



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

NOVEMBER 2019

VOLUME 3, NO. 09

THANKFULNESS STARTS WITH YOU!

November brings with it a season of thanksgiving, and at Northwest Florida State College we are deeply thankful for the outstanding support we continue to receive from you, the friends of our College.

We are thankful for our generous donors—who give of their time and resources to make this institution and community a better place. One such person, who was generous with their time, talent, and treasure, was former NWFSC trustee and Foundation board member, Michael Flynt whom we celebrated with the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance last month through the dedication of a living shoreline in Valparaiso. In addition, we celebrated at the College's annual Scholars & Donors luncheon where donors and student recipients dined together, new scholarship donors were recognized, and several distinguished alumni were honored for their many accomplishments.

We are thankful for our students, faculty, and staff—who make NWFSC a vibrant place to teach, work, and learn. Earlier this month, students celebrated the season with a fall 1980's-themed party and we welcomed future students to explore our College on Preview Day. The College's Brain Bowl team won the Santa Fe Invitational Tournament by scoring an all-time record for most points at a community college tournament. Once again, our faculty demonstrated they are among the best with an article authored by Dr. Inger McGee, Director of Teacher Education, being published in the Winter 2019 Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators' Journal.

Our staff continue to shine in and out of the classroom as evidenced by our student success team who supported Breast Cancer Awareness month in October. We also cheered on our 2019-2020 Men and Women's

(continued on next page)

CBA DEDICATES

LIVING SHORELINE TO FOUNDING MEMBER

STRATEGIC PLAN:
Goals 4 and 6



The Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA) hosted a ribbon-cutting at Florida Park in Valparaiso on Friday, October 4, to dedicate their newest living shoreline project to the memory of CBA founding board member Michael Flynt.



Michael Flynt was a champion of the CBA and of Northwest Florida State College. He served as a member of the NWFSC Foundation Board, the Institute of Senior Professionals, the CBA board, and the College's Board of Trustees.

"In Mike I saw a servant-leader, a forward-thinker, a strategist and a protector of all that is good," said

Dr. Devin Stephenson, NWFSC president. "To name this piece of God's earth, Mike Flynt Living Shoreline, is symbolic of making this world a better place in which to live."

Approximately 50 people attended the ribbon-cutting, including Flynt's wife Charlotte, children Laura Nemes and Mike Flynt Jr., and several other close friends and family members.

NWFSC BRINGS STUDENTS AND DONORS TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE SUCCESS



(L to R): Dr. Devin Stephenson, NWFSC President; Tricia Brunson; Foster Lux; Johanna Cook; Charlie Marelo. Not Pictured: Nicholas Ward.

Northwest Florida State College Foundation held its Scholars & Donors Luncheon Friday, October 25. The program encourages scholarship recipients and donors to get to know one another as well as recognizes newly established endowments and Distinguished Alumni Award Winners.

This year, because of the generous support of Northwest Florida State College donors, the College will award more than \$800,000 in scholarship funding to deserving students.

The following 2019 Northwest Florida State College Distinguished Alumni Award Winners were announced during the luncheon: Nicholas Ward, Distinguished Alumni; Johanna Cook, Against the Odds; Rising Star, Foster Lux; Hometown Hero, Tricia Brunson; and Hometown Hero, Charlie Marelo.

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



(continued from page 1)

Raider Basketball coaches and student athletes as they tipped off a promising new season.

We are thankful for our community—who support the College with their presence at events, and positively influence the lives of our students, faculty and staff. Last month we were dazzled by piano duo Joseph Rackers and Marina Lomazov during the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra concert, Love & Marriage. We also welcomed former NASA Astronaut Winston Scott as he shared his incredible life journey from childhood to space.

As we look toward the holiday season, let us all promote a spirit and attitude of gratitude. We have much to be thankful for and we look forward to a very bright future. Let's SOAR into the New Year together!

Dr. Devin Stephenson, President
#TheBestisOurStandard

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

STRATEGIC PLAN:
Goals 1, 2, 3 and 6



NWFSC BRAIN BOWL TEAM WINS BIG TO OPEN 2019-2020 SEASON

On Saturday, October 12, the Northwest Florida State College Brain Bowl team, consisting of an A-Squad and B-Squad, competed in the Santa Fe Fall Invitational at Santa Fe College in Gainesville, Florida.

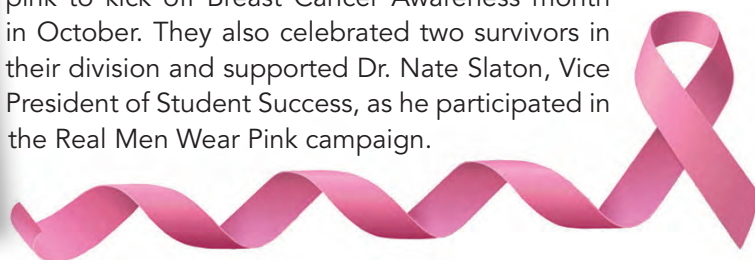
The NWFSC A-Squad of Teertho Bhattacharya, Collin McGovern and Zane Schmidt won the tournament going 8-0 in their matches with a 5,235 point total and sealing their victory with a 630-190 championship round over Chipola College. They also set an all-time national record for the most points per game at a community college tournament, beating the record by 35 points.

The NWFSC B-Squad of Lana Vo, Brandon Williams, Sheppard Plenge and Stephanie Logan placed 10th in the competition after going 3-5 with a 1,155 point total.



DEPARTMENT KUDOS

Our Student Success division sported their pink to kick off Breast Cancer Awareness month in October. They also celebrated two survivors in their division and supported Dr. Nate Slaton, Vice President of Student Success, as he participated in the Real Men Wear Pink campaign.



ATHLETICS

STRATEGIC PLAN:
Goals 2 and 6



RAIDER BASKETBALL BEGINS!

Northwest Florida State handed head coach Butch Pierre his first victory at the helm of the program with a 66-56 win over Florida State College at Jacksonville on Friday. Indrek Sunelik came off the bench to lead all scorers with 14 points on 5-of-11 shooting and four 3-pointers.

The fifth-ranked Northwest Florida women's basketball team opened the 2019-20 season in style with an 86-63 rout of No. 20 Wabash Valley on Saturday. Freshman Masengo Mutanda turned in a spectacular debut going 10-of-12 from the field and 3-of-4 from 3-point range to lead all scorers with 25 points.

Visit NWFRaiders.com to view upcoming Raider Basketball schedules!



Carte'Are Gordon



Nursing students share their research during Preview Day's Major's Fair.



A student finds out information about NWF Online during Preview Day.



Caitlin Tara Bori, Instructional Support Specialist for NWFSC's Fine & Performing Arts department welcomes perspective students to the Major's Fair during Preview Day.

PREVIEW DAY

On Friday November 1, NWFSC welcomed 203 perspective students to our Niceville campus for Preview Day. This marked the largest turnout for the event, as we more than doubled participation from the inaugural Preview Day last spring. During the event, prospective students had the opportunity to sit in on classes such as welding, dental assisting elementary education and electronics, tour the campus, and explore around 30 information tables from our different departments and partner schools during the major's fair.

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



WINSTON SCOTT

The President's Speaker Series launched last month with former NASA Astronaut Winston Scott. Scott, who served in the U.S. Navy and then as a mission specialist on missions in 1996 and 1997, came to share his experience at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center. Before the event, Scott and his wife Marilyn joined the President's Leadership Academy for lunch, and each shared about life as a couple during Scott's incredible career.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

Goal 6



Freshman Masengo Mutanda



NWF STATE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brian S. Pennington, Chair	Reynolds Henderson
Lori Kelley, Vice-Chair	Maj. Gen. Don Litke, USAF Ret.
Shane Abbott	Maj. Gen. Thomas "Rudy" Wright, USAF Ret.
Craig Barker	Dr. Devin Stephenson, President
Charlotte Flynt	

FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

C. Jeffrey McInnis, Chair	Cristie Kedroski, Secretary
J.D. Peacock, Vice Chair	Maj. Gen. Don Litke, USAF Ret., Trustee Liaison
Ken Wampler, Treasurer	Dr. Devin Stephenson, President
Chad Hamilton, Past Chair	

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eric Aden	Gordon King	Donnie Richardson
Dr. Bo Arnold	Michelle McGee	Ashley Rogers
Marek Bakun	Mitch Mongell	Hu Ross
Wayne Campbell	Jonathan Ochs	Fred Thomas
Walter Hooks	Dennis Peters	Steve Wills
Tyler Jarvis	Dale E. Peterson	Steve Wolfrom
Bernard Johnson	Melissa Pilcher	Alan Wood
Heather Kilbey	Tom Rice	Dewayne Youngblood



100 College Boulevard, East
Niceville, FL 32578

FOUNDATION

STRATEGIC PLAN:
Goals 3, 4 and 5



GENE HAAS FOUNDATION AWARDS \$10,000 GRANT



(L to R): Dr. Ana Pena Alvarez, NWFSC Director of Advanced Technology and Applied Science; Roger Stump, Haas Specialist; Dr. Devin Stephenson, NWFSC President; Dr. Deborah Kish, NWFSC Vice President of Academic Affairs; and Sam Renfro, NWFSC Executive Director of Grant Development.

On behalf of the Gene Haas Foundation, Roger Stump, presented a \$10,000 grant to Northwest Florida State College.

This is the second Gene Haas Foundation grant awarded to NWFSC in just five years. The grant will support scholarships for Computer Numerical Control (CNC) technology or machinist training. Funds will also support CNC/Manufacturing programs such as SkillsUSA and SAE teams.

CCB COMMUNITY BANK INVESTS \$15,000 IN STUDENTS



(L to R): Alan Wood, CCB Community Bank President and NWFSC Foundation Board Member; Dr. Devin Stephenson, NWFSC President.

On behalf of CCB Community Bank, President Alan Wood presented a \$15,000 pledge to Northwest Florida State College (NWFSC). This unrestricted gift will further the College's mission to develop a highly skilled, educated workforce that benefits the region.

"CCB Community Bank has provided NWFSC the opportunity to direct this gift to the institution's most critical needs," said Dr. Devin Stephenson, NWFSC president. "Their generous support bolsters our vision to prepare and equip our students for future success."

GULF POWER VETERAN SUCCESS GIFT



(L to R): Bernard Johnson, Central District GM at Gulf Power and NWFSC Foundation Board Member; Dr. Devin Stephenson, NWFSC President

On Tuesday, October 29, Bernard Johnson, Central District GM at Gulf Power, presented Gulf Power's second installment of their \$150,000 pledge to assist in the establishment of a Veterans Success Center at NWFSC. The gift enhances the operational capacity of the Center, which serves to expand employment, educational opportunities and transition services to veterans, active duty and guard service members, reservists and military dependents.