

CHALLENGING THE NORM

It is never my intention to begin my remarks on a somber note, but I cannot let this moment pass without acknowledging the tragic circumstances that many of our sister colleges in Texas and Florida have experienced during Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

Particularly in Florida, our entire state was affected in one way or another. In the end, many are rebuilding their lives. I can't help but think that this is how many of our students come to us, with the resilience to rebuild their lives. Our mission is to improve lives, and that is what we will continue to do across Northwest Florida. With that said, we extend our support and best wishes to our partner Florida College System institutions who are in the process of rebuilding and caring for their students. Together, we will continue serving our students and maintain our status as the best community and state college system in the nation!

Hurricane relief efforts are underway right here on our campus with a Collegiate High School senior Ashlyn Rhea who is collecting medical supplies to send to the victims of Hurricane Harvey as a part of her Senior Capstone Project. Ashlyn has now added Hurricane Irma victims to her relief efforts. Please read more about Ashlyn and how you can help in this edition.

This semester, our associate of science in nursing program has reached a milestone with the largest class in college history! With over 156 future nurses on

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ANNUAL BOARD INSTALLATION

2017-18 Foundation Board Members gather at the Annual Board Installation and Recognition Reception held on August 31, 2017 ■

Pictured (L to R): Steve Wolfrom; Don Litke; Bo Arnold; David Costa; Dewayne Youngblood Jr.; Mitch Mongell, Past Chair; Bethany Burke; Tom Rice; Jeff McClinnis, Treasurer; Dale Peterson, Chair; Donnie Richardson; Chad Hamilton, Vice Chair; Steve Wills; Cristie Kedroski, Secretary/VP College Advancement; Alan Wood; Devin Stephenson, NWF State College President; Ken Wampler; J.D. Peacock.

NWF STATE COLLEGE RANKS AMONG TOP TEN MOST AFFORDABLE ONLINE BACHELOR'S IN NURSING PROGRAMS



College Choice has ranked Northwest Florida State College among the top Ten Most Affordable Online Bachelor's in Nursing (BSN) programs.

"Our nursing programs continue to receive honors both regionally and nationally," said Dr. Devin Stephenson, President. "These distinctions are further confirmation that our nursing faculty, staff, and students are among the best in the nation. We are honored and will continue to create a culture of excellence and continuous improvement at NWF State College."

College Choice, a leading authority in college and university resources, is an independent online publication dedicated to helping students and their families find the right college. Rankings are based on academic reputation, student satisfaction, affordability, and average annual salary of early career nurses from online BSN programs across the country to create a definitive ranking of the most affordable nursing programs. Research for the ranking is qualified by college websites as well as nationally recognized U.S. News & World Report and The National Center for Education Statistics. ■

campus, we are preparing the caregivers of tomorrow. Recent events have shown us, yet again, that our country is always in need of more caregivers. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of registered nursing jobs alone will grow 16% from 2014 to 2024. These jobs will help create a sustainable family wage and better quality of life for our students!

Our bachelors of science in nursing (BSN) program is once again being honored by College Choice, a leading authority in college and university resources, as one of the Top Ten Most Affordable Nursing Schools in Florida! You may remember

only a few months ago, our BSN was honored by College Choice as one of the Top 50 Best Online BSN programs in the nation. Our program was the only community college to make the Top 50 list! These rankings are a cause for celebration for our nursing faculty, staff, and students, and a real distinction given the stiff competition. We are honored and will continue to create a culture of excellence and continuous improvement at NWF State College.

Lastly, I would like to share one more distinction with you. Through our strategic alliance with

Cenergistic, Northwest Florida State College has achieved \$2,650,111 in cost savings over the past 38 months, and we were again awarded the company's Energy Excellence Award during our September Board of Trustees meeting.

Our college is striving to operate efficiently, effectively and productively in our communities. We are challenging the norm and focusing on entrepreneurial and innovative programs that enable all students to be successful. ■

#TheBestIsOurStandard

CHALK UP A MILLION FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR

Faculty and staff at Northwest Florida State College have chalked up over two million dollars' worth of good behavior. Their energy-efficient practices have earned significant savings — and now those good habits are earning the organization national recognition.

NWF State College has achieved \$2,650,111 in cost savings in 38 months since forming a strategic alliance with Cenergistic, a national energy conservation company, which presented its Energy Excellence Award during the September 19th board meeting.

"This entrepreneurial approach to energy savings comes as the result of effective collaboration, planning, adoption, and follow-through," said Dr. Devin Stephenson, President. "NWF State College has passionately embraced this innovation, and even in challenging economic times, we have realized significant savings." ■



Pictured (L to R): Truman Atkins, Cenergistic; Craig Barker, NWF Trustee; Major General (Ret.) Robert Chedister, NWF Trustee; Brian Pennington; NWF Trustee; Dr. Devin Stephenson, NWF President; Dan Fife, Cenergistic NWF Energy Specialist; Shane Abbott, NWF Trustee; and Jeff Floyd, NWF Trustee.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

- **H. Mae Giddings** (Chemistry Laboratory Specialist) has earned her Master's degree in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences from the University of Florida.
- **Collegiate High School seniors Kai Hall and Allison Keen** were named semi-finalists in the National Merit Scholarship program. Of the 1.6 million entrants, the Collegiate High students are two of 16,000 semi-finalists based on their scores on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.



ON VIEW NOW AT THE MATTIE KELLY CENTER'S HOLZHAUER GALLERY

Selections from Marie Snow Greene's collection are on display in the Mattie Kelly Art's Center's Holzhauser Gallery until October 20, 2017. Marie Snow Greene's work on display demonstrates the depth and breadth of her vibrant and distinctive watercolor style. Twenty paintings and drawings in the exhibition reveal an interest in revisiting her familiar subjects: scenes from her travels, still lifes composed in her studio, landscapes, and nature studies. ■



THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Tickets are now available for the Mattie Kelly Art's Center's first Broadway show of the season – The Sound of Music. The hills are alive with a brand new production of The Sound of Music. The beloved musical story of Maria and the von Trapp family will once again thrill audiences with its Tony, Grammy and Academy award-winning Best Score. To buy tickets for the October 26th show, visit mattiekellyartscenter.org or call 850-729-6000. ■

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S
The Sound of Music
Book By Lindsay & Crouse

October 26
7:30 pm | \$45

MATTIE KELLY ARTS CENTER
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ATHLETICS

NWF Basketball schedules announced

The Bart Walker era of NWF Women's Basketball will begin on November 3rd when the Lady Raiders host Volunteer State Community College. This game will kick off a tough non-conference schedule for the Lady Raiders, who return 2 players from last year's team. January 6th will mark the beginning of the rigorous conference schedule. As always, the Panhandle Conference looks to be strong this year, featuring the defending back-to-back national champions, Gulf Coast State College. There will be a lot of new faces on the Lady Raider's roster, including 5 players with international playing experience and several Division 1 transfers.

Coach Steve DeMeo and the Raiders will start the 2017-18 men's basketball season with several pre-season scrimmages throughout the month of October. The Raiders will be playing in the Arena for the first home game of the season on November 3rd, right after the women's game. The first half of their season will feature the Bruce Stewart Classic where the Raiders will host Spartanburg Methodist and San Jacinto – both made appearances in last year's national tournament. They will then be travelling to Monroe College in New York for a 3-day tournament facing some elite competition. The Raiders have 3 returners from last year's Final Four squad,

led by point guard Andres Feliz. Some new players to keep an eye on will be transfers Derek Funderburk (Ohio State), Bryce Peters (Colorado), Kelvin Robinson (Appalachian State), and Tray Boyd (Union University).

Schedules can be found online at nwfraiders.com. ■

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www.NWFRaiders.com

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DR. STEPHENSON WELCOMES FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Dr. Stephenson welcomed four exchange students to campus this fall. These students join us from the Institute of Technology in La Roche-sur-Yon, France to study in NWF State College's BAS program in Project Management. ■

Pictured (L to R): Victor Evrard, Nadine Nguyen, Fabien Messant, Dr. Devin Stephenson, and Erwan Grétilat.



Pictured: Collegiate High School senior Ashlyn Rhea

COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ORGANIZES DONATIONS FOR HURRICANES HARVEY AND IRMA THROUGH SENIOR CAPSTONE PROJECT

Collegiate High School senior Ashlyn Rhea is collecting medical supplies to send to the victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma as a part of her Senior Capstone Project.

The Collegiate High Capstone Project requires students to complete at least 15 work hours within their intended field of study. Rhea aspires to be a surgeon, so she decided her project would be within the medical field.

Rhea said she knew what the service aspect of her project would be as soon as she saw the devastation from Hurricane Harvey, and she knew she wanted to expand the services when Hurricane Irma devastated her home state.

Rhea is collecting the following items: peroxide, first aid ointment, Band-Aids, Advil, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, baby powder, hand sanitizer, shampoo, conditioner, wet wipes, Clorox wipes, flashlights, batteries, towels, feminine products, diapers and soap.

For more information about Rhea's project or to donate to the cause, please contact Collegiate High School's Staff Assistant Mary Jane Robertson at (850)-729-4949 or robertsm@nwfsc.edu. ■