

TOP 10 REASONS TO CHOOSE NWF

Did you know April is Community College Month? Not only do we celebrate this designation in Florida, but all across the nation. Almost half of all undergraduate students in the United States attend a community college for their postsecondary education. Here are my thoughts on the "Top 10" reasons why students in Northwest Florida should choose our great college to reach their educational and career goals!

1- NWF is recognized nationally for our academic, arts, and athletic programs.

Yes, **NATIONALLY!** The Aspen Institute recognized our college as one of the top 150 community colleges in the nation in 2015 and 2017. Our college was recognized as 27th among the nation's best two-year colleges for adult learners (non-traditional students age 25+) in the 2016 Washington Monthly College Guide. You may have read in the last edition that our Nursing Program was recently ranked as one of the top 20 Associate in Science (A.S.) in nursing programs in Florida by RegisteredNursing.org. Last month, our men's basketball team received national recognition by placing fourth overall in the NJCAA national tournament. I can't leave out our national championships in baseball and men's basketball in 2014-2015! Our Mattie Kelly Arts Center (a true gem on the Emerald Coast) productions are recognized as some of the highest quality productions in the country.

2- NWF students are guaranteed admission to a Florida University after earning an Associate in Arts degree from NWF. Our college holds articulation

(continued, page 2)

JACQUIE RAUD-EVERETT NURSING SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED



Pictured (L-R): Col (ret) Pat Ryan, Dr. Devin Stephenson and Dr. Teresa Ryan

Dr. Teresa Ryan, Nursing Professor and Air Force Veteran, and her husband Col. (retired) Patrick Ryan donated \$3,600 to the NWF Foundation to create a scholarship benefiting two BSN-seeking nursing students. The scholarship is named in honor of the late Jacquie Raud-Everett, who was a defender of veterans rights, committed to serving alongside her husband, William "Bill" Everett, in the Military Order of the Purple Heart. ■

NWF State College Ranks in Top 50 for Best Community Colleges



Northwest Florida State College is ranked in the top 50 Best Community Colleges list for 2017 by College Choice.

College Choice, a leading authority in college and university resources, is an independent online publication dedicated to helping students and their families find the right college. Rankings are based on academic quality, diversity, and student success. Research for the ranking is qualified by the Aspen Institute and individual college websites.

NWF State College ranked 39 among the top 50 Best Community Colleges in the nation.

"We could not be more honored by this designation," said Dr. Devin Stephenson, NWF President. "The best is our standard, and as always it is an honor and a privilege, to be considered among the best in the nation. I want to congratulate our faculty, staff, and students on another national ranking for our institution." ■

Top 10 Reasons (continued from page 1)

agreements to ensure our credits transfer seamlessly to Florida public universities. Once students arrive at their transfer university, most of them earn a higher than average cumulative grade point average than juniors who started at the university as a freshman. It is evident NWF students are well-prepared!

3- Tuition at NWF is among the lowest in Florida. On average, students will pay \$6,351 annually to attend a public university in the Florida system. Our students receive an exceptional education (see number two!) for \$3,304 annually which is a fraction of the cost for a quality beginning in higher education.

4- NWF ranks in the top three colleges within the Florida College System in the percentage of faculty members with doctoral degrees. The fact that our faculty are so well qualified is why we see our students performing at such a high level upon transfer and in their chosen careers.

5- NWF offers six locations throughout Okaloosa and Walton Counties to support our students' needs for a

flexible schedule. Not to mention, we offer 1,000+ classes each semester in traditional, online and hybrid formats.

6- NWF offers free tutoring services to help all students. Our Academic Success Center offers free tutoring and seminars in all disciplines including specialized assistance in our Math Lab.

7- NWF offers career assistance and job placement in our Career Resource Center. Through our partnership with CareerSource of Okaloosa and Walton Counties, we utilize the EmployFlorida database of over 3,000 local jobs to assist our graduates in locating both full and part-time positions.

8- NWF offers ninety-nine degrees, certificates, and diplomas online. Our Online Campus supports the core mission of NWF by providing resources and services to satisfy the educational needs of a diverse academic community. Through our online campus, we are providing education to students when their schedules, or other circumstances, don't allow them to come to us! It is about flexibility, and we stretch ourselves

to meet the needs of our students.

9- The average class size at NWF is 18. Smaller class sizes enable our faculty to provide students with the one-on-one attention they need and desire in their educational pursuits.

10- NWF is adding new programming to meet our region's needs. I saved the best for last because we will continue to provide information about new programming over the coming months. Our new Hospitality and Tourism Management program will launch this fall. The Early Childhood Education bachelor's program will now include an online option, and a Military Science and Leadership track is being added to our Management and Supervision bachelor's program, just to name a few.

As you can see, we are working daily to attain the goals of our college's mission- to improve lives in Northwest Florida! Call our student success team today to Make The Connection between your educational goals and dreams. ■

PASTRIES AND PERSPECTIVE



Pictured: NWF President Dr. Devin Stephenson shares breaking college news with members of the President's Circle.



On March 30, distinguished members of the 2016-2017 President's Circle gathered at the inaugural Pastries and Perspective event to enjoy breakfast and receive an exclusive college update from Dr. Stephenson. The President's Circle was created in 2013 with ten inaugural members, who were committed to giving a minimum gift of \$500 in unrestricted funds to the Foundation. Unrestricted gifts are the hardest to raise, yet they are so important to our organization because they offer the college flexibility to use the monies where they are most needed: advancing college priorities and enhancing the lives of our students. The number of President's Circle members has grown over the last three years to include 42 members providing more than \$21,000 in unrestricted funds to the college – our largest group yet! "The college is committed to creating a culture of excellence, and we are extremely grateful to our President's Circle members, who share our vision," said Dr. Stephenson. If you are interested in joining the President's Circle, please contact the Foundation Office at 850-729-5357 for more information. ■

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

- **Dr. Mike Davis**, History Professor, presented at the 2017 Florida Conference of Historians and was honored the Thomas M. Campbell Award for his paper, "The Pure Lava of Anti-Masonry: The First Congregational Church of Thetford, Vermont and the Anti-Masonic Struggle, 1829-1833."
- **Steve DeMeo**, Men's Basketball Head Coach, was recently named the 2017 Red Auerbach Coach of the Year, an award given annually to the nation's top Jewish college coach. DeMeo also received the 2017 Panhandle Conference Coach of the Year award for the third consecutive season.



DESTIN SNOWBIRDS MAKE DONATION TO MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Dean Harper, President of the Destin Snowbirds Club, presented a \$5,270 check to Dr. Jeremy Ribando, Chair of the Humanities, Fine & Performing Arts Division, to support the college's music and performing arts programs and scholarships. To date, the Destin Snowbirds have donated more than \$157,000 to the college over a 25 year partnership, impacting the lives of hundreds of performing arts students. ■

Pictured (L-R): Dean Harper, Dr. Jeremy Ribando

Professional and Continuing Education Student Art Show

The 9th Annual Continuing Education Student Art Show was on display during April with over 75 pieces of artwork displayed at the Goetsch Gallery in the Costa Leadership Institute. Student work was judged in three categories: overall, staircase designs and people's choice. Placing first in each respective category were Penny English (Niceville) for Cottonfields, John Kirwin (Niceville) for Stairway to Jazz and Gail Cino (Niceville) for Crabby. ■

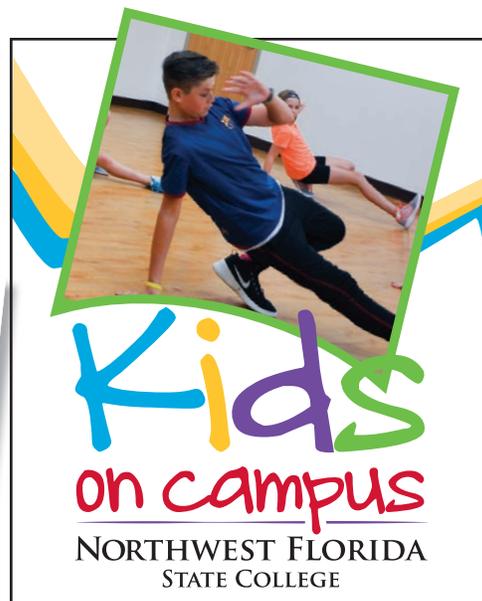


Pictured: Cottonfields received First place Overall.

KIDS ON CAMPUS 2017

Kids on Campus is a unique opportunity for summer enrichment for students entering 3rd - 8th grade. Two sessions will be held, June 12-22 and July 10-20, and will feature several new community partnerships and classes! Volunteer opportunities are also available for high school students entering 10th-12th grade.

For more information and a complete listing of 2017 Kids on Campus classes, visit: www.nwfsc.edu/kidsoncampus. ■



Visit our website at: www.NWFRaiders.com

ATHLETICS

NWF State College men's basketball team finishes in fourth place ranking at the NJCAA National Tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas. ■

The #15 nationally-ranked Raider Softball team is currently 40-12 with a record of 13-5 in conference. They are winding up the regular season and are participating in the state tournament in Dodgertown, Florida, April 28-30th. ■

Northwest Florida Baseball is second in the Panhandle Conference with a record of 10-7 and 26-14 overall. They are gearing up for their post-season, which will take place in Lakeland during May 5-10th. ■

NWF STATE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Shane Abbott
Craig Barker
Major General (Ret.)
Robert Chedister

William "Jeff" Floyd
Michael M. Flynt, Sr.
Brian S. Pennington
Devin Stephenson, President

FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mitch Mongell ~ Chair
Dale Peterson ~ Vice Chair
Chad Hamilton ~ Treasurer
Cristie Kedroski ~ Secretary

Scott Jackson ~ Past Chair
Jeff Floyd ~ Trustee Liaison
Devin Stephenson ~ President

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bo Arnold
Bethany Burke
Wayne Campbell
David Costa
Bart Fleet
Paige Floyd-Hart
Jeff Floyd
Chad Hamilton

Scott Jackson
Don Litke
Lois Lunderman
Jeff McInnis
Mitch Mongell
Venita Morell
Dennis Peters
Dale Peterson

Melissa Pilcher
Tom Rice
Donnie Richardson
Fred Thomas
Steve Wills
Steve Wolfrom
Dewayne Youngblood



100 College Boulevard, East
Niceville, FL 32578

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 230
Ft. Walton Beach, FL



NWF Members of All-Florida Academic Team Recognized

Nine NWF students were recognized by Florida College System Chancellor Madeline Pumariega as members of the 2017 All-Florida Academic Team at an awards ceremony in early April. ■

Pictured: Dr. Devin Stephenson with student members of the All-Florida Academic Team: Macayla Abercrombie (South Walton), Ashley Archer (Niceville), Harrison Blount (South Walton), Bradley Cochrane (Ft. Walton Beach), Morgan Masek (Ft. Walton Beach), Emily Summers (Crestview), Paul Swanson (Niceville) and Cameron Wakeland (Crestview). Not pictured: Joanna Lara (Defuniak Springs).



CBA Receives Five Star Award

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Five Star grant recently honored Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance's K-12 environmental education programs. In addition to a plaque, CBA received certificates designed to honor community partners for their support. ■

Pictured (top right): Russell Hughes, Walton County Schools Superintendent, and Kim Kirby, Walton County School Board member, receive a Five Star Program partnership certificate from Brittany Tate, CBA Education Coordinator.

Pictured (bottom right): Jason Draughn, Director of Activities at Sandestin® Golf and Beach Resort, receives a Five Star Program partnership certificate and a commemorative plaque from Alison McDowell, CBA Director, and Brittany Tate, CBA Education Coordinator.



NWF Jazz Band Earns Accolades

NWF State College Jazz Ensemble recently participated in the Gulf Coast All-Star Collegiate Jazz Band, led by trumpeter Wayne Bergeron, one of the most sought after jazz musicians in the world. In an active year of accolades, NWF Jazz Ensemble also performed in the finals of the Pensacola Jazz Society Competition, participated in the Jazz Educators Network conference in New Orleans and performed throughout the community at a variety of events. ■