



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

FEBRUARY 2020

VOLUME 4, NO. 1

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

NWFSC aspires to provide a quality, convenient, and affordable education, and to provide students with premiere learning experiences through clear education pathways.

We seek to be forward thinking, to raise awareness of, and create an inclusive learning environment that facilitates student learning. With this in mind, I salute the members of our Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Committee, a group established just over a year ago to encourage every member of our College Community to bring their full, authentic self to work or the educational environment. In January, the D&I Committee was instrumental in bringing together members of our campus community to represent NWFSC at the Fort Walton Beach Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade, to participate in a panel during the National Day of Racial Healing, and to host the Martin Luther King Jr. Oratorical and Poster Contest for local area youth. I thank them for their efforts to implement programs and initiatives that celebrate diversity and inclusion across the institution. Also supporting these efforts is Raider Life who is hosting a variety of events, listed on page 3, to celebrate Black History Month. We hope you will join us for these special events taking place at the College!

In the spirit of serving and empowering others, I encourage you make a conscious effort every day to recharge your passion; realign your vision; and reconnect with your purpose.

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PUBLIC SAFETY ACCOLADES



Northwest Florida State College EMT students practiced loading patients into a medical helicopter last spring.

STRATEGIC PLAN: Goals 2 and 6



The Public Safety Training Center at Northwest Florida State College has recently been recognized for excellence across three of its programs.

Law Enforcement and Corrections received the recognition of "perfect" following a Florida Department of Law Enforcement audit. This was the first time in five years that the law enforcement program received this esteemed accolade. The program's yearly audits review student admission, training and certification paperwork.

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NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE SIGNS NINTH TRANSFER PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

On January 9, Northwest Florida State College President Dr. Devin Stephenson and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Associate Director – U.S. Campus Operations Mr. Ron Garriga signed an agreement joining the two institutions to create a seamless pathway for student success.

The agreement between Northwest Florida State College (NWFSC) and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) facilitates the recognition, applicability and seamless transition of NWFSC's relevant certification and licenses earned by its graduates toward ERAU degree programs offered worldwide.

Northwest Florida State College also has university partnerships with Florida State University Panama City, Florida A & M University: Architecture,



Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Associate Director – U.S. Campus Operations Mr. Ron Garriga (left) and NWFSC President Dr. Devin Stephenson (right) recently signed a partnership agreement streamlining the transfer process for students.

Northcentral University, University of West Florida, Troy University Online, University of Central Florida and Western Governors University.

STRATEGIC PLAN: Goals 1, 2, 3 and 4



(continued from page 1)

Recharge your passion. Make it a passion to help people, to make a difference, and to create hope and promise. This past month, our college leadership, including our board of trustees and several community members, joined together for a strategic planning summit. The participants' commitment to excellence and student achievement was laudable and the passion they expressed for student success was inspiring.

Realign your vision. The unselfish, consistent work by our faculty and staff makes a true difference in the lives of our students. Under the leadership of Dr. Jeff McGill, the Law Enforcement and Corrections Department received a "perfect" rating in their most recent FDLE audit. Students in our Fire Academy achieved a 100% pass rate on the State Fire Practical Exam and 100% pass rate on the State Fire Written Exam. Our most recent EMT class pass rate is up to 81%, placing us four percentage points above the state average of 77.

Reconnect with your purpose. We have a distinct calling as an institution, and for over 50 years we have been instrumental in improving lives - But our work is only beginning. We are in the prime of life as an organization as we embark on our 2020-2023 Strategic Plan. We are focused on creating better pathways that lead to higher levels of success; delivering opportunities that enhance the quality of place in the region; and adding value to the lives of our students to strive for a higher level of service. Most recently, we signed a partnership agreement with Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, bringing our total to nine transfer agreements that provide our students seamless pathways to reach their educational pursuits! On January 31, 2020, we held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the HBI training lab and classroom space on campus, where the Home Builders Institute provides veterans hands-on construction training leading to a nationally recognized certification and job placement assistance at no cost. This serves the growing population of transitioning military members in our region.

TOGETHER WE WILL THRIVE!
TOGETHER WE WILL INNOVATE!
TOGETHER WE WILL SOAR!

Dr. Devin Stephenson, President
#TheBestisOurStandard

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

PUBLIC SAFETY ACCOLADES

(continued from page 1)

NWFSC students in the Fire and Safety Program achieved a 100% pass rate on the State Fire Practical Exam and a 100% pass rate on the State Fire Written Exam. This outstanding achievement was attributed to increased availability of equipment, reduction of down time and higher academic standards.

The most recent NWFSC Emergency Medical Technician class improved its passing rate to 81%, placing NWFSC above the state average of 77%.

Those credited for the prestigious audit recognition and passing rates for the 2019-2020 academic year at NWFSC are: Jeffrey McGill, Belinda Wise, Mike Traylor, Bill Jerard, Steve Hough, Jon Burdeshaw, Carl Hohenstein, Chris Brown, Gregory Lloyd, Don Pendergraft, Tim Rebholz, Megan Nelson and multiple adjunct instructors who dedicated time and effort to updating training methods and increasing standards.



NWFSC held a day-long event that provided key internal stakeholders and local community a forum to engage, collaborate and develop the future framework of the College's next strategic plan.

2020 - 2023 STRATEGIC PLANNING SUMMIT

STRATEGIC PLAN: Goals 4 and 6



Armed with a newly board-approved Mission, Vision and Values statement, participants celebrated the successes of the current Strategic Plan and ended the day with a framework from which to launch the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan that will begin in July 2020.

STEPHENSON TO SERVE ON REGIONAL COLLEGE ACCREDITATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

STRATEGIC PLAN: Goals 4 and 6

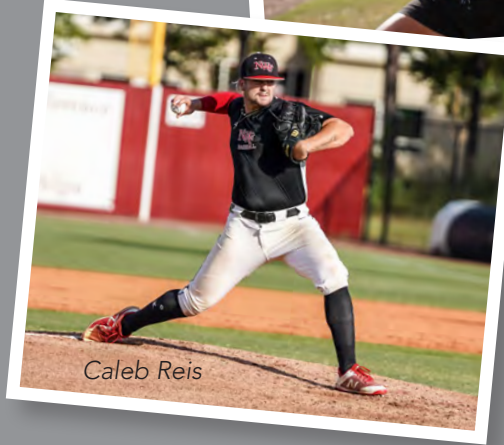


Dr. Devin Stephenson, president of Northwest Florida State College, has been selected by the Delegate Assembly of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to serve a second term on the Board of Trustees.

Members of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees are elected to three-year terms by a majority vote of the members of the College Delegate Assembly.



Ariana Cipriano



Caleb Reis



nfsO 2019-2020
NORTHWEST FLORIDA
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
at Northwest Florida State College
CONCERT
SEASON 33

Dance!

The Music of
Beethoven
& *Bernstein*

March 7, 2020
7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$25 Adults | \$16 Youth
FREE with NWFSC ID

MATTIE KELLY ARTS CENTER
NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

(850) 729-6000 or www.MattieKellyArtsCenter.org

NWFSC CELEBRATES DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



Artwork from the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Oratorical and Poster Contest held at NWFSC on January 18.



Members of the College's Diversity & Inclusion Task Force, Raider Life and college staff represented Northwest Florida State College in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade in Fort Walton Beach on January 20.



Pictured (L to R): Dean Allen, Patrice Williams, Justin Remol, Heather Dietzold and Anthony Chavez participate in a panel during the National Day of Racial Healing on January 21.

Baseball and softball seasons are right around the corner. Led by veteran head coach Doug Martin, baseball is ranked No. 9 in the NJCAA Division I Preseason Poll, with their first home game February 7. Softball, under first-year head coach Andy Lee kicks off its 2020 campaign on January 31 with the first home game February 18.

For full schedules, news, scores, and more, visit NWFRaiders.com.

Join us for Black History Month events at NWFSC

FEB 12 The movie "Drumline" will screen in The Hangar from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

FEB 19 African-American Cultural Exhibition 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Bldg. 410 Room 132/133

FEB 26 Tableside Chat: Looking Forward (Unity Think Tank) 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Bldg. 400 Room 302

FEB 28 Open Mic Night, 6:30 p.m. in Bldg. 100 in the Tyler Recital Hall

For more information about any of these events, contact Raider Life at raiderlife@nwfsc.edu 729-5348

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100 College Boulevard, East
Niceville, FL 32578

STRATEGIC PLAN:
Goals 4 and 6



The submission period is now open for the Mattie M. Kelly Environmental Institute 13th Annual Amateur Photo Contest! The deadline for entering photos is Monday, March 9, at 4:00 p.m. Top three winning photos and additional honorable mentions will be featured in the 2021 MKEI Calendar. Prizes: \$250 for first place, \$150 for second place, and \$100 for third place. Email mkei@nwfsc.edu for submission guidelines, contest rules, and entry forms and requirements.



2020 Alumni Awards
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations accepted until March 1, 2020

Please visit www.nwfsc.edu/alumni for a complete description of eligibility requirements and nomination information.




Alumni Award recipients will be recognized at the Foundation's Annual Scholars and Donors Luncheon on October 30, 2020. For more information, call the Foundation office at (850) 729-5357 or email alumni@nwfsc.edu.



Pictured (L to R): Thor, Jeff Claudio's service dog; Jeff Claudio; Leonora Claudio; NWFSC President, Dr. Devin Stephenson

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

With an initial gift of \$25,000, Jeff and Leonora Claudio have established a scholarship endowment in their name. The Jeff & Leonora Claudio Scholarship will provide support to students pursuing degrees in either nursing or emergency medical services. It is their hope that Northwest Florida State College nursing and EMS students will have a lighter financial burden while pursuing their dreams for a better, more secure life.