

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE COLLEGIAN

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Submitting to The Collegian

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ENROLL FOR SPRING TODAY



To secure your spot for the spring semester, visit sscok.edu or scan the **QR code**.

NEWS LEADERSHIP CLASS MAKES DONATION TO FOOD PANTRY



The Seminole State College Leadership Development class recently donated dozens of canned and packaged food goods to the Salvation Army. From Oct. 16-30, the class organized and collected donations. The pantry is overseen by Dr. Bill Knowles, Vice President for Student Affairs. The Leadership class is taught by Professor of History and former Phi Theta Kappa advisor Marta Osby.

NEWS FIRELAKE GOLF DONATES UTILITY VEHICLE TO SSC PROGRAM



Firelake Golf recently donated a Kubota RV 900 utility vehicle to the Seminole State College golf program. The vehicle will be used to pick up balls on the driving range for the men's and women's golf teams. Pictured (left to right): SSC men and women's golfers Brett Griffith, Chase Conner, Ryan Carlisle, Paola Gutierrez, Andrianna O'Daniel, Head Coach Ronnie Williamson, Firelake Golf Direct Chris Chesser, Brice Wolf, Carson Newton and Alexander Landon.

SSC WELCOMES NEW NURSING PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Newly appointed Seminole State College Nursing Director Dr. Misty Gray (seated center) hosted area nursing professional for a meeting with the college's nursing faculty last week. Seated left to right are faculty members: Ann Benson, Jessica Shelburne, Gray, Damaila Lester and Miranda Stewart. Advisory Board members (standing left to right) are: Dr. Darcy Duncan, Holly Kirkland, Alma Raegan, Brandi Ray, Ashley Fichtner, Cathy Broome, Molly Delaney, Megan Moore, Christa Williams and Rhonda Dallage.

Seminole State College has named Dr. Misty Gray to the position of Acting Nursing Director. Gray replaces Crystal Bray who is leaving the college to accept a position as the Nursing Education Consultant with the Oklahoma Board of Nursing.

Gray has 16 years of experience in home health and hospice, orthopedics, surgery, NICU, nursery, post-partum and emergency nursing. She has also spent seven years as a nursing instructor.

She graduated with her associate degree in nursing from SSC and holds a bachelor's, a master's and her doctorate from St. Gregory's University, Oklahoma Baptist University and Grand Canyon University, respectively.

She also has extensive experience working with state and national accred-

iting bodies.

"We are very fortunate to have Dr. Gray at the college and appreciate her willingness to take on this critical role on campus," SSC President Lana Reynolds said.

During her first week as Director, Gray hosted area nursing and health care professionals serving as an advisory board for the program for a luncheon on campus. Those in attendance included: Cathy Broome, Shawnee CNO, SSM Health; Holly Kirkland, Hospice Coordinator, SSM Health; Christa Williams, AHEC/Student Coordinator, McAlester Regional Health Center; Megan Moore, Nurse Educator, McAlester Regional Health Center; Dr. Darcy Duncan, Director/Associate Professor, School of Nursing, East Central Univer-

sity; Ashley Fichtner, Director of Partner School Outreach, Gordon Cooper Technology Center; Molly Delaney, Instructor, Wes Watkins Technology Center; Alma Reagan, Emergency Department Director, SSM Health; Brandi Ray, Director of Nursing, Creek Nation Community Hospital in Okemah; and Leah Burns, Education Manager, Bethany Children's Health Center.

Reynolds said the College was appreciative of Bray's long-time service as an instructor and recently as director of the program.

"We want to thank Ms. Bray for her tireless efforts to carry this important program out of the dark days of the COVID pandemic and to lead a great team in producing knowledgeable and caring nurses," President Reynolds said.

Earlier in the fall semester, SSC's nursing program was awarded a congressionally directed grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration in the amount of \$1,050,000. The grant is set to bring transformative changes to the department, focusing on the development and expansion of simulation labs.

Gray previously served as a Simulation Lab Coordinator at East Central University and is certified in Simulation Instruction and Management from Robert Morris University.

"We believe her expertise will be instrumental in utilizing new technologies in the classroom and preparing the next generation of nurses," President Reynolds said.

EVENTS HUNDREDS ATTEND TRIBAL FEST

Seminole State College hosted Tribal Fest on Nov. 1. The event was organized and sponsored by the College's federal grant programs: Student Support Services/SSS STEM, Talent Search, GEAR UP, NASNTI and Upward Bound. SSC students, community members, and hundreds of fifth through twelfth grade students from Butner, Justice, New Lima, Varnum and Seminole were in attendance. In the Cook Commons, several tribes had booths set up, providing information on education, career, housing, nutrition, graduation regalia and more. The Citizen Potawatomi, Choctaw, Sac and Fox, Muscogee, Chickasaw, Seminole, Absentee Shawnee and Cherokee Nations were all represented.



Sicangu Lakota rapper Frank Waln performed in the Jeff Johnston Auditorium. Waln has won three Native American Music Awards. In addition to his musical performance, Waln spoke to students about the value of higher education and his personal journey.



SSC Alumnus and Mr. Indigenous OU Asa Samuels performed fancy dancing throughout the morning at the event.

EVENTS CHEROKEE NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR TO PERFORM



The Cherokee National Youth Choir will perform at SSC on Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Jeff Johnston Auditorium.

The Seminole State College Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions federal grant program will host the Cherokee National Youth Choir on Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Jeff Johnston Auditorium. The choir will perform traditional Cherokee songs in the Cherokee language. The event is free and open to the public.

The CNYC is made up of middle and high school youth in 6th-12th grades from northeastern Oklahoma communities. The students compete in rigorous auditions every year for inclusion in the group. CNYC was formed to keep youth involved in the Cherokee language and culture. Choir members function as goodwill ambassadors, demonstrating that Cherokee language and culture continue to thrive in the modern era.

Founded in 2000, the group has recorded 12 albums and has performed with artists such as Foreigner, Dolly Parton, Vince Gill, Roy Clark, Kenny Rogers and the Oak Ridge Boys.

The group has performed at the Ma-

cy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., and at the Smithsonian's grand opening of the National Museum of the American Indian.

This performance will cap off NASNTI's series of cultural events for the fall, which included a performance by the Osage Ballet in August, a presentation by "Killers of the Flower Moon" author David Grann in September, a presentation on photography and native culture by Matika Wilbur in October, and a screening of the documentary "Searching for Sequoyah" in November.

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

PROFESSOR SPEAKS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING PANEL



SSC Psychology Professor Christal Knowles (far right) speaks on a human trafficking panel at the Governor's Mansion on Nov. 16.

Seminole State College Psychology Professor Christal Knowles spoke on a panel about human trafficking at the Pavilion on the grounds of the Governor's Mansion on Nov. 15. The panel was sponsored by the Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women (OCSW) and was titled "Solutions, Initiatives and Strategies to Stop Human Trafficking in Oklahoma."

Knowles received both her bachelor's degree in English and her master's degree in Behavioral Sciences at Cameron University. She has worked at SSC for 15 years. She is a tenured Professor of Psychology in the Social Sciences Division. She also spearheaded the launch of the SSC Help Center, which provides resources and counseling to students struggling with mental health issues. She continues to serve as the coordinator of the effort. She is also the faculty sponsor for the Psi Beta Psychology honor society. She serves on a several campus committees and is a member of the Faculty Senate. She is a lifelong Girl Scouts

member and co-leads a troop in Shawnee. She is also a member of the American Psychological Association. She was named SSC's faculty member of the year at the 2022 Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges Conference.

Knowles spoke alongside Dr. Nyla Khan, the OCSW Advisory Council Chair; Cara Lowder, a teacher at Wilburton Public Schools; Harley Ward a student at Wilburton schools; and Austin Rankin, a student at Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

OCSW, a state government commission established in 1994, advises the governor and legislature on issues impacting Oklahoma women to improve quality of life and increase economic opportunities. In 2023, the OCSW held several panel discussions on how to identify, intercept and stop human trafficking at colleges across the state, including SSC on Jan. 12.

For more information on OCSW, visit oklahoma.gov/ocsw.

SPEAKING WITH THE SPEAKER



Representatives of the Seminole State College President's Leadership Class met with Oklahoma Speaker of the House Charles McCall on Nov. 9 prior to his presentation at the Seminole Chamber of Commerce November Forum. The students presented the Speaker with some gifts from the College and spoke with him about their future plans. Pictured (left to right) are Daylan Saxon, Seminole freshman; Sutton Titsworth, Bristow freshman; Alex Harper, Coweta sophomore; Speaker McCall; and Ryan Carlisle, Arapaho sophomore.

SSC NAMED HEALTHY CAMPUS



Seminole State College has been recognized by the Oklahoma State Department of Health as a Certified Healthy Campus. Community Drug Overdose Prevention Coordinator Zane Winters (left) presented the award to SSC Wellness Committee Chair Mechell Downey (right) on Dec. 1. Certified Healthy Campus was created in 2011 to recognize both public and private post-secondary campuses and career technology centers that promote health and wellness for their faculty, staff, students, and even visitors.

SSC LIGHTS UP THE NIGHT WITH HOLIDAY FUN



Seminole State College hosted its annual Night at the Lights event on Dec. 4 at the Reynolds Wellness Center in Seminole. Local families enjoyed the community Snowman Wonderland light display, as well as cookies and hot chocolate provided by the College. Dozens of SSC students manned crafting stations, helping children create crafts.



Children shared their Christmas wishes and posed for pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, including Creed Kemp (pictured).



Many of the SSC students assisting with the event were student athletes. Several of the athletic staff were also present. Pictured (left to right): Women's Soccer Head Coach Dan Hill, Athletic Director Leslie Sewell, Women's Basketball Head Coach Rita Story-Schell, Women's Softball Head Coach Amber Flores, Men and Women's Golf Head Coach Ronnie Williamson, Women's Volleyball Head Coach Hannah Killian and Men's Basketball Head Coach Lucas Hunter.



SSC administrators pose for a photo in front of the Snowman Wonderland light display in Magnolia Park. Pictured (left to right): Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Amanda Estey, Vice President for Fiscal Affairs Melanie Rinehart, President Lana Reynolds and Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Bill Knowles.

SSC FAMILY REUNION: RETIREES RETURN TO CAMPUS FOR EVENT



Retirees from Seminole State College gathered Nov. 7 on campus to visit with friends and former colleagues, and to hear updates on the college from President Lana Reynolds. The group represents decades of service to the institution and the students it has served, dating back to the 1970s. Pictured left to right (front row) are Tom Stephens, Cynthia Yerby, Lanita Haynes, Mary Whitley, Gloria Wheeler, Annette Troglin Barnes, Dr. Donna Hardin, Mona Griffin, Judy James, Perthena Latchaw, Fred Bunyan, Jonna Bunyan and Lana Reynolds; (second row) Dr. Rebecca Kennedy, Patricia Cokeley, Dr. Richard Wood, Dr. Linda Goeller, Carol Hartman, Kelly Kirk, Mary Ann Hill, Larry Vickers and Larry Birdwell; (third row) Ronnie Williamson, Dan Factor, Marie Dawson, Dr. Noble Jobe and Ted Hurt; (fourth row) Rusty Beene, Kelly Chastain, Rick Hason and Robbie Lindsey.

CAMPUS OFFICES CLOSED FOR WINTER BREAK
DEC. 18 - JAN. 1

NEWS FORUM INSPIRES HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS IN STEM

An event for high school girls interested in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and entrepreneurial career opportunities was held on Dec. 5 at Seminole State College. The Young Enterprising Women Mentoring Forum took place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Haney Center at SSC.

Girls in the 9-12 grades from SSC's five-county service area—Lincoln, Pottawatomie, Seminole, Okfuskee and Hughes—were in attendance at the event.

The event, hosted by the Enterprising Women Foundation, in collaboration with the Institute for Economic Empowerment of Women and SSC, featured inspiring role models, networking opportunities, one-on-one mentoring, and career guidance for girls who aspire to explore and excel in STEM fields.



SSC Physical Therapist Assistant Program Director Shakira Stafford, CEO of South Central Industries Tina Hanna, Shawnee City Manager Andrea Weckmueller-Bebringer, Seminole Clinic physician Dr. Jenna Geolagan and CEO of Chappel Woods Financial Services Victoria Woods served on a panel answer questions from students regarding career opportunities and challenges on Dec. 5 at the YEW Mentoring Forum.

SPORTS SSC HOSTS SEND-OFF EVENT FOR SOCCER



SSC hosted a send-off event for the soccer team's fifth consecutive appearance at the NJCAA Division I National Tournament on Nov. 10 in the E.T. Dunlap Student Union. The team competed at the Stryker Sports Complex in Wichita on Nov. 12 and 14. The Trojans lost their matchup of the tournament to Cowley Community College with a final score of 4-1. The team would rally to defeat Salt Lake Community College in their second tournament game with a score of 2-1. However, the team did not earn enough points in pool play to remain in the tournament. The Trojans wrapped up the season with a final win-loss record of 20-1-1. The team is led by Head Coach Dan Hill.

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