



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

OCTOBER 2019

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STUDENT SUCCESS IS OUR SUCCESS

October is National Higher Education Month! To celebrate the occasion, this month's newsletter highlights the success of our students at Northwest Florida State College.

In September, our Culinary and Hospitality & Tourism programs launched Seagrass, a pop-up restaurant, which gives students the opportunity to learn real-world food service skills in a controlled, educational environment. This semester features fine-dining French Classical inspired luncheons, and the reception has been overwhelmingly positive with reservations booked through the fall term. Stay tuned for more information about dinner service at Seagrass coming this spring.

Student involvement in campus life significantly contributes to student retention. Given this, our Raider Life team and Student Government Association have taken on the charge to increase student engagement in clubs and bolster student involvement on campus. Last month, 30 outstanding scholars joined the 5-star Sigma Mu chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, an international honors society of two-year state and community colleges, which recognizes leadership, fellowship, service and scholarship. Additionally, the College launched a newly redesigned P.A.C.E. Minority Scholars program. This two-year mentorship program aims to provide enrichment experiences outside the classroom to minority students. These are just two examples of how our staff and student leaders have prioritized student engagement and increased student participation by more than 50% over the prior year.

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NWFSC STUDENTS JOIN PHI THETA KAPPA



Thirty-four students of Northwest Florida State College were recognized for their leadership and academic achievements Tuesday, September 3, when they were inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society. Phi Theta Kappa is an international honors society that promotes leadership, fellowship, service and scholarship. Eligibility for membership requires students to have completed at least 12 hours of associate degree course work and keep a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or above.

During the 2019-2020 induction ceremony, Phi Theta Kappa inductees were charged by Dr. Devin Stephenson, president of NWFSC, to never give up on the dreams that inspire them.

"This induction is a marker that you are distinctive, you are a dreamer," he said. "Dive into your purpose with a motivation and discover just how big your dreams can be. My challenge to you is to have a dream and make it a reality."

STRATEGIC PLAN:
Goals 1, 2, 4 and 6



2019-2020 FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS



The NWFSC Foundation held its Annual Board Installation and Recognition Reception on August 29. For a list of the current board members, see the back panel.

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To encourage peer-to-peer interaction on campus, the College created, The Hangar, a new student activity center located on the Niceville Campus directly across from the Barnes & Noble Bookstore and Starbucks. The Hangar offers students an upbeat environment to socialize with friends, eat, and play video games, ping-pong, or air hockey.

We continue to prioritize our commitment to diversity and inclusion. This charge has been taken up by a broad-based college committee dedicated to advancing the values associated with diversity, inclusion, and equity. In addition to the many events led by the committee, all College employees participated in diversity and inclusion training this fall to help ensure we create an environment that encourages student success.

Our surge in growth of student involvement and academic success would not be possible without our dedicated employees and faculty members. Thank you to our hard-working students, faculty, employees and partners for your commitment to excellence; you are the reason our College is Taking Flight and SOARING into this academic year.

Dr. Devin Stephenson
President
#TheBestisOurStandard

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

STRATEGIC PLAN:
Goals 3, 4, 5 and 6



FACULTY KUDOS

NWFSC delivers exceptional educational experiences that lead students toward academic success. Coinciding with the August launch of NWF Online was the culmination of the College's Quality Development and Review Pilot, an extensive online course development project in which 14 of our faculty members across seven academic departments implemented best practices in course design and applied innovative teaching strategies to create engaging online courses leveraging innovative teaching strategies. Over the four-month pilot, these instructors produced 12 courses earning Quality designations and 15 courses earning High-Quality designations, and this is just the beginning!



(Pictured Top, L to R): Dr. Jerome Strutchen, Business; John Patten, Learning Technologies and Dr. Victoria Stewart, Social Sciences (Middle, L to R): Dr. Michelle Ragle, Mathematics; Dr. David Schjott, Social Sciences and Dr. Beth Norton, Nursing (Bottom, L to R): Lynn Stephens, Teacher Education; Christina Morris, Teacher Education; Kathy Williams, Nursing and Dr. Shari Wight, Nursing (Not Pictured): Bev Sandlin, Teacher Education; Dr. Anne Southard, Business; Jeanne Barker, Teacher Education; Tawanda Brown, Teacher Education; Denise Berry, Teacher Education



Culinary student Shawni Jones, NWFSC President Dr. Devin Stephenson, Culinary Arts Director Julie Cotton and Jennifer Guilmette at the first Seagrass pop-up restaurant last month.



MKEI AWARD



Richie Gray, Mattie Kelly Environmental Institute (MKEI) Environmental Technician, was awarded the second place student paper award for his presentation at this year's Florida Lake Management Society Symposium held August 27-30, 2019 in Duck Key, Florida. Pictured with Gray is Dr. Dana Stephens, Director of MKEI.

SGA ELECTS NEW OFFICERS



Northwest Florida State College's Student Government Association Officers

(L to R): Secretary Caitlin Fidler, Vice President Hunter Layfield, President Jessica O'Neill, Treasurer Courtney Williams and Parliamentarian Luke Cornish.

INTRODUCING THE HANGAR

A bustling activity hub named The Hangar, was opened to students this fall. It features a dining area, several video gaming areas, air hockey and table tennis.



Raider Life staff members
LaTosha Pinckney and
Marlena Venezzee.

STRATEGIC PLAN:
Goals 2 and 6



ATHLETICS

**NWF RAIDER
BASKETBALL
SEASON BEGINS
NOVEMBER 1**

RAIDER CLUB
MEMBERSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

2019-20 Raider Club memberships are now available! Included in the membership is:

- Admission to all home games
- V.I.P. seating for basketball games
- Access to the Raider Room
- Official Raider Club gear
- Discounts on Raider gear

To purchase Raider Club memberships, visit NWFRaiders.com.



STRATEGIC PLAN:
Goals 2 and 6



**CBA WELCOMES
2019-2020
AMERICORPS
MEMBERS**



Last month, 11 young adults from across the nation arrived in Northwest Florida to serve as AmeriCorps members. AmeriCorps gives participants a framework for positive change by meeting critical needs in the community. NWFSCs AmeriCorps members support the College's goals daily by forging innovative partnerships and encouraging community connectivity.

This year, AmeriCorps NWF Environmental Stewards will work with Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA) to support K-12 environmental STEM education and ecosystem restoration in the Choctawhatchee watershed. This partnership is made possible through a competitive, state-funded grant through Volunteer Florida.

October 24, 2019/7:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$25
(850) 729-6000 or www.MattieKellyArtsCenter.org

MATTIE KELLY
ARTS CENTER
NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

NWF STATE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Shane Abbott	Maj. Gen. Thomas "Rudy" Wright, USAF Ret.
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100 College Boulevard, East
Niceville, FL 32578

FOUNDATION

STRATEGIC PLAN:
Goals 3, 4 and 5



NWFSC VP of College Advancement, Cristie Kedroski, NWFSC Foundation Board Chair C. Jeffrey McInnis, President of Trustmark Bank for Okaloosa and Walton Counties, Jonathan Ochs, and NWFSC President Dr. Devin Stephenson

TRUSTMARK BANK PLEDGES \$25,000 TO STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Jonathan Ochs, president of Trustmark Bank for Okaloosa and Walton Counties and Northwest Florida State College Foundation Board Member, presented a \$25,000 pledge to Northwest Florida State College on behalf of Trustmark Bank. The pledge will enhance the bank's previously established endowment - the Trustmark Bank Scholarship. The scholarship provides support to Northwest Florida State College students with financial need who reside in Okaloosa or Walton County.

NWFSC AFC ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIP

The Association of Florida Colleges Northwest Florida State College Chapter has pledged \$15,000 to establish the AFC/Terry Comeau Endowed Scholarship in honor of NWFSC Copy Services Manager Terry Comeau. Terry Comeau began her career at Northwest Florida State College in August of 1988. Since 1990, the NWFSC Chapter of AFC has invested over \$95,000 in NWFSC students with five scholarship endowments.

(L to R): NWFSC Chapter of AFC members, Tony Chavez, Terry Comeau and Shandra Dejournette.



(L to R): Kissy Gordon, Mary Corbett, NWFSC President Dr. Devin Stephenson, Dale Fuqua, and Rhonda Davis.

TWIN CITIES WOMAN'S CLUB ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

Twin Cities Woman's Club, longtime friend of Northwest Florida State College, has established the Twin Cities Woman's Club Scholarship Endowment with more than \$23,000 to support NWFSC students. In addition, the Twin Cities Woman's Club provided a \$2,000 gift to ensure continued support to existing student scholars. The Twin Cities Woman's Club is a group of women that raises funds for scholarships and supports charitable organizations that supports women and children. This distinguished group of women has been investing in Northwest Florida State College students since 1994 and has provided more than \$100,000 in scholarship support.