



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

MARCH 2019

VOLUME 3, NO. 02

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Together we continue to make a positive IMPACT in Northwest Florida! National Employee Appreciation Day is observed annually on the first Friday in March. I believe it is the "Who" in the organization that makes good things happen, and we have been celebrating many recent successes such as becoming a Five-Star Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Chapter, being named a Military-Friendly school, and opening our new Veterans Success Center. These accomplishments do not happen overnight - nor do they happen without deliberate actionable steps that are foundationally constructed in a highly interactive environment of planning and resolute execution. I want to thank our College personnel and the many community members who work to advance our College on behalf of students and their success.

We recently hosted coaches from Achieving the Dream, a network of the nation's best colleges, to assist us in building an institutional capacity framework approach to improving the success of our students. Faculty and staff participated in a "Capacity Café," providing feedback about strengths, challenges and next steps. I was extremely pleased with the reflection, creative ideas, insight and integration that occurred at the meeting. Positive momentum is continuing to build in our organization, making it a very exciting time to be a Raider!

(continued on next page)

STUDENTS SELECTED FOR THE ALL-FLORIDA PHI THETA KAPPA ACADEMIC TEAM

On February 19, 10 NWF and Collegiate High School students were selected for the All-Florida Academic Team by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK). This year's statewide team consists of approximately 150 students. Each year, PTK recognizes outstanding students in the Florida College System based on academic achievement, leadership and service to the community by naming them to the All-Florida Academic Team. Students are nominated by their respective colleges to the All-USA Academic Team competition sponsored by the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and USA Today.



Led by Donna Pierson, Faculty Advisor to the Five-Star Sigma Mu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, members of the All-Florida Academic Team include Josie Barton, Emily Checchio, Zachary Lambert, Marie Ream, Cathryn Robinson, Donna Scott, Natasha Skrovanek, Aaron Sutherland, Emily Wixtrom and Alana Woods.

STRATEGIC PLAN:
Goals 4 and 6



NWF STATE COLLEGE FORENSICS TEAM WINS FCSAA STATE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP



(L to R) Caleb Heathershaw (Crestview), Abigail Mainor (Baker), Jessica Ponce (Shalimar), Samira Chaudhry (Shalimar) and James Evans (Fort Walton Beach)

The NWF Forensics Team recently competed in the Florida College System Activities Association (FCSAA) State Championship Tournament at Tallahassee Community College. The team gave a strong performance by finishing first in Readers Theater, third in Individual Events, and fourth in overall Team Sweepstakes.

"We are extremely proud of this immensely talented forensics team for bringing a state championship home to NWF State College," said Dr. Devin Stephenson, President. "Their hard work and dedication, along with guidance from Hall of Fame Coach Cecil Scalf, have made a tremendous impact at the state level."

Coach Cecil Scalf was also inducted into the FCSAA Hall of Fame, Forensics Division, during the tournament awards ceremony preceding the competition. Congratulations to all!

STRATEGIC PLAN:
Goals 4 and 6



(Appreciation & Support, continued)

Vince Lombardi once said, "Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence!"

Every day we work to create a better experience for our students – one that is focused on raising their expectations and moving them toward becoming their best. That is why we exist, and that is why we serve. There has been a cultural shift toward only accepting the BEST in our operations as we move to making the most significant IMPACT on Northwest Florida.

The support our College personnel receive from the community enables us to keep this momentum going. We must continue to be mindful that our community partners are a vital voice in determining what skills are needed in the workforce. Based on community feedback, we continue to develop programming that will ensure our students are workforce ready.

Certainly, we are focused on my 4L's of Organizational Success – Look, Listen, Learn and Launch. If we continue to assess and adjust, our organization will remain relevant and transformational. Thank you for your support as our hardworking personnel focus their sites on student success and organizational excellence!

Dr. Devin Stephenson
President
#TheBestisOurStandard



(L to R): Cristie Kedroski, VP College Advancement; Denise and Kendall Wagner; Chad Hamilton, Chair Foundation Board of Directors; Carla Reinlie, Director of Development

THE MARGARET "PEGGY" KINSELLA SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT SUPPORTS EDUCATION MAJORS

On Friday, February 8, 2019, Denise and Kendall Wagner established a scholarship endowment with a gift of \$15,000 to support students majoring in education.

The scholarship was created in memory of Ms. Wagner's aunt, Margaret "Peggy" Kinsella, who had a passion for teaching and was adored by her many students over her 30 year teaching career. To honor her commitment to education and encourage students to pursue the teaching profession, the Margaret "Peggy" Kinsella Scholarship Endowment was established to provide a bright future to Northwest Florida State College students for years to come.

STRATEGIC PLAN:
Goals 4 and 6



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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



■ **President Dr. Devin Stephenson** will receive the Paragon Award for New Presidents from the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society in April.

■ **The Mattie M. Kelly Environmental Institute** at Northwest Florida State College is now accepting submissions for their 12th Annual Amateur Photo Contest. All submitted photos must be taken in the Northwest Florida region within the last two years, and the photo subject must encompass the natural heritage of the Northwest Florida region. The submission deadline for this year's contest is March 12, 2019 at 5 p.m. Please email mkei@nwfsc.edu for a full list of submission guidelines, contest rules and entry requirements.

■ **Rachel Cruze**, Dave Ramsey's daughter and money expert, will be speaking at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center as part of the NWF President's Speaker Series event on April 4, 2019.





RESTREPO DIRECTOR SEBASTIAN JUNGER TAKES CENTER STAGE

New York Time bestselling author and renowned director, Sebastian Junger, will take center stage at the main event for Northwest Florida State College's NWF Reads, the College's annual week-long literacy event, on April 15, 2019, at 7 p.m. in the Mainstage Theater. The event is free and open to the public with a book signing to follow.



Junger is the internationally acclaimed, best-selling author of *WAR*, *The Perfect Storm*, *A Death in Belmont* and *Fire*. He is also the acclaimed director of the documentary films *Restrepo* and *Korengal*. As a contributing editor to *Vanity Fair* and as a contributor to *ABC News*, he has covered major international news stories and has been awarded the National Magazine Award and a SAIS Novartis Prize for Journalism.

NWF READS EVENTS

- ▶ **APRIL 11** - Selected student poets and writers published in this year's *Blackwater Review* will read and perform their pieces at a casual event at 6 p.m. in the Mclroy Gallery.
- ▶ **APRIL 15** - The annual *Blackwater Review* reception in the Mclroy Gallery from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. includes selected student readings and the unveiling of the student art for the cover of this year's *Blackwater Review*, the College's annual literary and fine arts journal.

All events are free and open to the public. For a full list of NWF Reads events, visit www.nwfsc.edu/nwfreads.



NWF State College

@nwfstatecollege | February 18 at 12:55 PM

Follow

Thanks to everyone who attended the annual Snowbird Concert featuring Dr. @DevinStephenson at the @MattieKellyArts Center on February 17. We hope you had a great time!



ALL FOUR RAIDER TEAMS IN SEASON

BASKETBALL

The men's and women's basketball teams finished Panhandle Conference play with a combined 18-6 record with the Raider Men clinching their fifth consecutive Panhandle Conference championship and the Lady Raiders claiming a Panhandle Conference Co-Championship with rival Gulf Coast. Both squads are ranked nationally in the top-10 and have secured their spots in the postseason. Both teams are looking toward the FCSAA State Tournament, held March 7-9 in Ocala, Florida, where the Raider Men and Lady Raiders will represent the Panhandle Conference as the #1 and #2 seeds, respectively.

Sophomore center Jaiden McCoy (left) and sophomore combo guard Cece Mayo celebrate after another Lady Raider victory.

BASEBALL

Raider Baseball's season is in full swing! The Raiders entered the season ranked #2 in Perfect Game USA's preseason rankings! The team features five Division 1 commits: Conor Angel (University of Louisiana at Lafayette), Thomas Farr (University of South Carolina), Kaden Polcovich (Oklahoma State University), Jake Randa (Mississippi State University), and KC Simonich (University of New Orleans).

SOFTBALL

NWF Softball has also kicked off their season! The Lady Raiders returned seven players from last year's team: Summer Frye, Marcie Bewley, Amber Byrd, Maggie Wheless, Venice Sanders, Thalia da Silva, and Emily Sinclair. Conference play begins March 12.

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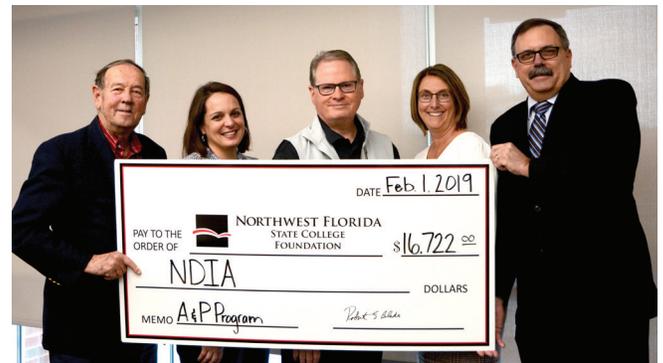
100 College Boulevard, East
Niceville, FL 32578

NATIONAL DEFENSE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION DONATES TO NWF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CENTER

The Gulf Coast Chapter of National Defense Industry Association (NDIA) provided a generous contribution of \$16,722 to support new programs at Northwest Florida State College's Advanced Technology Center. The center will be located in Crestview, Florida at the Crestview Technology Air Park and will house numerous programs including Airframe and Powerplant Mechanics.

NDIA has been a friend of the College since 2004 when they established the NDIA Gulf Coast Chapter Scholarship Endowment. NDIA has provided more than \$166,000 in support to NWF.

Thank you, NDIA Gulf Coast!

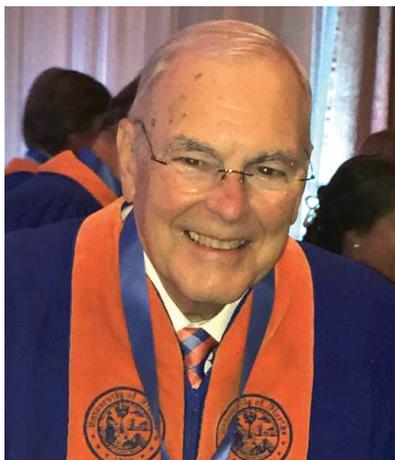


STRATEGIC PLAN:
Goals 2, 5 and 6



(L to R): Bob Blake, NDIA Chapter Secretary/Treasurer; Cristie Kedroski, NWF VP of Advancement; Dr. Devin Stephenson, NWF President; Missy Ward, NDIA Chapter President; Bob Hoffman, Air Force Scholarship Liaison

SOUTH WALTON UTILITY CO. GIFTS \$7,000 TO CBA IN MEMORY OF NWF STATE COLLEGE TRUSTEE MICHAEL FLYNT



In honor of Michael Flynt, South Walton Utility Co., Inc. donated \$7,000 to the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA) to improve swimmable, fishable waterways in Okaloosa and Walton Counties.

Flynt, a founding member of CBA, received his Bachelors of Science in Zoology from the University of Florida. He furthered his education by earning a Master of Arts in Community Leadership - Urban and Regional Planning from Central Michigan University, as well as a Masters of Public Administration in Coastal Zone Studies from the University of West Florida. He was a United States

Air Force Command Pilot, flying fixed wing aircrafts and helicopters, receiving the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

In addition, to working tirelessly to protect and improve our watershed through his work with CBA, Flynt served as Trustee on the Northwest Florida State College Board and President of South Walton Utility Co. CBA has named a living shorelines reef in his honor.

STRATEGIC PLAN:
Goals 4, 5 and 6

