

SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE **COLLEGIAN**

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SSC AIMS TO LAUNCH PARALEGAL PROGRAM IN 2026

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Fall sports are underway. See standings and previews of upcoming games. **Page 6**

WORKFORCE BOOST

SSC's BLAST offers weekly pro-skills sessions this fall. **Page 3**

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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*.



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.

SSC to Host Trick-or-Treat Trail



Seminole State College will host its annual Trick or Treat Trail on Tuesday, Oct. 28, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in Henderson Park on campus. Students and employees will line the walking trail around the north pond to hand out candy. The event is free and open to the public, and children are encouraged to wear costumes. Coordinated by Campus Activities and organized by Director of Residential Life and Student Activities Melinda Sims. For more information, contact m.sims@sscok.edu.

SSC Launches BLAST: A For-Credit Upskilling Series for Working Professionals

Seminole State College (SSC) is launching BLAST, a practical, for-credit professional development series designed for employers seeking to upskill teams and for individuals looking to strengthen their résumés. The course runs during the second eight weeks of the Fall 2025 semester and offers both college credit and digital badging for a program cost of \$100. BLAST (SSC course code BA2301) delivers weekly, skills-focused sessions led by SSC faculty, industry partners and community leaders.

Programs like BLAST are increasingly valuable as employers struggle to find people with the right skills and as job requirements change quickly. ManpowerGroup's 2025 Talent Shortage survey reports that 74% of employers globally are struggling to find the skilled talent they need, underscoring the need for practical, work-relevant training.

The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs 2025 finds employers expect 39% of workers' core skills to change by 2030, making continuous learning and targeted upskilling essential for both organizations and workers.

Learners and hiring managers also see value in short, targeted credentials that carry academic credit. Coursera's 2025 Micro-Credentials Impact Report shows 85% of students who earned

SEMINOLE
STATE COLLEGE

BLAST

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP
ACADEMY SKILLS TRAINING

LEADERSHIP READY FOR LIFTOFF

Over eight weeks, you'll develop practical skills that business leaders rely on to succeed.

Wednesdays from 2 PM to 4 PM
October 15 - December 10
SSC Campus
Enoch Kelly Haney Building • Lecture Hall 102

Receive college credit and digital badging for only \$100.

Enroll now!

a microcredential say it improves job prospects and 91% believe it will help them succeed on the job, and employers widely agree that microcredentials strengthen a candidate's application. In higher education, more than half of leaders report offering microcredentials for academic credit, signaling durable

momentum for credit-bearing short courses that stack into degrees.

At the same time, evidence suggests "skills-first" hiring is still uneven in practice—one analysis cited by SHRM found that in 2023 fewer than 1 in 700 hires came through a truly skills-based process—so transcribed credit and ver-

ified badges remain important signals for employers.

The Fall 2025 lineup includes the following sessions and presenters: Oct. 15, Team Management with Brad Schatzel, SSC Business Assistant Professor, and Cory Crabtree, Mayor of Seminole; Oct. 22, Leadership Essentials with Ray McQuiston, Fulfillment Center Director at Wrangler/Kontoor; Oct. 29, Present Like a Pro with Brad Schatzel and Digital Presence with Josh Hutton, SSC Director of Communication; Nov. 5, Professional Communication with Brad Schatzel and Cory Crabtree; Nov. 12, Sales with Brad Schatzel and Cory Crabtree; Nov. 19, Customer Service Excellence with Brad Schatzel; and Dec. 3 and Dec. 10, Human Resources Foundations with Kendi Cox, Human Resources Manager at Canadian Valley Electric Cooperative.

BLAST is built for employers who want turnkey, college-level training that maps directly to high-demand workplace skills and for professionals who want to add transcribed college credit and verified digital badges to their résumés.

To enroll, use SSC Course Code BA2301. For details or group enrollments, contact Talina Lee, Business and Industry Coordinator, att.lee@sscok.edu or (405) 382-9546.

SSC Expands Social Sciences Division, Aims to Launch Paralegal Program

Seminole State College has hired Paul B. Smith, J.D. and Dr. Brenda Prochaska as Assistant Professors in the College's Social Sciences Division. Smith, a former District Attorney for Oklahoma's 22nd Judicial District, will help the College prepare to launch an Associate in Applied Science in Paralegal Studies in August 2026.

Smith served as District Attorney for District 22 — which includes Seminole, Hughes and Pontotoc counties — from January 2017 to January 2023. He previously held leadership roles in the office, including First Assistant District Attorney and Chief Prosecutor beginning in 2011, and Assistant District Attorney from 1990 to 2011.

During his tenure, Smith prosecuted major felony cases across the district, including a 2017 “no-body” child-abuse murder case — a homicide pursued without the victim’s remains — that drew state and national attention. He also led or participated in appellate and policy work related to jurisdictional changes following *McGirt v. Oklahoma*. He was admitted to the bar of the U.S. Supreme Court in 2018, authorizing him to file briefs and appear before the court.

SSC plans to begin the Paralegal Studies A.A.S. in August 2026. The 62-credit-hour program will cover core areas of civil and criminal law, including constitutional law, contracts, real estate and property, torts, family law, wills and estates, criminal law and procedure, and civil law and procedure. Coursework will emphasize legal research and writ-

ing, legal reporting, law-office calendaring and client-trust accounting.

The SSC Board of Regents approved the program in late spring, and it is slated for approval by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education at their meeting in October.

“The program will give students and graduates a practical glimpse into their new legal, governmental or non-profit profession,” Smith said. “They will develop the skills to carry out legal work tasks that their attorney bosses assign them. Our graduates will have a keen understanding of the complexities of contracts, civil litigation, criminal law and procedure, Constitutional ramifications of decisions and much more. This will give them the confidence to help those whose lives have intersected with the law.”

Before joining the faculty full time, Smith taught as an adjunct in SSC's Social Sciences Division, including courses in Rules of Evidence and American Federal Government, and has instructed for Oklahoma CLEET reserve academies. He earned his J.D. from the University of Tulsa College of Law and a B.S. in business administration from Oklahoma State University.

Prochaska joins SSC following seven years on the faculty at Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio, where she served as associate professor of criminal justice and co-director of the Tower Honors Program. Her campus service included roles as assessment liaison for the School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and membership on the Faculty Senate



Seminole State College Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Bill Knowles, Assistant Professor Paul B. Smith, J.D., Assistant Professor Dr. Brenda Prochaska and Social Sciences Division Chair Jeffrey Christiansen pose for a photo following a meeting about the College's Paralegal program.

Executive Committee.

“What specifically motivated me to come to SSC was the size, the mission statement, and the values of the College. I have a passion for preparing students to be successful in all aspects of their lives, including teaching them how to think critically about real-world problems, communicate with others who may bring a different perspective and to understand that learning is something that does not stop after formal education is complete,” Prochaska said.

Her scholarship includes two peer-reviewed journal articles, a third article forthcoming, and a book chapter published in 2022. Topics include political participation and crime, maternal incarceration and delinquency and perceptions of cyberbullying.

Prochaska has delivered dozens of conference presentations since 2013, including recent talks at the Ohio Council of Criminal Justice Education, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and the American Society of Criminol-

ogy.

Her teaching experience covers a range of undergraduate courses — among them Introduction to Criminal Justice, Criminological Theory, Methods of Field Research, Juvenile Delinquency, Constitutional Law and Criminal Law and Procedure — delivered in multiple formats.

Prochaska earned a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 2018 and an M.A. in Criminal Justice from the same institution in 2016. She holds a B.S. in criminal justice from Northeastern State University, awarded in 2013.

“In my first year, my biggest goal is to build partnerships with criminal justice agencies in the community so I can bring in guest speakers but more importantly help students build their networks early,” Prochaska said.

For more information about the Social Sciences Division or the Paralegal Studies program planned for August 2026, visit sscoc.edu.

'Networking Beyond the Budget' Brings Statewide Collaboration to SSC



Seminole State College recently hosted 22 business office professionals from 14 public colleges, universities, and agencies across the State for a “Networking Beyond the Budget” workshop and luncheon. The event was held at the Enoch Kelly Haney Center on Tuesday, Sept. 16. Those in attendance included (pictured left to right): Nick Hathaway, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; Mark McMullen, Tulsa Community College; Melanie Rinehart, Seminole State College; Zachary Dumas, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; Andrew Boes, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; Damita Kennedy, University of Central Oklahoma; Cheryl Moudy, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M; Nicole McPhetridge, University of Oklahoma; Jon Fields, Redlands Community College; Anita Simpson, Northern Oklahoma College; Audra Biggs, Northern Oklahoma College; Julie Hix, Seminole State College; Michael Allgood, Rogers State University; David Pecha, Northwestern Oklahoma State University; Bobby Fisher, Rose State College; Ashley Bishop, Tulsa Community College; Kent Lashley, Rose State College; Lori Boyd, Southwestern Oklahoma State University; Mark Bisson, Southeastern Oklahoma State University; Brittney Whitsell, East Central University; Chandra Miller, East Central University; and Ryan McCulloch, Tulsa Community College.

SSC Leadership Students Navigate Teambuilding at OKC Riversport



Seminole State College President’s Leadership Class visited Riversport in Oklahoma City on Sept. 4 to learn about the Boathouse District and participate in team-building exercises. Pictured: students take part in the Dragon Boat Challenge on the Oklahoma River, working together to steer.



State Sen. Mark Mann (D-District 46), who represents Del City and parts of Oklahoma City, speaks with students before dinner at The Old Spaghetti Factory. Sen. Mann shared updates on 2028 Olympic events planned for OKC, including rowing and softball, and discussed tourism’s statewide impact. He then concluded his talk with details about student-focused legislation and ways to get involved in local and state government.

FALL SPORTS UPDATE

Women's Soccer



The Season So Far:

Seminole State is 7-1-2 overall and 5-0-1 in conference play through 10 matches, on a five-match winning streak. The Trojans are 3-0-1 at home, 3-1-1 away and 1-0 at neutral sites, with 41 goals (4.10 per match) on a .159 shot percentage and a 1.04 goals-against average.

Upcoming matches (Oct. 1 and beyond):

- Oct. 1 — at Connors State, Warner, Oklahoma, 6:30 p.m.*
- Oct. 5 — vs. Redlands, 2 p.m.*
- Oct. 12 — vs. Rich Mountain, 2 p.m.*
- Oct. 15 — vs. Murray State, 2 p.m.*
- Oct. 18 — at Tyler Junior College, Tyler, Texas, 5 p.m.
- Oct. 22 — vs. Eastern Oklahoma State, 2 p.m.*

* Region II match.

Women's Volleyball



The Season So Far:

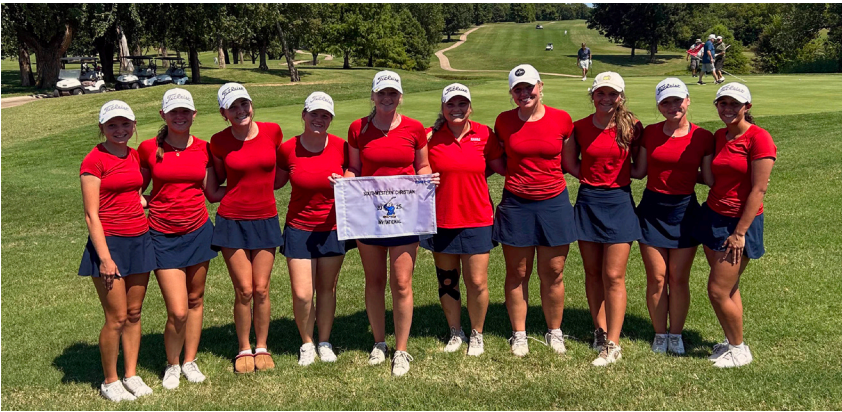
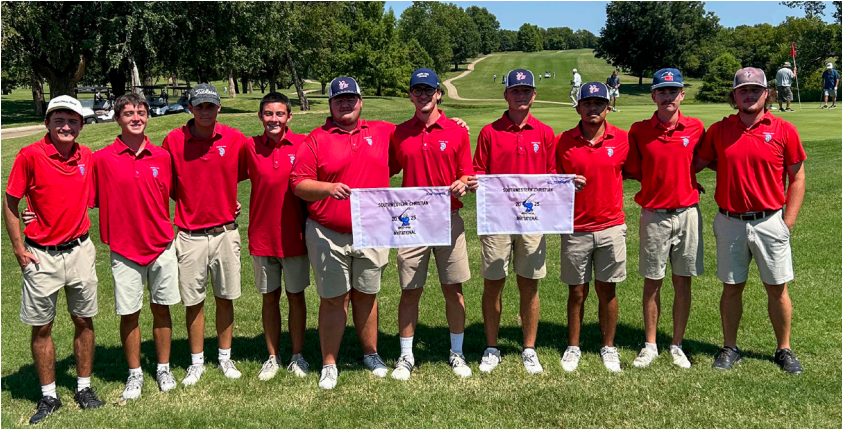
Seminole State is 14-12 overall and 1-1 in Region II, riding a two-match win streak. The Trojans are 6-2 at home, 5-6 away and 3-4 at neutral sites across 26 matches. They're averaging 10.11 kills per set on .157 hitting with 9.78 assists.

Upcoming matches (Oct. 1 and beyond):

- Oct. 3 — at Allen County CC, Iola, Kansas, 3 p.m.
- Oct. 4 — vs. Independence CC, Seminole Tri, 11 a.m. (home)
- Oct. 4 — vs. Dallas College Mountain View, Seminole State Tri-Match, 3 p.m. (home)
- Oct. 9 — at Independence CC, Montgomery County, Kansas, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 18 — at Labette CC (Labette Tri), Parsons, Kansas, 11 a.m.
- Oct. 18 — vs. East Central College (neutral, Labette Tri), Parsons, Kansas, 1 p.m.
- Oct. 20 — at Rose State College*, Oklahoma City, 6 p.m.
- Oct. 22 — vs. Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College*, 5:30 p.m. (home)
- Oct. 23 — at John Brown University JV, Siloam Springs, Arkansas, 6 p.m.

* Region II match.

Golf



The Season So Far (Men's Golf):

Seminole State opened with a team win at the Southwestern Christian Invitational on Sept. 2–3 at Earlywine Golf Course in Oklahoma City. The Trojans trailed by eight shots and sat third with 18 holes to play before firing their best round to take first. Bryson Parker paced the comeback with a 2-under 70 in the finale and finished second individually at 2-over for 54 holes.

The Season So Far (Women's Golf):

The Trojans placed second at the Southwestern Christian Invitational, closing with three rounds in the 70s—Katelyn Rigsby 77, Chelsea Powell 78 and Peyton Black 79—with Black taking sixth individually. Seminole State followed that performance by winning the Crestview Fall Invitational in Wichita, Kansas, on Sept. 16, led by Black's runner-up finish and Powell's tie for fourth.

Upcoming tournament (Oct. 1 and beyond):

- Oct. 12-14 — The Battle at Winter Creek

Cross-Country



The Season So Far (Men's Golf):

Seminole State College's Brylee Baird placed fifth out of more than 20 runners at the Carl Albert meet on Aug. 29, finishing in 24:55.20.

Upcoming races (Oct. 1 and beyond):

- Oct. 4 — at Chile Pepper Festival, Fayetteville, Ark., 8 a.m.
- Oct. 11 — at DBU Old Glory Gallup, Dallas, 8 a.m.
- Oct. 25 — Region II regional, Bentonville, Ark. (NWACC), 11 a.m.

SSC Opens Enrollment for Second Eight-Week Classes



Enrollment is now open for second eight-week courses at Seminole State College. Classes begin Oct. 13.

Seminole State College is enrolling now for its second eight-week session. Classes begin Oct. 13 and run through Dec. 13. Enrollment remains open until Wednesday, Oct. 15.

"We're committed to meeting the schedules of our students at SSC. Eight-week courses offer another level of flexibility. They're also a great entry point for new students," Edith Cathey, Director of Enrollment Management, said.

Second eight-week offerings include Personal Finance, Self Defense, Principles of Biology with Lab, Introduction to Microsoft Office, American History Since 1877, Wellness and Human Development, Quantitative Reasoning,

Quantitative Reasoning Lab, Elementary Statistics, Statistics Lab, Plane Trigonometry, Medical Laboratory Technology Orientation, Introduction to Associate Degree in Nursing, General Physical Science with Lab, Introduction to Sociology and Speech.

Students can meet with an academic advisor in the Walkingstick Student Services Center for assistance with selecting classes and completing enrollment. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays. For advisement or general enrollment help, contact the SSC Advising Office at (405) 382-9797 or advising@sscock.edu.

SSC Welcomes Ada Junior High Students for Campus Tour



Seminole State College Recruitment Specialist Maddy Potter (center) welcomed Oklahoma GEAR UP students from Ada Junior High School during a campus visit on Sept. 24. Oklahoma GEAR UP, a federally funded program administered by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, partners with 13 school districts and five regional colleges to help nearly 16,000 students prepare for college success.



Ada Junior High School students explored the SSC campus during their visit. In addition to learning about academic programs and student resources.

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