

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE COLLEGIAN

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PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF

Former Belles basketball player describes her journey to the WNBA. [Page 4](#)

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Nursing held its pinning ceremony for graduates of the fall semester. [Page 3](#)



ADAPTIVE FIELD

Shade structure and further accessibility to be added to adaptive field. [Page 6](#)

NEWS SSC DELIVERS HOLIDAY CARDS TO VETERANS



Melissa Overfield (left), the Center for Development & Civic Engagement at the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center, accepts holiday greeting cards signed by the SSC campus community by Professor of History Mart Osby (right).

Seminole State College students, faculty, staff and administrators recently came together to deliver holiday cards to veterans as part of their annual Operation Veteran Appreciation and Holiday Cheer project.

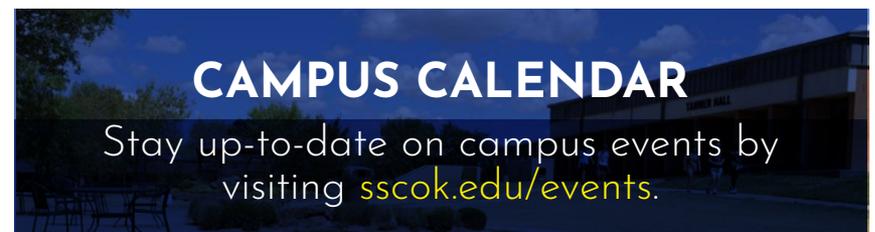
From Nov. 10-27, the campus community was asked to sign cards with thoughtful notes of thanks, appreciation and cheer for veterans during the holiday season. Two hundred cards were delivered to the VA Medical Center in OKC to hand out to veterans.

Melissa Overfield, the Center for Development and Civic Engagement Chief, was so thankful for the outpouring of support.

In addition, cards were delivered to Carl Odom, Commander of the Seminole American Legion Post # 204. Odom was touched by the gesture of strangers showing how much they appreciate veterans.

Professor of History Marta Osby who initiated the project in 2015, continues to oversee the effort.

"I am continually amazed by the support and thoughts expressed in our holiday cards for our veterans. In the busyness of the holiday season, so many of our veterans get overlooked. I want to personally thank each person who contributed. We are forever in the debt of these true heroes, our veterans."



Submitting to The Collegian

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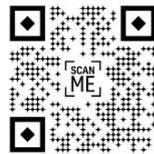
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FALL PINNING CEREMONY MARKS MILESTONE FOR SSC STUDENTS



Seminole State College held a pinning ceremony at the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on Dec. 7 for 15 nursing students expected to meet degree requirements this semester. The pinning ceremony also included candle lighting, signifying the transition from student to one of service. Since the nursing program began in 1972, nearly 1,100 nurses have launched their careers at SSC.



Presleigh Casteel (right) poses with her daughter Isabel (left) prior to the pinning ceremony. Casteel was the recipient of this semester's Tiffany Tiffin Spirit of Nursing Award. The award is given to a student demonstrates academic excellence and embodies the values of SSC's nursing program.



Nursing graduates and nursing faculty and staff pictured left to right, beginning with the **Back Row:** Assistant Professor of Nursing Shelby Parsons, Nursing Program Office Manager Julie Mathews, Former Nursing Director Crystal Bray, Assistant Nursing Professor Ann Benson, Jami Hammond, Connor Martin, Assistant Professor of Nursing Damaile Lester, Assistant Professor of Nursing Miranda Stewart and Assistant Professor of Nursing Jessica Shelburne. **Middle Row:** Cheyanne Lee, Rebecca Smith, Shelly Teape, Kerra Pack, Presleigh Casteel, Serenity Rezentes and Jada Hill. **Front Row:** Tina Buckmaster, Abigail Gilliam, Tara Gaines-Manship, Hayley Dale, Tosha Johnson, Casey Visnieski and Stephanie Newburn.

Former Seminole High School and Seminole Junior College basketball player Latricia Trammell recently completed her first season as the head coach of the WNBA's Dallas Wings. (Photo Provided by the Dallas Wings)

FEATURE



PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF: TRAMMELL'S 30-YEAR JOURNEY TO BECOMING A WNBA HEAD COACH

When Latricia Trammell was inducted into the Seminole State College Alumni Hall of Fame in 2018, someone asked her if she ever thought she'd be a coach in the WNBA when she was still a student at the college. "Without a doubt," Trammell said. "If sports have taught me anything, it's that if you do the right thing, work hard—and win, impossible is nothing."

Trammell, 55, has been a basketball coach for 30 years, but 2023 marked her first season as a head coach in the WNBA. The Dallas Wings named Trammell to the position last June.

Trammell's interest in coaching began at an early age and her dream was nurtured by a family who shared her passion for the sport.

"I always knew that I wanted to teach the game of basketball. I have three older brothers; two played college basketball, and the other wrote about it. I saw how rewarding it was for them and what it meant to be a part of a team," Trammell

said.

She was a star player at Seminole High School, where she scored a then state record of 46 points in a single game. She graduated in 1986 and went on to join the then Seminole Junior College Belles. She would graduate from SJC in 1988 and go on to East Central University, where she earned a degree in biology.

"In high school, I accomplished a lot athletically, and once I went to college, I had to learn a new system and embrace a new role. I understand what that feels like and can mentor players going through this same transition from college to professional basketball," Trammell said.

She cherishes her time as a Belles basketball player.

"My fondest memories are the relationships I built. The life lessons that have carried over to my professional career. I spent time with my family and had my dad as one of my college professors," Trammell said.



#14 TRAMMELL, LATRICIA

A 5'8" sophomore from Seminole, Okla. Latricia was a four year letterman in basketball. While at Seminole, she broke 16 school records and holds the scoring record of 46 pts. in a game. She was selected MVP in basketball and named Most Valuable Female Athlete in high school.

Photo and bio of Latricia Trammell from the 1987-88 Seminole Junior College Media Guide.



SSC Belles Basketball Coach Rita Story-Schell (right) inducts WNBA Coach Latricia Trammell (left) into the Seminole State College Alumni Hall of Fame on April 26, 2018.

Her father, Bob Trammell, served as a professor in the Math, Science and Engineering Division at the College and would later become the Vice President for Contiguous Education.

She began her coaching career at the high school level, working in both Oklahoma and Texas. She led Midwest City High School to two state championships and Billy Ryan High School, in Denton, Texas, to three district titles.

In 2003, she served as an assistant coach at Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas. Trammell then moved on to be an assistant coach at Oklahoma City University in 2005. She became the head coach of Western Colorado University in Gunnison, Colorado in 2007 and guided the program to its first winning season in 12 years.

She returned to Oklahoma City University in 2012 and won back-to-back NAIA national championships in 2014 and 2015. She was named the NAIA Coach of the Year twice and compiled a record of 103-15.

Georgia State University hired her as an assistant coach in 2015, and she helped the team reach the Sun Belt Conference tournament semifinals for the first time in program history.

She then made the jump to the WNBA in 2017, joining the San Antonio Stars as an assistant coach. She moved to the Los Angeles Sparks in 2019 and worked under head coach Derek Fisher. She was known for her defensive focus and helped four players earn WNBA All-Defensive honors, including Candace Parker, who won the Defensive Player of the Year award in 2020.

During her time as a player, Trammell focused on offense and struggled on the defensive side of the game. But as her coaching career took off, she had to quickly develop a keen understanding of a successful defense.

"In the early stages of my career, I was put in charge of defense. This was an area of growth for me. I had to dive into that side of the basketball, read books, go and watch practices, and pick



Latricia Trammell (left) and Chad McKee (right) sit at the commentary booth prior to an OU game. During the WNBA offseason, Trammell works as a commentator for women's college basketball.

coaches' brains about the importance of defense. As a college coach going to the National Tournament for several years and winning back-to-back National Championships, it always depended on getting stops in the stretch and being disruptive," Trammell said.

When recruiting players, Trammell looks for individuals with the skill set to play with and compete against the best players in the world. She seeks players who work hard, study the game of basketball, are coachable, want to make a difference and move the game forward positively, are disciplined, have a competitive spirit and have the will to win and make an immediate impact.

Landing her current role as head coach of the Dallas Wings was a dream come true for Trammell, but it came with its own set of challenges. The team ended the regular season with a record of 22-18 and placed second in the Western Conference. In the playoffs, the Wings won the First Round against the Atlanta Dream but lost in the WNBA Semifinals

to the Las Vegas Aces. It was the Wings' best performance since the franchise relocated to Texas in 2016.

"I want to win a championship while building relationships along the way and helping players use their platforms in areas that are important to them," Trammell said.

In the off-season, Trammell works as a commentator for women's college basketball. She found herself in the broadcasting booth because it would be a great way to stay in touch with college coaches and players. Commentating also allows her to connect with college coaches and players.

When she is around aspiring WNBA athletes, she thinks about the advice she wishes she had received during her own playing days.

"Don't be so hard on yourself. Make or miss—enjoy the journey," Trammell said.

AVEDIS FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO ENHANCE ADAPTIVE FIELD



The Avedis Foundation recently awarded a \$70,000 grant to the SSC Educational Foundation to add a shade structure to the adaptive field located within the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex.

The Avedis Foundation has awarded a \$70,000 grant to the SSC Educational Foundation to add a shade structure and update handicap-accessible seating to the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex's adaptive field.

The field, named the Avedis Adaptive Field, which opened in 2022, is designed for people with physical and cognitive disabilities. It is the home of A League of Their Own, a co-ed softball league for young people with disabilities. The field is also utilized for t-ball games in the summer months.

The shade structure will provide pro-

tection from the sun and heat for volunteers and spectators. It will also enhance the aesthetics and functionality of the complex.

"We are grateful to the Avedis Foundation for their generous support of this project," Lance Wortham, Chair of the SSC Educational Foundation, said. "The shade structure will make the adaptive field more comfortable and enjoyable for everyone who uses it, and the updates to our handicap seating will create a more accessible environment for our visitors."

The Avedis Foundation, established in 2012 in Shawnee, supports a vision to

measurably improve the health, wellness and quality of life for the people of Pottawatomie County and its surrounding communities. In 2020, the Avedis Foundation awarded a \$250,000 grant to the SSC Educational Foundation for the construction of the adaptive field.

"The Avedis Foundation is proud to support the SSC Educational Foundation and the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex," Dr. Kathy Laster, President and CEO of the Avedis Foundation, said. "The adaptive field is a wonderful asset for the community that promotes inclusion, recreation and wellness

for people of all abilities."

The SSC Educational Foundation is a nonprofit organization that supports SSC and its students through scholarships, grants and capital improvements.

For their collaboration, the SSC Educational Foundation and the Avedis Foundation were recognized at the Business Partnership Excellence Awards on April 27, 2023. The awards were sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and honor partnerships that lead to significant contributions in educating and developing the state's workforce.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HONORS TWO SSC EMPLOYEES

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their hard work and dedication during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on Dec. 14. Assistant Professor of STEM and Accreditation Coordinator Dr. Deanna Miles was honored as Faculty Member of the Month and Coordinator of Distance Education Laura Votaw as Staff Member of the Month.

The Seminole Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, along with the Lions Club and Kontoor Brands/Wrangler, recognize SSC employees several times during Forum each year. Individuals are nominated from across the campus and chosen by SSC administrators to receive the honor.

Miles has worked at SSC for four years. She teaches courses in Human Anatomy and Physiology, Applied Anatomy and Pathophysiology, as well as other Biology courses as needed. She serves as the Biology Degree Mentor, advising Biology and Health Sciences students. She also works with other STEM faculty and the SSC advising office to ensure students know the courses to take in order to successfully transfer into Allied Health programs, as well as four-year degree programs. As the Accreditation Coordinator, she organizes the editing and research involved in the College's Higher Learning Commission accreditation process.

Miles received her bachelor's degree from Baylor University, her master's degree in Healthcare Administration from Grand Canyon University and her medical doctorate from the University of Oklahoma.



The Seminole Chamber of Commerce recognized Coordinator of Distance Education Laura Votaw (left) as the Staff Member of the Month and Assistant Professor of STEM and Accreditation Coordinator Dr. Deanna Miles (right) as the Faculty Member of the Month at their forum on Dec. 14.

She is the Vice President of the SSC Faculty Senate, she serves on the Distance Education and Assessment Committee and assists with the PRIDE student organization.

She and her spouse Nabilah reside in Oklahoma City.

Votaw has worked at SSC for 10 years. As the Coordinator of Distance Education, she supervises the Online Degree Program and serves as an advisor. She

also coordinates the Reach Higher Program, which assists working adults who have completed some college coursework return to higher education and complete their degrees.

She earned her associate degree in Behavioral Sciences at SSC, her bachelor's degree in Human Service Counseling at East Central University and her master's degree in Human Service Counseling: Executive Leadership from Liberty Uni-

versity.

She is a member of the Council for Online Learning Excellence, the SSC Professional Staff Council and serves on a number of committees on campus, including the Student Success Committee, Institutional Assessment Committee and Distance Education Committee.

She and her husband, Gregory, reside in Seminole.

SSC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION HOSTS HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER



The Seminole State College Educational Foundation hosted its annual Holiday Reception fundraising event on Dec. 11 at the Crossing Hearts Ranch in Tecumseh. Over 100 people were in attendance and the event raised more than \$27,000 for scholarships and capital projects at the College.



Pictured (left to right) President of SSM Health St. Anthony – Shawnee Angi Mohr, SSC President Lana Reynolds and President and CEO of the Avedis Foundation Dr. Kathy Laster pose for a photo at the event. Both Mohr and Laster also serve on the SSC Educational Foundation's Board of Trustees.



Former Oklahoma State Senators Harry Coates (left) and Charlie Laster (right) greet current State Senator Grant Green (center) at the Holiday Reception on Dec. 11.



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