



**SEWARD COUNTY** COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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***News Release***

FEBRUARY 13, 2023 : BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## **SCCC sets tuition, room & board for 2023-24**

### ***College adopts summer schedule, new Title IX process, Saints Ahead scholarship***

LIBERAL — The Seward County Community College Board of Trustees met Feb. 13 for the regular monthly meeting, with many new faces and a full agenda. New employees introduced to the board included Mandy Poer, Director of Epworth Adult Education Center, Sangharsa Bhatta, math instructor, men's soccer head coach Jaime Beltran and women's soccer head coach Derek Talcott.

In his summary for the board, SCCC Athletic Director Dan Artamenko also noted old faces in new places: the athletic department named former assistant coach Aubrey Wilson as the head volleyball coach and former admissions director Eric Volden as head coach for Esports. Artamenko updated the board about soccer program development, which has gone “as good as possible” thus far. Homecoming, which occurred the previous weekend, included induction of new members to the Saints Hall of Fame, an alumni panel, and a Saints Booster social, as well as two basketball games and the naming of royalty.

### ***Enrollment Management Team projects modest increase in student numbers***

Annette Hackbarth-Onson and Teresa Wehmeier presented the current Enrollment Management Plan, developed to predict trends in college enrollment. Wehmeier discussed the projected enrollment, which tracks demographic trends, particularly population decline in Southwest Kansas.

“Within the last academic year, we returned to pre-COVID numbers for full-time equivalent enrollment from out of state students,” she said. “We see an opportunity for growth through dual and concurrent enrollment of Kansas students.”

Hackbarth-Onson listed the bottom-line goal of increasing enrollment by 3 percent the next year, and the year after, 3.4 %.

“We’re projecting by Fall of 2024, we could actually reach the projected higher total for student hours,” she said.

Trustee Dustin Ormiston asked for a list of top initiatives for student recruitment.

“Soccer, online, concurrent enrollment, on top of what we’ve always done through maintaining excellence,” Hackbarth-Onson said.

“And bringing Kansas residents enrollment up,” added Wehmeier.

President Brad Bennett said the Saints Ahead! Scholarship will be the focal point of a marketing campaign to increase high school student enrollment. Ormiston said he would like to see SCCC place additional staff in the schools to aid this effort.

Bennett noted that changes in the admissions department have prompted the college to craft a new position for Executive director of Enrollment, “plus another recruiting representative in admissions.” He complimented the Enrollment Management Team for “a wonderful report from the standpoint of the data. I’m amazed that a school our size can produce this kind of research.”

### ***College rolls out new approach to Civil Rights, Title IX cases***

Vice President of Student Services Celeste Donovan reviewed the college's new procedures for civil rights and Title IX complaints.

"In August of this year, President Bennett asked me to head up our Title IX team," she said. "We had fallen out of compliance due to all the changes. One of the first things they recommended was joining ATIXA — it's the Cadillac of Title IX service providers, with a Listserv that comes every day with information from our peers across the nation. So, we didn't have to invent the wheel, we were able to model off theirs."

Donovan explained that SCCC now operates on a team model, rather than leaving Title IX business to one administrator. Multiple SCCC employees have completed training to handle investigations.

"We meet once a month and keep our site on Board Docs with agenda, minutes, discussions. There's an expanded Title IX summary for employees, as well as the super-short policy. The action I need from the board tonight is to approve going from the old policy to adopting the next, expanded policy. By doing so, we have policies and procedures for any misconduct on campus."

Donovan added that Kit Hernandez developed a brochure to educate students about the policy. The Title IX team designed a multi-part schedule of training and education for students, faculty, and staff.

The board voted unanimously to adopt the nondiscrimination policy as presented by Donovan, adding "you did a great job with this."

### ***Slight increase for tuition & fees, room & board at SCCC***

The Board of Trustees adopted tuition and fees for the upcoming academic year, describing it as "a pretty modest increase." The new rates, slightly higher than peer institutions in Pratt and Garden City, are less than 3 percent, noted Trustee Casey Mein.

"Inflation is at 6 percent," he said. "The price of everything has jumped."

While the board voted unanimously to accept the recommended tuition and fee increase, Chair Ron Oliver voiced a slightly different perspective.

"I'd like to go on the record saying I encourage us to raise it in the future. I don't want us to be cheap. I want to be competitive," he said.

Trustee Ormiston agreed, adding, "I'd rather have a superior product."

Oliver summarized the discussion with instructions to the administration that "the board would encourage you to have a bigger increase next year."

**(See tuition & housing rates chart on next page)**

**Fall 2023/Spring 2024**

Tuition & fee rate per credit hour

	Tuition	Fees	Total
Seward County Residents	\$72.00	\$45.00	\$117.00
In-state (non-Seward residents)	\$76.00	\$45.00	\$121.00
Boarder State	\$83.00	\$60.00	\$143.00
Out-of-State	\$98.00	\$60.00	\$158.00
International	\$98.00	\$60.00	\$158.00
Seward on-line (in state)	\$109.00	\$45.00	\$154.00
Seward on-line (out of state/international)	\$109.00	\$45.00	\$154.00

**Student Housing Rates – Starting July 1, 2023**

Housing Facility	Room	Meals	Total	Term
SLC/Mansions Single	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$3,500	Per Semester
SLC/Mansions Double	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$3,000	Per Semester
Hale Court Single	\$1,900	\$1,500	\$3,400	Per Semester
Hale Court Double	\$1,400	\$1,500	\$2,900	Per Semester

***College will adopt nine-hour, four-day work weeks May 15-July 28***

The College has operated on a four-day work week during the summer for many years, closing multiple buildings to reduce utility costs. Now, following an Administration proposal, campus will also switch to nine-hour workdays during those summer months. Employees will be paid 40 hours on Mondays through Thursdays but must work 36 hours.

“This summer will be used as an experiment, and we will provide an evaluation report to the Board of Trustees in September,” said President Brad Bennett. He noted several peer colleges already operate with this model and have found it to be beneficial in terms of boosting productivity and employee morale.

The change will affect 65 hourly employees, while also applying to salaried employees. Board members discussed the ramifications of the switch. Trustee Ormiston noted that “normally, I would not be in favor of it, but we have already restructured to save on utility costs.”

Trustee Kay Burtzloff observed that “you get diminishing returns when you force someone to work a 10-hour day. You don’t get a lot out of those last two hours.”

Vice-chair Marvin Chance added that “we will still have to figure out whether the work is getting done. That’s four hours from 65 people, every week.”

The board voted unanimously to adopt the new summer schedule, requesting an update at a future meeting. The cafeteria and wellness center areas will continue to operate on a schedule as determined and recommended for their operations. The dates proposed for building closure are Monday, May 15, 2023, through Friday, July 28, 2023.

### ***Saints Ahead Scholarship to offer low- and no-cost concurrent classes***

President Bennett outlined the strategy for introduction of the college's new Saints Ahead Scholarship for high school students in the seven-county service area.

"We're planning an aggressive rollout to capture concurrent high school student enrollment beyond the Excel in CTE / SB 155 program," he said. The proposal is to provide concurrent high school enrollment free for our tax-paying students in Seward County, and for our out-of-county students, charge a flat rate of \$50 per course."

Bennett requested board approval to pilot the program for two years, starting next fall. He noted that, thanks to USD 480's use of COVID recovery funds, the Liberal High School students are already covered for tuition in the Fall 2023 semester, "and they would hand it off to us in spring 2024."

The board embraced the idea, agreeing with Bennett's description of "a big opportunity to close that funding gap, and do something that is really good for our communities."

"If we get kids enrolled, it benefits us and the students," said Ormiston.

The board voted unanimously to approve the program for two academic years.

### ***Architect One wins bid for design services for CDL, diesel expansion***

As the college prepares to expand its CDL truck driving program and diesel technology services, administration requested bids for design services. The new facility will consist of approximately 10,000 square feet of shop and vehicle inspection space, and 10,000 square feet of space for classrooms, administrative offices, faculty offices, simulation labs, and other amenities required for the curriculum and intended use of the structure.

The facility will also include required spaces for mechanical equipment, restrooms, storage, and circulation. The main structure will be a structural steel frame with a concrete foundation. The exterior will consist of the use of architecture metals and stone veneer on the metal stud and steel structural walls at the perimeter. The roof will have a TPO membrane system.

The entry to the classroom structure will be architecturally designed to share similar design features used on the recently completed Allied Health Building at Seward County Community College campus. Architect One of Topeka was awarded the bid of \$319,000 for the project, following unanimous approval by the board.

In other business, the Board:

- Authorized administration to enter into an agreement with IMA, for the purpose of health and welfare plan broker services, for the total compensation not to exceed \$30,000. The new agreement will replace services provided by vendor C Biz.
- Accepted the bid from Southwest Glass and Door for the Glass Doors on the west end of the gym at a price of \$48,960.00. Half the funding for this project is provided by a donor.
- Approved bids from Fortnite and C1P for IT equipment and firewall technology.

Reports from the Executive Team included:

### **Vice President of Student Services Celeste Donovan**

- The NISOD Committee selected biology instructor Ty Hughbanks and athletic trainer / Wellness Center director Liz Hill as the 2022/2023 award recipients. "Both individuals are very deserving members of our team," Donovan noted.
- Assistant Financial Aid Director Brooke Guffin joined the student services team in February. Prior to coming to SCCC, she was the Admissions Director at OPSU.

- Student Life Director Wade Lyon worked at getting clubs and organizations to nominate King and Queen candidates for this year's homecoming. It has become less popular through the years and may need to be restructured.
- The deadline for nominating Presidential Scholars is February 15, 2023. Recipients for the full tuition-and-fees scholarship will be selected later in the month. Presidential Scholars may work as Student Ambassadors for a book scholarship, covering the entire cost of attendance.

**Vice President of Academic Affairs Luke Dowell**

- Is leading a team to look at ways to increase evening enrollment, and late-start classes, so students can pick something up after the semester gets going.
- Intersession in January was good. For summer, we hope to double the number of hours offered. We'll look for more opportunities.
- Faculty, Staff, Deans, and Division Chairs have been working to clean up and improve our processes for applied course fees. Applied Course Fees for Excel in CTE courses must be submitted each year to KBOR, and certain fees are permissible, and others are not. Reviewing and updating processes for updating fees will help us to ensure fees are used as described and that there are no surprises on bills.
- Increasing high school enrollment involves removing barriers. Cost is one, but another barrier is the availability of courses. The SCCC Instructional Team is exploring ways to offer more courses to high school students in our service area. In addition to increasing enrollment, retention, and success for these students is critical. We are also working on the guidelines and expectations for students and parents to ensure they understand what they are getting into.

**Vice President of Business Affairs Madalen Day**

- The Saints Bookstore closed March 6-10, training in NOLA. Remodel is slated for the summer.
- The business office is gearing up for the first billing to USD 480 for concurrent students whose courses will be paid through ESSER/COVID funding.

**President Brad Bennett**

- We took money out of Equity Bank and deposited funds to our new bank partners today.
- During my trip to Washington, D.C., I was able to introduce Sen. Marshall. That was fun and I enjoyed hearing Seward County Community College be announced over and over.
- We are getting some traction with a proposal to access short-term Pell Grants, aka "Workforce Pell." The CDL would receive the most benefit from that.

**(See next page for Student Spotlight)**

# Saints STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Growing up on the Great Plains, dreaming about skyscrapers

When you are the youngest of four siblings, it's unusual to be the first to do anything. Yet that is exactly what Ulysses High School graduate Adrian Torres accomplished when he enrolled at Seward County Community College.

"My brothers went through high school and then straight into the workforce, like my dad," said Torres. "He's a mechanic." When Torres was offered the SCCC Presidential Scholarship, however, his parents urged him to take advantage of the opportunity.

"It's a great scholarship, and I knew it would open things up for me to get to Kansas State University eventually," Torres said. His dream? Architectural engineering. In his small-town world of Ulysses, Torres was mesmerized by skyscrapers.

"I've always thought of myself as a creative person, and I've been fascinated by how things come together, how they are engineered, how it all works," he said. "I hope to start off designing my own house, and then as time goes on, building those major constructions. It will be amazing to have all those people getting to look at my work."

For now, Torres is focused on completing his associate's degree before heading the K-State, where he has been accepted into the architecture program, a five-year master's level track.

"I'm so glad I came here first. I got the college experience before going to a big university, and I'll be ready for what's ahead," he said.



Adrian Torres in the TRiO tutoring lab, where helps other students aim for excellence.

### Adrian Torres

*Age:* Sophomore, 19 years old

*Hometown:* Ulysses, Kan.

*Major:* Drafting & Design

*High points at SCCC:*

- Watching Saints teams compete
- Working in Admissions office
- Being an RA in Student Living

### Clubs & Hobbies:

- TRiO organization - tutor
- Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO) - president
- SCCC Student Leadership team

### How SCCC influenced me:

*Francis Brown. She kind of took me under her own wing, was my advisor, was always there for me, always checking up on me, making sure I did the right thing, kind of like a second mom. Anytime I needed any-*

### In his own words:

“ SCCC has really helped me come out of my shell and get to know people from all over the world. ”

*thing, even to talk, she was always there. I was really grateful for that, for having someone to be comfortable around.*

### Career & Life Goals:

*Graduating from K-State is my biggest goal as of now. I want to be able to help my parents out, get a good, stable job, kind of pay back for what they did for me. They were always there for me so I want to be there for them.*