

# SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE COLLEGIAN

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## A LEAGUE FOR ALL

SSC baseball volunteers at A League of Their Own  
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## INTERSCHOLASTIC MEET

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[SSCOK.EDU](http://SSCOK.EDU)

## Submitting to The Collegian

"The Seminole State Collegian" is published during the fall and spring semesters by the Seminole State College Office of Media Relations, under the direction of Josh Hutton. The staff reserves the right to edit submitted material for spelling and style. Consideration is given to all submitted material, but submission does not ensure publication. No anonymous material will be considered. All views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of Seminole State College. "The Collegian" is distributed on the SSC campus and mailed to more than 300 friends of the college.

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



NEVER MISS A GAME OF **SSC SPORTS**

Students and employees can attend every SSC athletic event for free with a campus ID. View sports schedules at [sscathletics.com](http://sscathletics.com).

## PTA Program Helps Students Stretch and Learn



Seminole State College's Physical Therapist Assistant Program hosted "Get Stretched" on March 25, giving students an opportunity to learn about physical therapy techniques and guided stretching from PTA students and faculty. Pictured, from left, Director of Clinical Instruction Dr. Alexis Thomas and PTA student Paitlyn Edmondson of Shawnee guide SSC student Caleb Hines of Edmond through a series of stretches. SSC's PTA program is housed at the Gordon Cooper Technology Center campus in Shawnee.



SSC PTA students Diana Baiz, left, and Lacy Howell, right, both of Shawnee, sell walking tacos during a campus fundraiser on March 25. The PTA program is currently accepting applications for new students.

# Enrollment Opens for Summer and Fall Courses at SSC



*Enrollment is now open for summer and fall classes at Seminole State College. Students can visit [sscok.edu](http://sscok.edu) to view course options and take the next steps toward enrolling.*

Enrollment opened March 30 for summer and fall courses at Seminole State College. Prospective and returning students can explore class offerings and complete application steps by visiting SSC's website at [sscok.edu](http://sscok.edu). The website also provides access to class schedules, admissions information and financial aid resources.

SSC offers a wide range of associate degree options designed to help students transfer to a four-year institution or enter the workforce quickly. Many programs are available online or in flexible formats to help students

balance college with work and family responsibilities.

In 2025, SSC expanded its academic offerings with several new degree emphases aimed at aligning students with high-demand career fields and transfer opportunities. New options include Agriculture Education, Esports, Computer Science Programming, Cybersecurity and Social Sciences.

SSC is also launching a new Paralegal Studies degree program in August, expanding options for students interested in legal, governmental and

nonprofit careers. The curriculum will cover civil and criminal law, constitutional law, contracts, torts, family law, wills and estates, criminal law and procedure, civil law and procedure, legal research and writing, legal reporting, law office calendaring and client trust accounting.

The planned paralegal degree would prepare students for work supporting attorneys through legal research, document preparation and case organization. Nationally, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics says paralegals and legal assistants typi-

cally enter the field with an associate degree or certificate, earned a median annual wage of \$61,010 in May 2024, and are projected to have about 39,300 openings each year on average over the 2024-34 decade.

For enrollment assistance, students may contact SSC's advising team at 405-382-9797 or visit the Walkingstick Student Services Center on campus. Additional admissions information is available through SSC's website.

# A League of Their Own Opens Season with Help from SSC Baseball



Members of the Seminole State College baseball team pose with players from A League of Their Own following the league's home opener March 30 at the Avedis Foundation Adaptive Field inside the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex. The co-ed softball league provides individuals with cognitive or physical disabilities the opportunity to play baseball. This season, 54 players are participating. The league will continue play through the end of May with doubleheaders on Monday evenings.



Andrew Taber of Bethany, left, A League of Their Own Director Holli Daniels, back center, and Ethan Rich of Prague, right, cheer on Alex Tilley of Seminole as he rounds third base.



Emma Bilyea of Prague smiles as she runs to first base while Nate Quickstad of Keller, Texas, tries to keep up.



## Nursing Students Puts Skills to the Test in Rural Hospital Drill

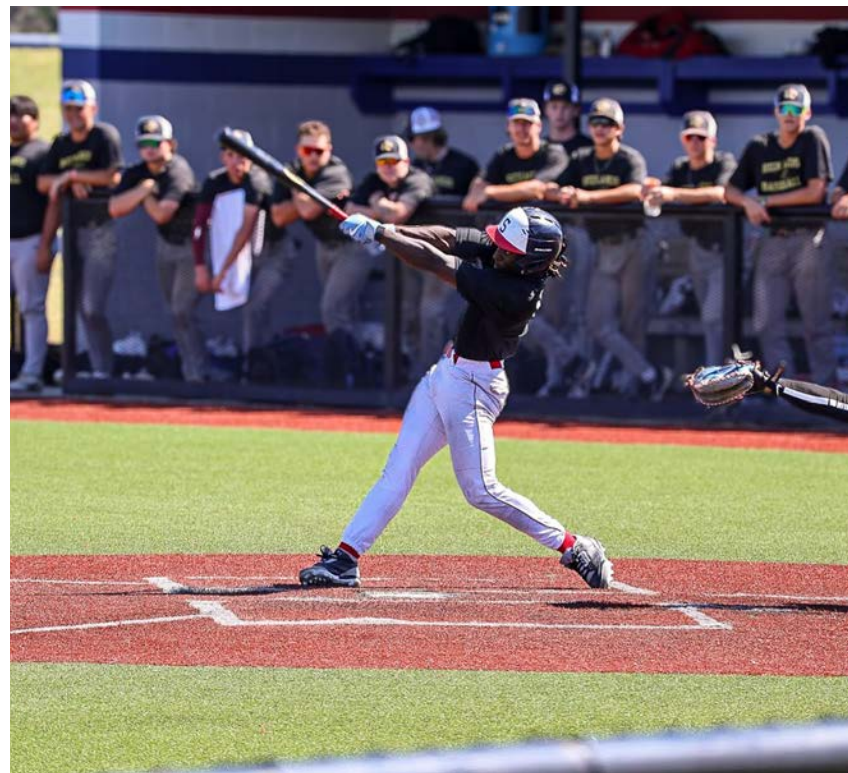


*Seminole State College nursing students participated in a simulation training event on March 25, working through a rural hospital scenario in which patients overwhelmed the facility and staff had to make rapid decisions with limited personnel and resources. The exercise included emergency room triage and patient transfers to medical-surgical, intensive care unit, obstetrics/pediatrics, helicopter transport or discharge home, challenging students to quickly assess each patient's condition and determine the highest priority for care.*



*SSC seniors in the Leadership class managed the rural hospital drill organized by Assistant Professor of Nursing Butch Cantrell, giving students a culminating opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they have developed throughout the program. The exercise challenged participants to draw on classroom learning and use critical thinking in real time, helping prepare them for the demands of their future nursing careers.*

## SSC Baseball to Retire Denim Harris' Jersey



*Seminole State College will retire the jersey of Trojan baseball player Denim Harris on Saturday, April 4, at 12:30 p.m. at Lloyd Simmons Field in the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex.*

Seminole State College will retire the jersey of Trojan baseball player Denim Harris during a ceremony on Saturday, April 4, at 12:30 p.m. at Lloyd Simmons Field, located in the Brian Crawford Memorial Sports Complex.

Harris, an outfielder on the SSC baseball team and a 2025 graduate of Mansfield Timberview High School in Texas, died in a car accident on Oct. 16, 2025. He was 18.

The College will retire Harris' No. 6 jersey prior to the Trojans' home game that day. Friends, family, alumni and community members are invit-

ed to attend.

Harris joined the Trojan baseball program in 2025 and was remembered by teammates, coaches and loved ones for his passion for the game, competitive spirit and the impact he made on those around him.

"Retiring Denim's jersey is a meaningful way to honor his place in our program and the mark he left on our team," SSC Head Baseball Coach Mack Chambers said. "We want his family, friends and everyone who knew him to see how deeply he will always be remembered here."

# Interscholastic Meet Draws Students from 33 High Schools



Area high school students competing in Seminole State College's 52nd annual Interscholastic Meet gather in the E.T. Dunlap Student Union.

Students from high schools across the state competed in Seminole State College's 52nd annual Interscholastic Meet on March 26.

Nearly 500 students representing 33 high schools were included in this year's results. Division I was composed of students from schools classified as 3A, 4A and 5A. Students from 2A and A class schools competed in Division II.

A trophy was awarded to the top school in each division based on the accumulation of points and medal placings. Preston High School won the Division I sweepstakes title, with

Morris High School finishing as runner-up. In Division II, Agra High School earned the sweepstakes championship. New Lima High School was the runner-up, edging third-place Varnum High School by just two points.

Exams were administered in 15 academic subject areas. Art categories included sculpture, painting, drawing and best in show. The top five winners in each academic subject and the top three winners in each art category were recognized.

Individual results can be found on the SSC news webpage, [sscok.edu/media](http://sscok.edu/media).

## GEAR UP Program Hosts Oklahoma's Promise Event

Seminole State College's Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, or GEAR UP, hosted an Oklahoma's Promise Family Event on March 7 in the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on campus.

The event gave students and parents an opportunity to learn more about Oklahoma's Promise, enroll in the scholarship program and receive additional information about SSC's GEAR UP services.

Oklahoma's Promise allows qualified Oklahoma students to earn a scholarship for college or technology center tuition. The program is administered by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Eligible students must meet residency, income, academic and conduct requirements, and applications must be submitted before a student's official

high school graduation date. Parents and students can find the Oklahoma's Promise application and more information at [okpromise.org](http://okpromise.org).

SSC's GEAR UP program is funded through the college's GEAR UP – Believe and Achieve federal grant. The \$6.5 million grant provides \$934,400 annually over a seven-year period, beginning Sept. 1, 2024, and is designed to help increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

The grant serves approximately 1,168 students across 12 school districts: Asher, Holdenville, Konawa, Maud, Moss, Okemah, Seminole, Strother, Tecumseh, Varnum, Wetumka and Wewoka.

SSC's GEAR UP program begins working with students in the sixth and seventh grades and continues support-



SSC GEAR UP Educational Coordinators (from left) Leah Martin, Zoe Blue and Kate Sprague greet attendees at the Oklahoma's Promise Family Event on March 7.

ing them through their first year of postsecondary education. In addition to helping families understand Oklahoma's Promise, the program provides workshops, academic enrichment, mentoring, educational field trips, summer camps and financial aid information. It also offers professional

development for educators and training for parents on the importance of secondary education.

The March 7 event was designed to help families better understand the steps students can take now to prepare for college and access available financial support opportunities.

# SSC Earns Military Friendly School Designation



*Seminole State College students plant flags on campus ahead of SSC's third annual Military and Veteran Resource Fair in November 2025. The annual event reflects SSC's continued support for military-connected students, veterans and their families.*

Seminole State College has been designated a 2026-2027 Military Friendly School by Viqtory, earning Silver Status for its commitment to supporting military-affiliated students. The College was also recognized as a Military Spouse Friendly School for 2026-2027.

The Military Friendly designation honors colleges that meet high standards in student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment and support services tailored to veterans, active-duty servicemembers and their families. SSC's Silver Status places it among institutions nationwide recognized for outstanding service to military students.

"Seminole State College is proud to serve those who have served our country, as well as the spouses and families who support them," SSC President Lana Reynolds said. "These recognitions reflect our commitment to creating a welcoming campus and helping active service members and veterans reach their academic and career goals."

SSC has recently expanded its military support initiatives. Through the Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance Program, the College now offers textbook waivers for eligible servicemembers. Additionally, SSC hosts an annual Military and Veteran Resource Fair, connect-

ing attendees with more than 40 organizations offering services such as benefits counseling, job placement, healthcare access and mental health resources.

SSC's Military and Veteran Benefit Services office serves as the College's liaison to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and assists eligible students with the certification of education benefits. The College also provides readmission support for servicemembers whose studies are interrupted by military service. Stacey Foster serves as SSC's VA School Certifying Officer.

"We want our military-connected students and families to feel support-



*SSC VA School Certifying Officer  
Stacey Foster*

ed, informed and confident as they pursue their education," Foster said. "Our goal is to help them access the benefits and resources available to them and make their experience at SSC as successful as possible."

The annual Military Friendly Schools survey is offered at no cost to thousands of institutions nationwide. Schools are evaluated using public data and responses to Viqtory's proprietary survey.

For more information on military and veteran services at SSC, visit [sscoc.edu/admissions/military-and-veteran-benefit-services](http://sscoc.edu/admissions/military-and-veteran-benefit-services) or contact Stacey Foster at 405-382-9510 or [s.foster@sscoc.edu](mailto:s.foster@sscoc.edu).

## Exotic Animals Prowl SSC

*Seminole State College's Student Activities welcomed exotic animals to campus on March 4. Extreme Animals, of Oklahoma City, brought in various animals, including a wallaby, a lemur, various snakes and many others. Students were able to interact with the animals, under the supervision of Extreme Animals staff. Pictured: SSC freshmen Becca Williams of Cache, Emma Noey of Seminole and Kennedy Johnson of Stillwater hold a wallaby during the Extreme Animals event on campus. Wallabies are members of the kangaroo family and are native to Australia.*



# Board of Regents Approve Emeritus Status for Jacomo

At its March 26 meeting, the Seminole State College Board of Regents approved Board policy revisions, a lighting upgrade for the Enoch Kelly Haney Center and emeritus status for former SSC employee Tracy Jacomo.

SSC President Lana Reynolds spoke about personnel updates, campus activities, athletics, the Haney roof project and investment planning related to the MacKenzie Scott donation during her report to the Board. SSC Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Bill Knowles and Dean of Instruction Jessica Isaacs presented to the Board about the College's tenure policy.

Among the policy items approved was a revision to the College's service and emotional support/assistance animal policy. The change updated the wording of the policy to reference the appropriate College position, rather than a specific employee, in the process for handling requests.

The Board also approved revisions to SSC Board Policy II-7-15 on campus wellness. The update formalized current practices allowing professional and classified staff, with prior supervisor approval, to be released from regular work assignments for one hour twice each week to exercise on campus using the SSC Wellness Center or walking trails. Faculty may also use up to two hours of regularly scheduled office time for the same purpose. The revised policy further added a fragrance and scent awareness section

prohibiting candles, incense, plug-in or spray air fresheners, diffusers and other fragranced products in offices, classrooms and other shared indoor spaces. Students and employees are also asked to avoid strong perfumes, colognes and heavily scented personal care products while on campus.

Regents also approved a new online credit hour policy developed in response to a recommendation from the Higher Learning Commission. The policy affirms that face-to-face, hybrid and fully online courses must meet equivalent credit-hour standards and requires instructors to clearly document student workload and instructional activity within the College's learning management system.

In other business, the Board approved a proposal from VOSS for an LED lighting and controls upgrade for the Haney Center's Utterback Ballroom. According to College officials, the project will replace an aging system that has become increasingly difficult to repair because many parts are no longer available. The Board also approved emeritus status for Tracy Jacomo, recognizing her 26 years of service to Seminole State College. SSC policy allows the Board of Regents, at its discretion, to honor retired faculty, administrators or professional staff members with emeritus status based on length of service, special recognitions, activities and other performance-related contributions.



*Chair the SSC Board of Regents Marci Donaho (left) congratulates retired Associate Professor of Sociology Tracy Jacomo (right) on receiving emeritus status following the meeting on March 26.*

Jacomo joined SSC in 1989 as an academic counselor and spent her first 10 years in the Admissions Office, where she worked in recruiting and academic advising. During her career, she coordinated educational opportunities for students with disabilities for 16 years, served as cheerleading coach for nine years and worked as Title III director from 1999 to 2004. In 2002, she began teaching part time while continuing her administrative duties, instructing sociology, psychology and criminal justice courses. She transitioned to full-time teaching in 2004, earned tenure in 2008 and later retired in 2015.

In February 2026, she was recognized with the Neil Molleur Award for community service at the Sem-

inole Chamber of Commerce banquet for her work with Community Friends Food Pantry.

With the final item on the agenda, the Board ratified an emergency declaration made by President Reynolds regarding repairs to the fire suppression system in the Roesler Residential Center after a leak was discovered in old, rusted pipes. Repairs needed to be made immediately to protect student safety in the residence hall. The Board then approved the cost of repairs.

Board members present at the meeting were Chair Marci Donaho, Teresa Burnett, Curtis Morgan, Robyn Ready and Barry Tims.

The next meeting of the SSC Board of Regents will be May 21.