

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE COLLEGIAN

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SSC TO HOST MILITARY & VETERAN RESOURCE FAIR

Page 3

TEMPLE GRANDIN TO SPEAK AT SSC

The pioneering animal behaviorist will present on Nov. 10. [Page 7](#)

SOCCER ADVANCES TO NATIONALS

Women's soccer heads to nationals for the seventh time in a row. [Page 6](#)

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Submitting to The Collegian

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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 ssccathletics.com.

Prospective Students Explore Physical Therapy at Meet and Greet



Seminole State College Physical Therapist Assistant program Director Shakira Stafford talks with prospective students inside the PTA lab housed at Gordon Cooper Technology Center during the College's in-person meet and greet on Oct. 20. Attendees met faculty and current students, learned about curriculum, clinical education, financial aid and explored career opportunities.

Leadership Students Organize Food Drive



Seminole State College's 2025 Leadership Development class led the campus food drive Oct. 6-20, collecting more than 400 boxed, canned and microwaveable items for the Salvation Army, with help from the Student Government Association, Phi Theta Kappa and the SSC volleyball team. Professor of history Marta Osby, who teaches the Leadership Development courses, helped organize the drive.

SSC to Host Third Annual Military & Veteran Resource Fair



Seminole State College students and employees plant American flags near the intersection of Highways 9 and 3 on Oct. 29 in Seminole. The display honors veterans and precedes SSC's third annual Military and Veteran Resource Fair on Nov. 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Utterback Ballroom.

Seminole State College will host its third annual Military and Veteran Resource Fair on Wednesday, Nov. 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Utterback Ballroom inside the Enoch Kelly Haney Center. The event is free and open to the public.

Dozens of local and regional organizations that serve active-duty service members, veterans and their families will be available. Attendees can connect with providers offering health and disability claims assistance, job placement and training opportunities, education benefits guidance, mental health counseling, veteran agriculture programs, and referrals for VA-approved medical devices. A full list of participating vendors will be posted and updated at sscok.edu.

"Each year, this fair brings vital ser-

vices under one roof so active service members, veterans and their families can get real help on the spot," Stacey Foster, SSC's VA School-Certifying Officer, said. "Whether you are filing a claim, exploring education benefits, looking for a new career or launching a veteran-owned business, our goal is to connect you with the right people and resources."

In preparation for the fair and in recognition of Veterans Day, SSC students and employees planted an honor field of 5,000 American flags on campus on Oct. 29. The display is sponsored by American Legion Post 204 of Seminole.

For more information about the event, contact Foster at s.foster@sscok.edu or 405-382-9510.

SSC Representatives Attend Oklahoma Academy Town Hall



Pictured at the 2025 Oklahoma Academy Town Hall in Tulsa, Oct. 26–29: SSC President Lana Reynolds, SSC sophomore Ethan Rich of Prague and SSC Educational Foundation Chair Mark Schell.

Seminole State College sophomore Ethan Rich, of Prague, was selected as one of only ten students from colleges and universities across Oklahoma to participate in the 2025 Oklahoma Academy Town Hall, held Oct. 26–29 at the River Spirit Casino Resort in Tulsa. Also representing SSC were President Lana Reynolds and SSC Educational Foundation Chair Mark Schell.

This year's Town Hall theme, "Forging Our Future Beyond ARPA," focused on how Oklahoma can build on American Rescue Plan Act investments to strengthen communities and drive long-term resilience. Over four days, participants collaborated with

civic leaders, policymakers and community advocates to develop actionable public policy recommendations.

Founded in 1967 as a nonpartisan forum to advance sound public policy, the Oklahoma Academy adopted its Town Hall model in 2001 to convene diverse voices and convert ideas into consensus recommendations. The organization will compile and publish findings from this year's discussions following the event.

"Ethan represented SSC incredibly well," President Reynolds said. "We're proud to see our students engaged in meaningful conversations about Oklahoma's future."

Trick or Treat Trail Draws Large Crowd at SSC



Hundreds of little ghosts, goblins, superheroes and princesses visited Seminole State College on Oct. 28 for the College's annual Trick or Treat Trail event. SSC employees and students passed out candy along the north pond on campus.



Members of the SSC volleyball team paused for a photo along the trail. Pictured left to right: Malarie Hawk, Nicci Stimson, Jailey Battles and Brooklynn Cahill.

Baseball and Softball Teams Square Off in Halloween Scrimmage



On Oct. 31, members of the Trojan baseball and softball teams took to Lloyd Simmons Field dressed in their Halloween finest for a friendly and festive scrimmage.



Women's Soccer Advances to National Tournament



The Seminole State College women's soccer team poses for a photo after winning the NJCAA Central Plains District Tournament on Saturday, Nov. 1, at the Advance Soccer Complex in Enid. The victory sends the Trojans to the NJCAA Division I Women's Soccer National Championship tournament.

The Seminole State College women's soccer team captured the NJCAA Central Plains District title at the Advance Soccer Complex in Enid, earning a berth in the NJCAA Division I Women's Soccer National Championship tournament.

SSC opened the district tournament with an 11-0 victory over Murray State College on Thursday, Oct. 30, and clinched the championship with a 4-0 win against Rose State College on Saturday, Nov. 1.

SSC advances to the national championship, set for Nov. 16-22 at the Advance Soccer Complex in Enid.

Head coach Dan Hill has now guided SSC to its seventh consecutive national tournament appearance.

The Trojans enter nationals with a 15-1-2 record. SSC has been prolific in front of the goal, scoring 78 total goals (4.88 per match), allowing just 0.78 goals per match, and riding a 12-match winning streak into the post-season.

Women's Volleyball Season Concludes

SSC volleyball closed its season Nov. 1, coming up short against NEO in the Region 2 championship game after sweeping Rose State 3-0 earlier in the day to reach the finals. The Trojans finished the regular season 21-15 before the tournament; the year featured Head Coach Hannah Kemp's first 20-win season and her 100th career victory on Oct. 25. All-Region honorees were Amber Jones, freshman from Deer Creek and Region

2 Volleyball MVP; Breana Stumbo, sophomore from Lubbock, Texas, first-team All-Region pin hitter; Kara Doan, sophomore from Little Elm, Texas, second-team All-Region pin hitter; Jailey Battles, sophomore from Sapulpa, second-team All-Region setter; and Caeli Schaefer, sophomore from Stillwater, second-team All-Region middle blocker.



Candlelight Vigil Held Honoring Student-Athlete Denim Harris



Denim Harris, 18, a freshman outfielder on the Seminole State College baseball team, died in a car accident on Oct. 16, 2025. A candlelight vigil in his honor was held Oct. 21 at Lloyd Simmons Field.

Seminole State College held a candlelight vigil on Tuesday, Oct. 21, at Lloyd Simmons Field at the Brian Crawford Memorial (BCM) Sports Complex to honor the life of freshman baseball student-athlete Denim Harris. A capacity crowd of over 300 attended, including his Trojan teammates, student-athletes from other SSC teams, faculty and staff, baseball parents and community members.

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.

Ben Hill, Lead Pastor of Frontline Church in Shawnee, offered remarks during the service and read written tributes from the Trojan baseball team and Head Baseball Coach Mack Chambers.

“Denim was the kind of person who made everything better just by being there. He was a natural-born leader who brought energy into every room — joy, laughter and life,” Chambers said. “He was coachable, humble and driven to do things the right way. He didn’t just want to play — he wanted to be great, and he was on that path.”

Chambers also recalled a fall exhibition game that captured Harris’s spirit and confidence. “I gave him the bunt sign and told him, ‘It’s gotta be a special one.’ He swung instead — and hit a three-run home run,” Chambers said. “That was Denim. Always listening, always thinking, always trusting his gut and always willing to bet on himself.”

The service featured a video tribute, followed by a moment of reflection as candles were lit throughout the stadium



A capacity crowd of over 300 fills the stands at Lloyd Simmons Field during the candle lighting at the vigil honoring the life of SSC baseball student-athlete Denim Harris.

stands in honor of Harris.

The Trojan baseball team presented Harris’s family with framed displays of his jerseys, along with his glove and bat encased in glass. The keepsakes

were offered as a tribute to his impact on the program and as a lasting remembrance of his place in the Trojan baseball family.



Trojan Baseball players stand beneath the videoboard displaying a photo of teammate Denim Harris as they hold framed jerseys later presented to his family.

Temple Grandin to Present at SSC

Temple Grandin, Ph.D., a pioneering animal behaviorist and advocate for neurodiversity, will deliver a live Zoom presentation with audience Q&A at Seminole State College from 2 to 3 p.m. Monday, Nov. 10, in the Jeff Johnston Auditorium. The event, free and open to the public, is titled “Animal Welfare Presented Through the Lens of Autism.”

Grandin has worked for more than five decades to apply her observations of animal behavior to livestock handling practices. Her work has contributed to the development of curved chutes, lighting adjustments and low-stress systems intended to reduce fear and injuries in cattle and pigs. Today, across North America, a significant share of cattle is handled in center-track restrainer systems based on her designs, and her facility audits are used in processing plants. Her methods are studied by agriculture and veterinary students as examples of how field observation and iterative prototyping can affect industry practices.

A professor of animal science at Colorado State University for more than 30 years, Grandin has written about how sensory differences and visual thinking influenced her approach to problem-solving. Diagnosed with autism, she has become a public advocate for humane handling and autism awareness. She was named to Time magazine’s list of the 100 most influential people in 2010, and her life was portrayed that same year in the Emmy-winning HBO biopic Temple Grandin, starring Claire Danes.

Grandin encourages students and educators to recognize different cognitive strengths, including visual and hands-on thinking. She has said that students who sketch, tinker, weld, wire and build play a key role in solving practical problems in fields such as agriculture, manufacturing, health care and technology. In her 2022 book, *Visual Thinking: The Hidden Gifts of People Who Think in Pictures, Patterns, and Abstractions*, she advocates for the return of shop class-



Dr. Temple Grandin

es, lab-based coursework and project-based assessments that prioritize practical skills alongside traditional academics.

A new 2025 documentary, *An Open Door*, explores Grandin’s life and the broader movement for inclusion that her work has intersected with. The film follows her path from a scientist who faced communication challenges to a mentor to families, teachers and students.

The appearance is sponsored by Seminole State College’s Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions (NASNTI) federal grant program, which is fully federally funded in the amount of \$450,000 annually. The NASNTI program supports student success initiatives, implements assistive technology for students with disabilities, and hosts cultural programming on campus.

Work Family Reunion



Retired employees from Seminole State College, shown here with photos from the college’s historical archives, gathered for a reunion breakfast held in the Haney Center on Tuesday, Oct. 14. Pictured seated (left to right) are: Judy James, Debbie Robertson, Janet Waddell, Debbie Hammond, Patty Bland, Susan Shumaker, Mindy Stufflebeam and Mary Ann Hill. Standing (left to right) are: Ted Hurt, Tom Stephens, Larry Vickers, Rusty Beene, Dan Factor, Dave Helseth, Norma Gillespie, Dr. Noble Jobe, Dr. Linda Goeller, David Cobb, Susan Walker, Mark Spencer, Rick Hanson, Kelly Chastain, Kelly Kirk, Larry Birdwell, Fred Bunyan, Travis Qualls, Dr. Rebecca Kennedy, Dr. Richard Wood and Cynthia Yerby.

Regents Approve Roof Project

The Seminole State College Board of Regents met Oct. 30 to conduct regular business, accept the College's annual external audit, and approve a major facilities project for the Enoch Kelly Haney Center. The meeting followed an Audit Committee session held earlier that morning.

At the beginning of the meeting, SSC Women's Volleyball Head Coach Hannah Kemp was recognized for reaching 100 career wins. President Lana Reynolds and the Regents commended Kemp for her leadership and the continued success of the program.

During the President's Report, Reynolds shared updates on personnel and enrollment, federal grant activity, fall sports events and upcoming campus events.

With the first item on the agenda, the Board also approved the Agreement for Exchange of Services with the SSC Educational Foundation, a biennial item outlining shared services between the College and the Foundation.

The Board accepted the College's fiscal year 2025 external audit, conducted by Hinkle & Company, P.C. Auditor Matt Bauman presented the report and answered questions, which covered College operations from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Hinkle & Company issued an unqualified — or clean — audit. The Audit Committee, Chair Marci Donaho and Regents

Robyn Ready and Curtis Morgan, met prior to the full Board to review the document.

Regents then reviewed a proposal from Brightwell/EightTwenty to repair the Enoch Kelly Haney Center roof and install a solar energy system, addressing long-standing leak issues while generating long-term utility savings. The Board approved a motion to enter into an agreement with the two companies following negotiations regarding solar panel insurance. President Reynolds thanked the ad hoc working group, including Regents Curtis Morgan and Barry Tims, Vice Presidents Bill Knowles and Melanie Rinehart, and Director of Physical Plant Clint Robertson, for evaluating options and funding strategies.

Program reviews were approved for the Associate in Science in Agriculture, Associate in Applied Science in Engineering Technology, Associate in Science in Health, Physical Education & Recreation, and Associate in Science in Secondary Education. Following approval, these reviews will be submitted to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

Regents present at the meeting were Chair Marci Donaho, Mona Adkisson, Teresa Burnett, Curtis Morgan, Robyn Ready and Barry Tims. The next SSC Board of Regents meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025.



Employees Recognized at Statewide Conference

SSC President Lana Reynolds congratulates OACC honorees—Professional Staff Member of the Year Alecia Bailey, Faculty Member of the Year Dr. Deanna Miles and Support Staff Member of the Year Alisha Riojas—for their achievements.

Three Seminole State College employees were honored at the 58th annual Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges' conference on Oct. 3 at Oklahoma City Community College. During the event, Assistant Professor and Accreditation Coordinator Dr. Deanna Miles was named SSC Faculty Member of the Year; Alecia Bailey, NASNTI Computer Science Specialist, was named Professional Staff Member of the Year; and Alisha Riojas, Bookstore Clerk, was named Support Staff Member of the Year.

Dr. Deanna Miles teaches Human Anatomy and Human Physiology with lab and coordinates efforts across campus to ensure SSC's continued accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission. She serves as chair of the Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Committee, mentors biology degree students, sits on the Faculty Senate, and is a member of the Distance Education and Assessment committees.

Alecia Bailey leads several emerging technology initiatives at SSC. She oversees construction of the College's Esports Lab, created syllabi for four esports courses, aided in hiring an esports adjunct and formed both the Esports Club and competitive team. Bailey also leads a Native Language Revitalization project using a NAO robot to translate English into Sauk and Potawatomi.

Alisha Riojas supports student success at the campus bookstore, where she staffs the register, helps students find course materials and assists with collegewide supply orders. She is pursuing an Associate of Psychology degree at SSC and anticipates graduating in spring 2026. Riojas serves as treasurer of SSC Classified Staff and is involved with the Oklahoma Arts Council. administrative assistants to college



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