



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

MARCH 2020

VOLUME 4, NO. 02

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Our newly adopted board-approved Mission Statement, "to improve lives by providing a high-quality, globally competitive education that is a catalyst for cultural, civic, and economic development throughout the region," gets straight to the heart of why we serve others in higher education. The lifeblood of Northwest Florida State College (NWFSC) is its people, and we have some of the finest educators, administrators, and staff in the nation – highly skilled, motivated, and passionate individuals who want nothing more than to meet our students where they are and to see them TAKE FLIGHT.

This month, I am focusing on our exceptional faculty. Did you know that more than 42% of our full-time faculty members have obtained their doctoral degree? In addition to the small class sizes at NWF State College, our students receive general education curricula taught by professors who have attained high levels of credentialing and possess years of subject matter expertise in their respective fields. Not only do our professors impact the lives of NWFSC students on campus and online, but many also present guest lectures in the community, region, and nation throughout the academic year. This past summer, Dr. Dean Allen, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, presented a lecture at the Myanmar Institute of Theology in Yangon, Myanmar (Rangoon, Burma). The lecture was titled, "If Meekness is Good, Must Anger Be Bad?: The Teaching of Praus in Aristotle and Jesus." Dr. Allen is just one example of our faculty's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce our Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Deidre Price. Dr. Price has been at NWFSC for 15 years as a professor of English, the Director of Instructional Technology & Online Education, and

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NWFSC SALUTES

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

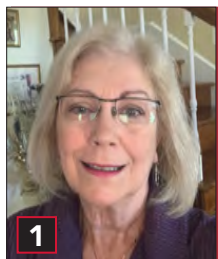


Northwest Florida State College's B.S. in Early Childhood Education faculty have achieved High Quality course designations for 100% of the classes taught in their online program. The Quality Development and Review (QDR) process recognizes online courses that have met 40+ rigorous standards for quality of design, instruction, accessibility and student experience. Under the inspirational leadership of Teacher Education Program Director Dr. Inger McGee

Congratulations Early Childhood Education faculty and staff: Bev Sandlin, Inger McGee, Tawanda Brown, Denise Berry, Laleta Fingall, Christina Morris, Donna Pierson, and C. Lynn Stephens. (Not pictured: Kimberlee Spencer and Jeanne Barker)

and QDR Instructional Design lead John Patten, the Early Childhood Education faculty are the first to have an entire program with courses that are all designated as High Quality, and this reflects an immense commitment to instructional excellence.

FACULTY ACCOLADES



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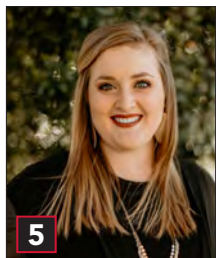
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1. Congratulations to our newest Certified Nurse Educator (CNE), Dr. Janet Flynn.

2. Congratulations to Kathy Williams on being named Clinical Nurse Specialist of the Year by the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists.



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3. Congratulations to Dr. KC Williams who was selected to serve as a pathways navigator in support of the Florida Student Success Center's Florida Pathways Institute (FPI).

4. Way to go Dr. Dean Allen for your lecture at the Myanmar Institute of Theology in Yangon, Myanmar in July of 2019.

5. Welcome to our new voice instructor Skylar Smith who is directing the Belle Voci all-female acapella choir here at NWFSC.

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Dean of Academic Strategies, Innovation, and Support. She received her Ph.D. at Florida State University. Dr. Price led the development of the College's Quality Enhancement Plan for our upcoming SACSCOC reaffirmation of accreditation, established the Center for Innovative Teaching & Learning, and spearheaded the launch of NWF Online.

Since NWF Online's launch in August 2019, our faculty have worked hard to deliver online courses that are high quality, relevant, and accessible for our students. Faculty members may submit their online courses for assessment under the Quality Development and Review (QDR) process, which recognizes courses that have achieved high levels of quality in design, instruction, accessibility, and student experience. Kudos to each and every faculty member who has achieved this standard of distinction!

Two programs that continually make headlines for their success are NWFSC's Nursing program and Teacher Education program. Congratulations to NWFSC's Nursing program, under the direction of Dr. Charlotte Kuss, Dean/Health Sciences and Public Safety, for recently being ranked 8th among all Florida college and university nursing programs by RegisteredNursing.org – a jump from being ranked 15th in 2018. This ranking is based on an analysis of past and present pass rates of the NCLEX-RN, a national licensure exam used to assess competency of registered nursing students. Similarly, under the guidance of Teacher Education Director Dr. Inger McGee, the NWFSC Teacher Education program received an "A" grade in the area of Early Reading Instruction from the National Council on Teacher Quality's Teacher Prep Review - an accolade they have received each year since 2013. Join me in saluting their continued excellence!

To our esteemed faculty, we thank you for your great work, your tireless hours, and your commitment to improving lives in Northwest Florida and beyond.

Dr. Devin Stephenson, President
#TheBestisOurStandard

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

STRATEGIC PLAN: Goals 3, 4 and 5



NWFSC LISTED AMONG STATE'S HIGHEST PERFORMING TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Northwest Florida State College was listed as one of the highest performing colleges in the state of Florida for the quality of our Teacher Education program.

The National Council on Teacher Quality's (NCTQ) Teacher Prep Review listed NWFSC as one of 16 colleges in Florida to receive an "A" grade in the area of Early Reading Instruction, an accolade our Teacher Education program has earned since 2013. In addition, this year the program received recognition as a "consistently high-performing undergraduate program."

Faculty members Dr. Lynn Ketter and Therese Sweeney are credited for the exceptional work in developing and teaching the reading and literacy curriculum at NWFSC.

The Teacher Prep Review rates program quality by examining each aspect of the early reading curriculum including; class topics, assignments, textbooks, tests and practice opportunities. Also pertinent in the rating process is clear evidence that the course work dedicates time to five key components of the science of reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.



Pictured from left to right are NWFSC Teacher Education faculty members Dr. Lynn Ketter, Dr. Inger McGee and Therese Sweeney.

NWFSC'S SIGMA MU CHAPTER OF PHI THETA KAPPA EXCELS

9 NWFSC students selected for the 2020 All-Florida Academic Team

66 new members inducted to NWFSC's PTK on February 4

2 consecutive years of being awarded Five Star Chapter



Northwest Florida State College 2020 All-Florida Academic Team members from left to right, back row: Noah Bresler, Morgan Chipman, Danielle Muir and Carol Ingam. From left to right, front row: Hannah Brown, Matt Nguyen, Julianna Cannon, Shelby Jones and MacKenzie Burgoyne.

ATHLETICS

The Northwest Florida State College women's basketball claimed outright possession of the 2019-20 Panhandle Conference Championship with a win over Pensacola State College on February 22. The Lady Raiders improved to 24-4 overall and 9-3 in Panhandle Conference play. Lady Raiders Basketball has advanced to the NJCAA Elite Eight in each of the last two seasons and is looking to earn its third consecutive berth to the NJCAA National Tournament in Lubbock, Texas.

The FCSAA/Region VIII Tournament will be hosted in Raider Arena and is set for March 4-7. For full tournament brackets or more information visit NWFRaiders.com/Region8Tourney.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



We would like to congratulate Collegiate High School student Victoria Salvador, who recently received nominations to both The U.S. Military Academy West Point and the U.S. Air Force Academy from Representative Matt Gaetz. Victoria aspires to serve our country as a pilot and study mechanical engineering.

PANHANDLE CONFERENCE **CHAMPIONS**



Former Major League
Baseball Player, and Author

Dale Berra

March 13, 2020
7:30 p.m.

Tickets: **FREE**
Limited Seating
Available

**PRESIDENT'S
SPEAKER SERIES**

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100 College Boulevard, East
Niceville, FL 32578

FOUNDATION

STRATEGIC PLAN: Goals 3, 4 and 5



OKALOOSA PUBLIC ARTS

CREATES ARTISTS SCHOLARSHIP



(L to R): Cristie Kedroski, NWFSC Senior Vice President; Leigh Peacock Westman, NWFSC Art Professor; Charlotte Arnold, OPA Board Member; Bernadette Simms, OPA Board Member; Rick Otopalik, OPA Board Member; Clint Mahle, NWFSC Theater Professor/Scenic Design Coordinator; Wren Supak, NWFSC Gallery Director.

With a generous cash gift of \$24,000, Okaloosa Public Arts has established the Okaloosa Public Arts Scholarship at Northwest Florida State College. The OPA scholarship will support NWFSC students enrolled in visual arts courses, based on talent. Second preference will be given to students in dance, art history, curatorial services, and other fine and performing arts courses.

LUCINDA J. FRAKES

ENDOWMENT



Local real estate broker and First Vice President of ERA American Realty Northwest Florida, Lucinda "Cindy" Frakes, has pledged \$15,000 to establish the Lucinda J. Frakes Scholarship Endowment at Northwest Florida State College. The scholarship will provide financial assistance to students who are pursuing an AS degree in a career or technical field.

Cindy is dedicated to equipping every student with the knowledge, skills and competence to prepare for a bright and challenging future. We are grateful for her investment in our students and the opportunities it provides them as they prepare to enter the workforce.

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

MEMBERS RECOGNIZED
AT CENTER COURT



On February 15, Northwest Florida State College President's Circle members were recognized at center court of the Raider Arena before the start of the final men's basketball home game.

President's Circle gifts provide immediate support to the College and the flexibility to use the funds where they are needed most. Since last February, the President's Circle has given more than \$26,000 in unrestricted contributions to the College. These gifts support the Student Success Fund, the Feed-A-Raider Food Pantry and have provided equipment for the Veterans Success Center and the new student activities lounge, The Hangar.