie Woodall, former Seminole State College Belles coach and basketball legend, was recognized by the College during a special dedication ceremony naming the Raymond Harber Field House gymnasium floor in her honor.

## **SSC Participated in S.T.E.M. Conference at Gordon Cooper**

A group of Seminole State College employees participated in a STEM Conference at Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee where they visited with students about available majors at SSC.

## **President Utterback Announces Retirement; Reynolds Appointed Executive VP**

President Dr. Jim Utterback announced his plans to retire effective June 30, 2017 at the SSC Board of Regents meeting. Executive Vice President for Institutional Advancement Lana Reynolds was selected as Executive Vice President of SSC, to serve as Acting President in the absence of the President.

## **Coach Dindy Spoke in Honor of MLK Day**

The Seminole State College Native Americans Supporting Non Tribal Institutions Program hosted guest speaker Rodney Dindy, Head Boys Basketball Coach at Norman High School, during a special MLK program on campus.

# February

---

## **Trojan Baseball Banquet**

Seminole State College baseball alumni, community supporters and members of the 2017 Trojan squad, gathered for the annual Trojan Baseball Kick-Off Banquet. Former Minnesota Twins pitcher and past Trojan player Nick Blackburn was the guest speaker. Eric Myers, who passed away in 2007 from brain cancer, was also honored as a former player, assistant coach and head coach of the Trojans.



## **NASA Visits CPN & Eagle Aviary**

NASA students visited the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Employment and Training Offices in Tecumseh to learn about tribal programs in career development and higher education.

## **SSC Honored Black History Month**

In recognition of Black History Month, Seminole State College hosted a special program featuring the play "Who Will Sing for Lena?," a play based on the life of an African American maid who was wrongfully convicted of the murder of her white employer and executed by the state of Georgia in 1945.

### **Art Club Hosted Second Annual Chili Bowl Cook-Off**

The Art Club held their second annual Chili Bowl Cook-Off fundraiser where the organization raised close to \$700. Proceeds of the fundraiser were used to fund student field trips to art museums and to bring in visiting artists to the SSC campus.



### **Seminole Chamber Honored SSC Personnel**

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum. Assistant Professor of Life Sciences Susan Walker was honored as “Educator of the Month” and Business Office Cashier Amelia Hendrix was honored as “Staff Member of the Month.”

### **SSC Delegation Attended Higher Ed Day**

A delegation of Seminole State College students and employees attended “Higher Education Day at the Capitol” in Oklahoma City. The event is held annually to demonstrate grassroots support for Higher Education funding.

### **Palmer and Vance Received AllianceHealth Scholarships**

Amber Palmer and Stacey Vance, nursing students at Seminole State College, each received a \$1000 AllianceHealth Seminole Women’s Volunteer Auxiliary Scholarship.

### **Tollett Granted Tenure**

At their monthly meeting, the Board granted tenure to Jarrod Tollett, Assistant Professor of Mathematics. Tollett was promoted to Associate Professor status. Tollett teaches physics, astronomy, physical science, engineering and mathematics courses at the College.

### **Speech Tournament on Campus**

Seminole State College hosted a Seminole High School speech tournament on campus. The two-day tournament, including a total of 25 high schools, featured debate, speaking and acting events and concluded with an awards ceremony.

## *March*

---

### **Leadership Students Discussed Business Etiquette**

The President’s Leadership Class had a lesson in business and social etiquette from Carey Sue Vega, owner of Etiquette Expert in Oklahoma City. The group heard tips on cell phone usage, email and telephone etiquette, job interview tips and the importance of hand-written thank you notes.

### **SSC Attended Spring Congress**

Members of the SSC Student Government Association attended the Spring Congress Session for the Oklahoma Student Government Association at Rogers State University.

### **Executive VP Reynolds Read to Local Students**

Seminole State College Executive Vice President Lana Reynolds read 'If I Ran the Circus' by Dr. Seuss to third grade students at Wilson Elementary School in Seminole.



### **SSC and Chickasaw Nation Partnership Honored**

Seminole State College and The Chickasaw Nation were among colleges and businesses honored during the Business Partnership Excellence Award Luncheon held at The University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

### **PTK Inducted New Members**

Thirty-four Seminole State College students were inducted Tuesday evening into the Alpha Theta Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges. Students are selected based on their scholarship, leadership and service qualities.

### **Financial Aid for the Future**

Seminole State College Financial Aid Specialist Kristen Bean visited with a group of high school students at Vision Bank's Financial Leadership Council held in Prague.

### **Art Students Visited Art Museums in Pauls Valley and Sulphur**

Seminole State College Art Club students traveled to Pauls Valley where they visited artist Kevin Stark's Art Gallery and Museum and Action Figure Toy Museum. Students then traveled to Sulphur, where they toured the Artesian Gallery and Studios. They also visited the Chickasaw Cultural Center.

### **SSC Students Recognized at OACC Ceremony**

Andrew Jones and Chelsey Olds were honored as members of the All-Oklahoma Academic Team and Maycee Croce received an OACC President's Tuition Waiver Award at the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Recognition Ceremony.

### **MLT students Awarded ASIST Scholarships**

Keanna White, Misty Dyer and Sarah Biffle, three students in the Gordon Cooper Technology Center/Seminole State College Medical Laboratory Technology program earned scholarships to help them upgrade their career skills and increase their earning potential.



### **Reynolds Appointed Permanent President**

At their March meeting, the Board voted to make SSC Executive Vice President Lana Reynolds the permanent replacement for retiring President Dr. Jim Utterback, effective July 1, 2017.

# April

---

## **SSC President Dr. Jim Utterback Honored at Retirement Dinner**

Dr. Jim Utterback was honored for his 20 year tenure as President of Seminole State College at a Retirement Dinner inside the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on campus.



## **SSC Hosted Annual Creativity Symposium**

The Language Arts and Humanities Division at Seminole State College hosted their Seventh Annual “Howlers and Yawpers Creativity Symposium: A Showcase of Oklahoma Artists, Musicians, Actors, Writers, and Dancers.”

## **Upward Bound Spring Trip**

The SSC Upward Bound Program took 197 student participants on a field trip to visit Southeastern State University in Durant, Oklahoma.

## **Students Delivered Easter Cheer**

SSC’s Special Projects in Art class, in collaboration with the College’s Art Club and Future Business Leaders of America, made and delivered over 50 Easter corsages and boutonnieres for residents at the Pioneer Nursing Home in Seminole.

## **Student Support Programs Hosted First to Finish Panel**

The Seminole State College Student Support Services Programs hosted a “First to Finish” event on campus featuring a panel of four individuals, all first in their family to graduate from college.

## **SSC Athletes Stuffed Eggs for Jazzy's Egg Run**

Members of the Seminole State College men’s and women’s basketball teams stuffed 8,500 eggs for the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual “Jazzy’s Egg Run” held at the Jasmine Moran Children’s Museum.



## **Seminole Chamber Honored SSC Personnel**

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum. Assistant Professor of Business Tammy Kasterke was honored as “Educator of the Month” and Director of Financial Assistance Melanie Rinehart was honored as “Professional Staff Member of the Month.”

### **SSC Attended Oklahoma's Promise Day at the Capitol**

SSC joined other students and representatives from Oklahoma colleges to show appreciation for Oklahoma's Promise and encourage legislators to continue to support the program.

### **Psi Beta Inducts New Members**

Nine Seminole State College students were inducted into the Psi Beta Psychology Honor Society for two-year colleges. The mission of Psi Beta is professional development of psychology students through promotion and recognition of excellence in scholarship, leadership, research, and community service.

# May

---



### **Sheffield and Hyden Appointed as SSC Regents**

Wewoka Mayor Paige Sheffield and Prague business owner Kimberly Hyden were appointed by Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin to serve on the Seminole State College Board of Regents.

### **Engaging Culturally Diverse Students**

SSC's NASNTI program hosted a roundtable discussion on campus targeting ways to engage culturally diverse students in the classroom. The discussion featured two guest speakers – Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Youth Program Manager Lakota Pochedley and Muscogee Creek Nation Department of Higher Education Manager Pete Coser, Jr.

### **SSC Honored Employees and Students**

Seminole State College held an Honors Reception on campus to recognize employees and students for their outstanding achievements and service to the College.

### **Faculty Honored Retiring SSC President**

Retiring President Dr. Jim Utterback was honored during a special tree planting ceremony organized by members of the College's Faculty Senate. A Red Oak tree was planted on campus near the north pond of Henderson Park in appreciation of Dr. Utterback's 20 years of service to the College.

### **Chemistry Lab Received Renovation**

The Seminole State College chemistry laboratory received renovations as part of an "Engaging Students in Science" Title III federal grant awarded to the College. The grant, which provides \$450,000 per year for five years, will assist SSC in increasing enrollment and graduation in science-related fields.

# June

---

### **Beene Honored at Retirement Reception**

Seminole State College celebrated the retirement of long-time employee Rusty Beene at a special reception in the Walkingstick Student Services Center.

### **Upward Bound Programs Received Grant Renewal**

Seminole State College received notification from the U.S. Department of Education of the renewal of two federal Upward Bound grants. Together, Upward Bound I and Upward Bound II will receive over \$3 million in grant money over five years. The grants will provide the institution \$594,919 annually, with Upward Bound I receiving \$344,919 and Upward Bound II receiving \$257,500.



### **SSC Graduates Participated in Oklahoma Study Abroad Project**

Taylor McClure of Tecumseh and Olivia Wells of Ada, two Seminole State College graduates, participated in an eight-day service-learning based study abroad trip to the Dominican Republic.

### **SSC Student-Athletes Received All-Academic Honors**

Twenty-three student-athletes and five athletic teams at Seminole State College were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements this year by the National Junior College Athletic Association.

### **Regents Convene for June Board Meeting**

At the June meeting, SSC Board members congratulated President Dr. Jim Utterback on his retirement and thanked outgoing Regent Chair Leesa Adams for her service to the College. They also welcomed new Regent Paige Sheffield to her first meeting.

### **Biffle Awarded AllianceHealth Scholarship**

Sarah Biffle of Seminole, a Seminole State College-Gordon Cooper Technology Center Medical Laboratory Technology student, was awarded a \$500 scholarship from the AllianceHealth Seminole Women's Volunteer Auxiliary.

# July

---



### **Changing of the Guard at SSC**

Outgoing Seminole State College President Dr. Jim Utterback and President-Designee Lana Reynolds jointly raised the flag on campus as a symbol of the changing of the guard at the College.

### **SSC Received \$500 Thousand Donation from Brian Crawford Memorial**

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation received a \$500,000 donation from the Brian Crawford Memorial Foundation, a gift that launched fundraising efforts for the new College's new baseball stadium – The Brian Crawford Baseball Complex. This facility will honor the memory of local student-athlete Brian Crawford.

# August

---



## **SSC Welcomed Presidential Leadership Class XI**

Seminole State College welcomed 22 students for Class XI of the SSC Presidential Leadership program. PLC is a two-year scholarship program created to help students develop leadership skills and provide personal and professional growth opportunities.

## **SSC In-Service Activities**

Faculty and staff at Seminole State College celebrated the beginning of the new academic year with an in-service program built around the theme “Start a FIRE...INSPIRE.”

## **First Day Experience**

Seminole State College faculty and staff members served as “Campus Experts” to greet and help students navigate campus during the first few days of the fall semester.

## **SSC Software Celebration**

Seminole State College employees celebrated the new campus-wide software transition. The new system maintains all standard campus operations including course scheduling, enrollment, payroll and accounts payable.

## **Supporting the ‘Field of Dreams’**

The Seminole Tourism Council committed \$100,000 over a two-year period for the construction and promotion of a new baseball complex – The Brian Crawford Baseball Complex – at Seminole State College.

## **An Eclipsing Experience**

Seminole State College students, faculty and staff gathered outside of Tanner Hall on campus to witness the partial solar eclipse of the sun. Those present took turns viewing the event through one of the College’s 10-inch telescopes.

### **HLC Approved Agriculture Degree at SSC**

Seminole State College received word that the Higher Learning Commission approved the College's request to award students an Associate in Science in Agriculture.

### **Utterback Recognized for Service by OETA**

Seminole State College President Emeritus Dr. Jim Utterback was honored by the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority for his service on the Board of Directors over the past eleven years, including serving as Chairman from 2011-2013.

## *September*

---



### **SSC Retirees Returned to Campus**

Nearly 40 Seminole State College retirees returned to campus to attend a luncheon held in their honor. The event was held to thank them for their service and invite them to reconnect and stay involved with SSC.

### **Hurricane Harvey Relief**

Seminole State College employees and students worked together to gather supplies for donation to those affected by Hurricane Harvey.

### **SSC Upward Bound Math/Science Programs Received Grant Renewal**

Seminole State College received notification from the U.S. Department of Education of the renewal of two federal Upward Bound grants. Together, Upward Bound I Math/Science and Upward Bound Math/Science II was awarded over \$2.6 million in grant money over the next five years, beginning in September 2017.

### **SSC PLC Students Visited OSBI**

Members of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class travelled to Edmond to visit the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation Forensic Laboratory. While there, the group toured the facility and learned about each unit within the organization.



### **Former SSC Presidents Honored by OACC**

Former Seminole State College Presidents Dr. Jim Cook and Dr. Jim Utterback were inducted into the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Hall of Fame at Rose State College.

### **SSC Constitution Day Event**

In observance of Constitution Day, Seminole State College hosted “Who Wants to Be a Constitutionaire?” on campus. SSC Social Sciences Assistant Professor Steve Hendrix organized the event and also served as the game show host.

### **SSC Booster Club Cookout**

Seminole State College student-athletes were welcomed to campus and the community by the SSC Booster Club at the College’s Softball Complex. This year’s players included 125 students from Oklahoma, 25 students from out-of-state and 15 international students from 11 different countries including Canada, Australia, England, Serbia, France, Venezuela, Burundi, Columbia and Brazil.

## *October*

---



### **SSC Night at the Museum**

Over 100 Seminole State College employees and their family members attended a “Night at the Museum” hosted by the Jasmine Moran Children’s Museum in Seminole.

### **GEAR UP Program Received Grant Renewal**

Seminole State College received notification from the U.S. Department of Education of the renewal of the federal GEAR UP grant. The program will receive \$5,605,600 in grant money over the next seven years.

### **Classical Evening at SSC**

Concert pianist Peter Simon performed “Spiritual Music of the Great Composers” in the Utterback Ballroom at Seminole State College.

### **SSC PTK Honor Society Inducted New Members**

Twenty-five Seminole State College students were inducted into the Alpha Theta Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges.

### **Passing of the Gavel**

Out-going Chair of the Seminole State College Educational Foundation Board of Trustees Jeramy Rich, received a plaque from newly-elected Chair Lance Wortham, in appreciation of his service.



### **Seminole Chamber Honored SSC Personnel**

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum. Assistant Professor of Nursing Crystal Bray was honored as “Educator of the Month” and Business Office Head Cashier Tammy Presley was honored as “Classified Staff Member of the Month.”

### **Career Exploration Day**

Seminole State College Assistant Professor of Math Emily Carpenter and students in her Math Concepts for Educators class travelled to Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee to participate in a STEM Career Exploration Day - an event geared toward regional middle school students.

### **SSC Trick-or-Treat Trail**

Several hundred kids and family members participated in Seminole State College’s 4th Annual Trick-or-Treat Trail on campus.

### **Shupe and Gray Awarded AllianceHealth Scholarship**

Sylvia Shupe and Rebecca Gray, two nursing students at Seminole State College, each received a \$1,000 AllianceHealth Seminole Women’s Volunteer Auxiliary Scholarship.

# *November*

---



### **Honoring Melvin Moran**

Seminole State College received 10 of 60 young trees purchased by the Seminole Rotary Club to be planted in various locations around the community. SSC, along with other businesses and organizations in Seminole, received these trees to plant in honor of local business owner and community leader Melvin Moran.

### **SSC Students Volunteered at Regional Food Bank**

Members of the Seminole State College President’s Leadership Class volunteered at “Rock the Box” at the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank.

### **Native American Symposium**

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, the Seminole State College Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions program hosted a week-long Native American Symposium on campus.

### **Family Fun Night at Reynolds Wellness Center**

Seminole State College employees and their families were guests at the Reynolds Wellness Center in Seminole for a “Family Fun Night.”

### **SSC Delegation Attended Legislative Forum**

Seminole State College employees and supporters travelled to Oklahoma City to participate in the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Fall Legislative Forum at the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame.

### **Women in Higher Education**

Seminole State College President Lana Reynolds was selected to speak on the Presidents Panel at the Oklahoma Women of Higher Education Fall Luncheon at the University of Central Oklahoma.

### **MLT Students Toured OU Children’s Hospital Lab**

Seminole State College/Gordon Cooper Technology Center Medical Laboratory Technician students toured the laboratory at the OU Children’s Hospital in Oklahoma City. Students learned how automation helps to improve patient care by delivering faster and more accurate results to the physicians.

### **SSC Art Club Field Trip**

Seminole State College Art Club students travelled to Dallas, Texas to view sculptures and paintings in the rich art district, including stops at the Nasher Sculpture Center and the Dallas Museum of Art.

## **December**

---



### **SSC Boren Center Ribbon Cutting**

Seminole State College employees, community members and supporters celebrated the official opening of the Dan and Andrea Boren Center on campus with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House.

### **Former SSC Students Selected for McNair Scholars Program**

Billy Andrew and Amanda Thomas, two Seminole State College graduates were selected to participate in the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program at East Central University in Ada. The McNair Scholars Program is a federal TRIO program funded at 151 institutions across the United States and Puerto Rico by the U.S. Department of Education.

### **Educator’s Workshop**

Seminole State College hosted a free workshop for area high school counselors and administrators. During the seminar, area high school officials learned more about legal issues in public education and heard from SSC personnel about current college admissions processes and services.

### **Night at the Lights**

Crowds of children and adults attended Seminole State College’s Night at the Lights event to tour Seminole’s Snowman Wonderland, make holiday crafts, enjoy snacks and listen to SSC’s Permanent Issue Band.

### **Finals Eve Dinner**

Seminole State College faculty and staff served Finals Eve Dinner to over 100 students from the college’s residence halls Monday Evening. Everyone joined in singing “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” to celebrate the season.

### **Santa’s Workshop**

Seminole State College student-athletes and coaches volunteered their time to wrap over 600 gifts for the annual Rotary Christmas Dinner in Seminole.

### **STEM Division Received Grant for New Program**

The Seminole State College STEM Division was awarded a \$20,000 Mentor Links Grant from the American Association of Community Colleges and the National Science Foundation to help with the development of a new Engineering Technology program at the College over the next two years.



### **Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel**

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on Thursday. Business and Education Division Chair/Assistant Professor of Business Brad Schatzel was honored as “Educator of the Month” and Upward Bound Director Rich Thornton was honored as “Professional Staff Member of the Month.”

