

## **Statement of Professionalism and Academic Freedom**

### **Statement of Philosophy of Northwest Florida State College**

*The mission of Northwest Florida State College is to provide quality educational programs and services whereby students may achieve their goals and the community is enhanced through academic, vocational, cultural, economic, and personal development opportunities.*

### **Statement of Philosophy and Academic Freedom of NWFSC Professional Personnel**

All professions are characterized by special, rigorous educational and experiential preparation that is objectively documented, dedication to the wider purposes of the profession, standards of honor, and a continuing curiosity about the profession.

Given these qualifications, the professional educator is a member of a profession distinguished by several unique characteristics, including stringent educational preparation and frequent updating; expertise in a specific discipline encompassed by the profession; unswerving loyalty to the profession; a commitment to lifelong learning and development; adherence to self-imposed high standards in intellectual, moral, and social matters; and a sense of responsibility to the profession, to those served by the profession, and to society as a whole. Professionalism thus entails behavior and attitudes characterized by pride in one's self and one's chosen career, respect for the people served, and commitment to the continuing development of skills in the pursuit of excellence. Standards provide the framework within which professionals carry out their obligations to each other, to the people they serve, and to society in general.

NWFSC personnel recognize that the best way to put this philosophy into action is through the leadership of professional educators and support personnel, working together with students, in a collegiate environment that is challenging, nurturing, and free from intimidation and coercion. Essential to this environment are the freedom to exercise professional judgment, cooperation, broad-based participation in decision-making that includes all levels of professionals, open and honest communication, trust, a harmonious atmosphere, and attitudes that both promote and cultivate the development of potential in students, in faculty and staff, and in the community. In the thoughtful and reasoned search for truth, the development of knowledge, research endeavors, and creative activities, college faculty and students must be free to cultivate a spirit of inquiry and scholarly criticism and to express ideas and beliefs in an atmosphere of openness and respect tempered with professional responsibility.

NWFSC personnel are committed to the highest ideals of professionalism as practiced within the legal framework of Florida Statutes, State Board of Education Rules, and policies established by the college's Board of Trustees.

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