



# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

FEBRUARY 2019

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## UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITIES

February is Black History Month, and it is incredibly important for me to honor leaders who made a positive IMPACT to improve lives. I found these quotes inspirational and timeless:

**“Never be limited by other people’s limited imaginations.”**

— Dr. Mae Jemison,  
First African-American female astronaut

**“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.”**

— Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
Civil rights advocate

**“Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly.”**

— Langston Hughes, poet, social activist,  
novelist, playwright and columnist

2019 is a new year for unlimited opportunities – actually 365 of them! All of us can imagine the life we desire to lead; a life that often starts with education as the first step. Northwest Florida State College is an open door where all students can imagine what they want to achieve in life, and where they all are included in the conversation and are given the support to make their dreams come true.

(continued on next page)

## NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE NAMED MILITARY FRIENDLY SCHOOL

Northwest Florida State College recently was named a designated Military Friendly® School by Victory Media in the small public college category for the 2019-2020 academic year.

This designation is awarded to colleges each year based on extensive research using public data sources for more than 8,800 schools nationwide, input from student veterans and responses to the proprietary, data-driven Military Friendly® Schools survey from participating institutions.

“Excellent service for our military community is a high priority at Northwest Florida State College,” said President Dr. Devin Stephenson. “We are honored to

earn this distinction and are committed to making a positive impact on improving the lives of service members in Northwest Florida.”

With close proximity to Eglin Air Force Base, Hurlburt Field and Duke Field, NWF State College serves a multitude of veterans, active duty military members and their families. The College was named the first Military Order of the Purple Heart College in Florida and offers a variety of specialized services and programs including a bachelor’s degree in Military Leadership.



STRATEGIC PLAN: Goals 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6

## VETERANS SUCCESS CENTER GRAND OPENING

The College invites you to join us for the Grand Opening of our Veterans Success Center which provides a one-stop shop for veterans and their families. The Center includes a tranquil, professional and respectful location, including state-of-the-art infrastructure and technology, where veterans can study or pursue other scholastic assignments. The Center creates a cooperative community for veterans and provides resources for leadership, support, advisement and campus engagement. It serves to expand employment, educational opportunities and transition services to veterans, active duty and guard

Veterans Success Center, Bldg. 500  
Niceville Campus

Thursday, February 28, 2019  
at 3 p.m.

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Light Refreshments

Please RSVP at the link by February 25, 2019.  
[bit.ly/VSCregistration](http://bit.ly/VSCregistration)

service members, reservists and military dependents. Everyone is invited to attend a grand opening on Thursday, February 28 at 3 p.m. RSVP by February 25 at [bit.ly/VSCregistration](http://bit.ly/VSCregistration).



STRATEGIC PLAN: Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

(Unlimited Opportunities, continued)

It is critical to have a diverse and inclusive culture where everyone is accepted as their full, authentic self. I'd like to take a moment to celebrate the incredible, enriched work product that occurs when individuals with different life experiences and perspectives come together and move in unity toward a common goal. The College's Diversity and Inclusion Committee recently drafted the following statement that embodies our culture of acceptance, and they continue making strides to ensure inclusivity is at our College's core.

In support of building a culture where difference is valued and every individual feels empowered to bring his/her full, authentic self to work or school, we adopt the following Value Statement for Diversity and Inclusion:

*Northwest Florida State College is fully committed to diversity among its faculty, staff and students. We are responsible for inclusion in all forms. Our ability to thrive in a multicultural world depends on our respecting differences and dismantling barriers. Our institution embraces this challenge by creating educational opportunities, raising awareness, and implementing programs and initiatives that bring the celebration of diversity to life on our campuses, at our centers, and in the community.*

Together we will make the positive IMPACT we are designed to make in Northwest Florida. So, let's continue to Dream BIG! Northwest Florida State College can make dreams come true! Without harnessing the power of imagination, we forfeit the anticipation of possibilities.

Dr. Devin Stephenson  
President  
#TheBestisOurStandard



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

STRATEGIC PLAN:  
Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6



- **Northwest Florida State College** campuses and centers are tobacco-free effective January 1, 2019. Smoking and the use of all tobacco products (including e-cigarettes, vaping and smokeless tobacco) are prohibited at all NWF facilities, properties, and vehicles, owned or leased, regardless of location.
- **History Professor Victoria Stewart** recently represented the College at the American Historical Association's annual meeting, where she was selected to participate in a workshop with other historians and Ph.D. students regarding assignment design.
- **Director of Teacher Education Dr. Inger McGee** was recently published in the SRATE Journal. This publication is a double-blind peer-reviewed publication of the Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators.
- **The Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance** recently received a grant from Gulf Power to continue sustaining water resources in the Choctawhatchee Watershed. This project will cover five sites, all including an oyster shell/limestone reef breakwater to reduce erosion and provide habitat to seeded oysters and a living shoreline planted with smooth cordgrass and buttressed with coir logs to hold the shoreline in place.



# ATHLETICS

**This fall semester, our student-athletes posted an overall GPA of 3.28. Nearly 75 percent of our student-athletes earned a GPA of 3.0 or above, 15 were named to the Dean's List (3.50-3.79), and 15 were named to the President's List with a GPA of 3.80 or above. There were 11 student-athletes who earned a perfect 4.00 for the fall term.**

**Women's basketball boasted the highest team GPA with a 3.51. The Lady Raiders were also named #1 in the first NJCAA polls, proving that they excelled both on the court and in the classroom during the fall.**

STRATEGIC PLAN:  
Goals 1, 2, 3 and 6



*Pictured: Lady Raider Georgia Gayle,  
Guard, Sophomore*





## FUDPUCKER'S BEACHSIDE BAR & GRILL OF DESTIN ESTABLISHES ROB WAACK CULINARY SCHOLARSHIP

Fudpucker's Beachside Bar & Grill of Destin, LLC established a scholarship with a gift of \$3,551 to support students at Northwest Florida State College who are majoring in the Culinary Arts program. The scholarship was created in memory of Rob Waack, a 22-year resident of Santa Rosa Beach and a long-time kitchen manager at Fudpucker's Beachside Bar & Grill in Destin. The Rob Waack Culinary Scholarship is designed to pay 100 percent of the recipient's tuition, fees and books for the 12 credit hours required to earn the Chef's Apprentice Certificate. First preference will be given to a Fudpucker's employee.

For more information about this gift or partnership opportunities, please contact the NWF State College Foundation office at (850) 729-5357 or [foundation@nwfsc.edu](mailto:foundation@nwfsc.edu).



(L to R): Kate Doheny, Chester Kroeger (aka Father Fud), Tim Edwards, and Tracy Hook with photo of Robert Charles "Rob" Waack, affectionately known as "Big Rob"

## BAY DESIGN ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS DONATES TO NWF INDOOR PRACTICE FACILITY



(L to R): Alyssa Clayton, Assistant Softball Coach; Cadi Oliver, Interim Head Softball Coach; Ramsey Ross, Athletic Director; Steve Jernigan, Bay Design Associates Architects, P.L.; Devin Stephenson, President; Matt Miller, Assistant Baseball Coach; Sam Jones, Facilities Director; Chris Johns, Assistant Baseball Coach

Steve Jernigan of Bay Design Associates Architects, P.L., provided a gift of \$15,000 to Northwest Florida State College. This generous gift provides significant support to the Raider Athletic Indoor Practice Facility. The state-of-the-art facility will keep players in top performance condition and further Raider baseball and softball's continued success. Bay Design Associates Architects is an architectural firm specializing in the design of educational, health care, commercial and office facilities. Thank you, Bay Design Associates Architects!

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100 College Boulevard, East  
Niceville, FL 32578

## A SYMPHONY OF TASTE

Join us for the annual Symphony of Taste on February 24 from 2 to 5 p.m. in Building 400 on Northwest Florida State College's Niceville campus. This year's Mardi Gras themed festival will feature food samples from area restaurants, fine wines, craft beers, a silent auction and jazz music entertainment. The event is hosted by the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra Guild with proceeds benefiting the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra and its youth music education endeavors. Tickets are \$40 in advance or \$45 at the door. Purchase from Mattie Kelly Arts Center Box Office at 850-729-6000, [www.MattieKellyArtsCenter.org](http://www.MattieKellyArtsCenter.org) or at the following locations:

- Bayou Books - Niceville
- Cafe Bienville - Niceville
- Beach Wine Merchants & Liquors - Destin & Fort Walton Beach
- Magnolia Grill - Fort Walton Beach
- Twisted Grape - Shalimar

STRATEGIC PLAN:  
Goals 2, 5 and 6



## NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE UNVEILS NEW MASCOT

Northwest Florida State College unveiled a new mascot, J.R. (Jimmy Raider), between the women's and men's basketball games on January 12. J.R. made his debut during a scrimmage with mascots from across the area. Sadly, Jimmy the Fox sustained a career-ending injury during the game and J.R. arrived in his place to make the game-winning basket!

J.R. replaced Jimmy the Fox as a better representation of General Jimmy Doolittle who led

the squadron of B-25s on a daring raid to Japan as a reply to the attack at Pearl Harbor – a feat for which he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. The significance of the mission, many believe, was a turning point in World War II. Those Raiders had trained at nearby Eglin Air Force Base. NWF State College is honored to use the name "Raiders" as its school and athletic mascot. The student body chose the name "Raiders" in 1964.



STRATEGIC PLAN: Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6