

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE COLLEGIAN

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Spring Banquet Draws Large Crowd

Students, employees, retirees and alumni were honored at the SSC Educational Foundation's Spring Banquet on April 27.

Page 4

Plus

Commencement [Page 3](#)

Agriculture Meet [Page 6](#)

Golf Wins [Page 7](#)

Submitting to The Collegian

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Stay up-to-date with all campus news by visiting sscok.edu/media. You can also view our collection of archives, which includes past issues of The Collegian.



Learn more about campus COVID-19 safety precautions at SSC's Coronavirus Response page.

Here you'll find important updates, CARES Act scholarship information, mental health resources and links to Centers for Disease Control data.

Explore the Response Page [here](#).

Students Inducted Into Psi Beta Honor Society



Pictured (left to right): Taleigh Estrada of Meeker, Emma Buchanan of Chandler, Emilia Gates of Seminole, Carrie Yerby of Maud, Hannah Ridley of Tecumseh, Abigail Ridley of Tecumseh and Tara Pool of Shawnee pose for a photo following the Psi Beta Induction.

Seminole State College's chapter of the Psi Beta recently inducted ten new members into the honor society. Students inducted were: Emma Buchanan of Chandler, Taleigh Estrada of Meeker, Emilia Gates of Seminole, Alexis Goddard of Prague, Lorelei Grills of Holdenville, Timothy Heath of Shawnee, Tara Pool of Shawnee, Abigail Ridley of Tecumseh, Hannah Ridley of Tecumseh and Carrie Yerby of Maud.

After students were inducted, they were presented with a pin, certificate of achievement and honor stole to wear at commencement, as well as SSC memorabilia. Two students were awarded the Psi Beta honor medal: Abigail and Hannah Ridley for exhibiting outstanding performance in meeting the mission of Psi Beta- excellence in scholarship, leadership, research and community service.

This year students helped the SSC community by coordinating and host-

ing Mental Health Awareness Day that brought community agencies to campus to share information and resources with students. Psi Beta students also created and distributed hundreds of stress-relief packets with stress coping strategies and a stress-relief toy to their fellow students. They also sponsored a table at the SSC Trick-or-Treat Trail and passed out candy to children and families.

Professor of Psychology Christal Knowles serves as the faculty sponsor for the group.

"All of these students have demonstrated not only the intellectual capability to succeed in the classroom, but they also have demonstrated a strong commitment to serve their community. I am very proud of these students and what they have accomplished in their academic careers, and I anticipate many more great things from them in the future," Knowles said.

Chickasaw Nation Legislator Lisa Johnson-Billy to Speak at SSC Commencement

Seminole State College will hold its 90th Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 5, for students completing coursework requirements for their degree programs. The graduation ceremony will be held at 10:30 a.m. inside the Raymond Harber Field House on campus.

Following the processional, Oklahoma State Representative Kevin Wallace (R-District 32) will offer the invocation. President Lana Reynolds will welcome guests and offer special comments.

This year's commencement address will be delivered by Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature Chairperson Lisa Johnson-Billy. In 2004, Lisa was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives District 42, becoming the first Native American woman to serve in the House. She termed out in 2016 as the floor leader, only the second woman in Oklahoma's history to serve in that position. While in office she created the Native American caucus and served as the Public Safety Appropriation Chair. In 2019 She was appointed the first cabinet secretary for Native American affairs in Oklahoma.

She and her husband Phillip, an Air Force veteran, have been married for 30 years and have three young adult children who each serve in the military.

Johnson-Billy completed her bachelor's degree at Northeastern State University and her master's degree at the University of Oklahoma.

Following the commencement address, Dr. Amanda Estey, Vice President for Academic Affairs, will present degree candidates, and President Reynolds will confer degrees.

Graduates of the SSC Nursing Program will complete their commencement activities with a special "Pinning Ceremony" inside the Enoch Kelly Haney Center's Utterback Ballroom. The nursing ceremony is scheduled for 12 p.m.

SSC's commencement ceremony will be live streamed this year. Those who will not be able to attend the ceremony in person can visit Seminole State College's website, www.sscok.edu, to access the live footage on the day of the event. The live footage will also be playing inside the Jeff Johnston Fine Arts Center on campus. This will provide an additional location for guests to sit and enjoy the program if the Raymond Harber Field House reaches capacity.

Campus offices will be closed to the public on Friday morning, May 5, to allow staff time to prepare for commencement exercises. Prior to commencement and following the ceremony, the SSC Bookstore and The Flower Box will have pop-up shops set up outside of the E.T. Dunlap Student Union. Campus offices will reopen at 1:30 p.m.

For additional information regarding graduation activities, contact the Office of Admissions at 405-382-9230.



*Lisa Johnson-Billy
Chairperson
Chickasaw Nation Legislature*

Graduation Live Stream



Stream will go live at **10:15 a.m.** on **SSC's YouTube channel**. Commencement Exercises will begin at **10:30 a.m.**

You can also scan the QR code below.



Spring Banquet Draws Large Crowd

The Seminole State College Educational Foundation hosted its 28th Annual Spring Banquet on Thursday, April 27 in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on campus. More than 400 people were in attendance.

The event serves as a major fundraiser for the foundation. This year's event raised over \$40,000 for student scholarships and campus capital projects.

Accomplishments by alumni, employees and students were recognized at the event. Former students Chris Schroder, Ron Sosbee and Dion Wild were inducted into the SSC Alumni Hall of Fame. Recipients are selected for their achievements while attending the College, as well as the contributions they have made in their professional careers. Schroder is currently the Executive Director of the Association of County Commissioners. Sosbee is retired from a career of public service and Dion Wild is a Trooper for the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

The Hall of Fame inductees were introduced by Phil Johnson, Director of the Alternative Dispute Resolution System at the Oklahoma Supreme Court; Katherine Benton, former SSC Vice President for Fiscal Affairs; and Tim Green, Director of Missions at the South Canadian Baptist Association of Churches.

Fred and Jonna Bunyan received the Distinguished Service Award. Fred worked at SSC from 1976 to 2014 as an Instructor of Business and Accounting. Jonna worked at SSC from 1975 to 2013, first as the Director of Library Resources and later as the Student Support



Former SSC students Ron Sosbee (left), Dion Wild (center) and Chris Schroder (right) were inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame.

Services Program Director.

Campus organizational leaders were also recognized at the banquet, including Faculty Senate President Wendy Rich, Professional Staff President Caitlin Brown, Classified Staff President Tisha Simon and Student Government Association President Georgia Ledford.

Each division on campus has selected an outstanding student to be recognized at the event: Hailey Wallace of Wellston, Business and Education; Christopher Howell of Wewoka, Health Sciences; Abby Ridley of Tecumseh, Language Arts and Humanities; Mark Ellis of Shawnee, Social Sciences; and Emily Fulghum of Sparks, STEM.

Two employees were recognized for reaching milestone years of employment

with the College. Director of Information Technology and Chief Information Security Officer Marc Hunter was honored for his 25 years at SSC. Director of Financial Assistance Edith Cathey was recognized for her 20 years of service.

Three employees were recognized for their upcoming retirement: Talent Search Director Mary Ann Hill, Assistant Professor of Life Sciences Dr. Noble Jobe, and Upward Bound Head Coordinator of Math/Science I Ronnie Williamson.

The College's Educational Foundation was established in 1972 to "supply aid for charitable, benevolent educational, scientific and literary purposes." For more information on the foundation, visit sscok.edu/foundation.



Former longtime SSC employees Jonna and Fred Bunyan received Distinguished Service Awards.

Spring Banquet Cont.



Each of the five academic divisions named one Outstanding Student of the Year. Pictured (left to right): Mark Ellis of Shawnee, Christopher Howell of Wewoka, Abby Ridley of Tecumseh, Emily Fulghum of Sparks and Hailey Wallace of Wellston.



SSC President Lana Reynolds (far left) and SSC Educational Foundation Chair Lance Wortham (far right) congratulate Dr. Noble Jobe and Mary Ann Hill on their upcoming retirements.



Director of Information Technology and Chief Information and Security Officer Marc Hunter (center left) was honored for reaching 25 years of employment at the College. Edith Cathey (center right), Director of Financial Services, was honored for 20 years of service to the College.



Campus organizational leaders were honored at the banquet. Pictured (left to right): SSC President Reynolds, Student Government Association President Georgia Ledford, Classified Staff Association President Tisha Simon, Professional Staff Council President Caitlin Brown, Faculty Senate President Wendy Rich and SSC Educational Foundation Chair Lance Wortham.

Aggie Club Hosts Annual FFA Interscholastic Contest



The SSC Aggie Club hosted its fifth annual SSC FFA Interscholastic Contest on Thursday, April 13. Aggie Club sponsor and Assistant Professor of Agriculture Wendy Rich organized the event and welcomed attendees before the contest began.



More than 600 students from 66 schools across the state participated in the event. Students competed in eight different contests – Animal Science Quiz Bowl, Milk Quality and Products, Electricity, 8th Grade Green-hand Quiz, Entomology, Environmental and Natural Resources, Floriculture, Homesite Evaluation, Land Judging, Turfgrass Management and Soil and Water Management.

Disabilities in the Workplace Presentation Held at SSC

Seminole State College students recently attended “Understanding Disabilities in the Workplace,” a career development program presented by South Central Industries Executive Director Tina Hanna. The event was sponsored by Student Support Services and STEM Student Support Services.

“The workplace – and the workforce – is always changing and we need to learn to change with it. Presentations like this one show that diversity and inclusivity are necessary for progress. I am

so pleased to know that an organization like South Central Services exists – and exists in Oklahoma,” SSS Advisor Megan Goff said.

Students in attendance gained a greater knowledge of educational and occupational opportunities for individuals with disabilities, advocating for self and others regarding disabilities and the types of services provided to individuals with disabilities by South Central Industries.

The Seminole State College SSS

Project is 100% federally funded in the amount of \$294,725 annually. The Seminole State College STEM SSS Project is 100 percent federally funded in the amount of \$261,888 annually.

SSS and STEM SSS are two federally funded grants that are hosted at SSC. Both Projects serve first-generation, economically disadvantaged, and disabled students. For more information, contact Janna Wilson-Byrd, Director of Projects, at 405-382-9642. The Projects can also be viewed on the SSC website, sscok.edu.



South Central Industries Executive Director Tina Hanna speaks to SSC students.

SSC Taking Applications for Engineering Camp for High School Students



{File Photo} High school students learn about construction during the Peek into Engineering Summer Camp in July of 2022.

Applications are now open for Seminole State College's Peek into Engineering Summer Camp. The residential camp is open to high school students enrolled in 9th through 12th grade in the fall of 2023. Students will spend July 23-July 28 on SSC's campus, learning how to build underwater remote-operated vehicles.

The camp is offered for free to students through a grant from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Space is limited, so applying early is encouraged.

"I would recommend this camp for high school students that might be interested in learning more about engineering and what engineers do. This camp doesn't require prior knowledge of electronics. It's a summer camp for students that are undecided about what they might want to study in college to pursue

a career in engineering or a related field," camp organizer and SSC Professor of Mathematics Jarrod Tollett said.

Throughout the camp, students will hear from guest speakers who work in engineering as well as stakeholders in college courses related to the field. They will also visit either the University of Oklahoma or Oklahoma State University. The schedule of events will be finalized in the coming weeks. While at the camp, students will reside in either the Seminole Nation Residential Learning Center or the Roesler Residential Learning Center, the student housing buildings located on SSC's campus.

To apply for the summer camp, visit sscok.edu and select the Sponsored/Grant Programs tab. Applications can be found under Peek into Engineering Summer Academy.

SSC Baseball Team Volunteers at A League of Their Own Opener



Seminole State College Trojan baseball players worked with members of "A League of Their Own" at the Avedis Foundation Adaptive Field, located within the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex on April 3. The "League" is a co-ed softball league established to provide an avenue for individuals with cognitive or physical disabilities to play baseball. Trojan players volunteered for the group's season opener. The "League" plays on Monday evenings and will continue their season through May 22. For more information about the group, contact Holli Daniels at 405-380-7027.



The SSC softball team volunteered at games on May 1. They encouraged and assisted nearly 40 participants as they hit and ran the bases.

Seminole Chamber Honors SSC Personnel

Athletics

Golf Team Wins District Championship in Playoff



The Seminole State College golf team won the NJCAA Men's D2 South Central District Championship title on April 29.

The Seminole State Trojans earned a spot in the NJCAA Men's Division 2 Golf Championship and collected an NJCAA Men's D2 South Central District Championship title with a sudden-death playoff win on April 29 at Shawnee Country Club.

During the South Central District Tournament's final round, the team leaderboard was in a state of constant change as the players from Seminole, Murray State College of Oklahoma, Hesston College of Kansas and Mineral Area College of Missouri battled through windy conditions to reach hole locations meant to challenge the athletes in the final round. Each of those four teams would occupy the spot at the

top of the leaderboard for brief periods. Eventually at the end of the scheduled rounds, Seminole and Murray State were locked in a two-way tie for the championship with 3-round total scores of 921.

In the first sudden-death playoff hole, the Trojan line-up of Carson Newton, Kenneth Lupp, Brice Wolff, Ryan Carlisle and Conner Compton carded five pars which would be enough to break the tie with the Aggies and earn the title.

Their tournament finish earned SSC a berth in the NJCAA Men's Division 2 National Championship to be held at Swan Lake Resort in Plymouth, Indiana May 23-26. This will be the Trojans second trip to the NJCAA final event in the past 3 years.



Staff Member of the Month Julie Hix and Faculty Member of the Month Damaila Lester were recognized at the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum April 13

Two Seminole State College employees were recognized for their hard work and dedication during the monthly Seminole Chamber of Commerce Forum on April 13. Nursing Instructor Damaila Lester was honored as Faculty Member of the Month, and Comptroller Julie Hix was honored 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.

Lester has worked at SSC for nearly three years. In her role, she has taught Medical-Surgical Nursing II, as well as clinicals for the course at the hospital.

While in high school, she attended SSC concurrently then went on to earn her bachelor's degree in Nursing from Oklahoma City University. She completed her master's degree in Nursing at

Northeastern State University.

Lester serves on the SSC Faculty Senate Scholarship Committee, leads a study group for nursing students once a week and volunteers at the Salvation Army. She, her husband, Brad, and their daughter, Margo, make their home in Tecumseh.

For the last 17 years, Hix has worked at SSC. After serving as the Director of the GEAR UP federal grant program, she took on the position of Comptroller last year. In that role, she manages campus budgets and purchasing processes, while keeping all general ledger accounts and state cash accounts in balance.

She earned her associate's degree at SSC, her bachelor's degree in at East Central University and her master's degree in Education Administration at East Central University.

She is a member of the SSC Professional Staff Council. She and her husband, Tony, reside in Seminole. They have three sons, Justin, Jarrod and Jordan.