

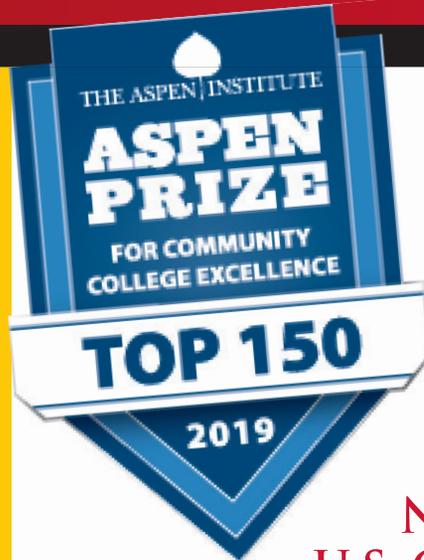
IMPROVING LIVES

In June 2017, members of the college's Board of Trustees, Executive Council, faculty, staff, and community partners met to develop the foundation for the colleges' new strategic plan. We looked at three key areas: things we should stop doing, things we should start doing and things we should continue doing, but possibly redefine. We also looked at our college in the context of trends, political factors, economic climate, technology factors, customer needs, and areas of uncertainty.

After synthesizing all this information, we developed our 2017-2020 Strategic Plan, and I want to share our established goals with you because we cannot accomplish our goals and objectives in a silo. Our success will come from building strong partnerships throughout our region; being responsive to the needs of our communities, local businesses, and industry; and by providing innovative delivery options for our instructional



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"Our faculty and staff are committed to providing the best education and collegiate experience for our students, and to once again be chosen for this honor speaks to that commitment."

NORTHWEST FLORIDA
STATE COLLEGE
**NAMED ONE OF 150 TOP
U.S. COMMUNITY COLLEGES
ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE FOR \$1 MILLION
DOLLAR ASPEN PRIZE**

Northwest Florida State College was named as one of 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance in America's community colleges. NWF State College has been chosen to participate in the program every year since its inception in 2010.

NWF State College was selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 public two-year colleges nationwide to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize.

"Northwest Florida State College is honored to be recognized among the nation's most outstanding institutions of higher education," said Dr. Devin Stephenson, President. "Our faculty and staff are committed to providing the best education and collegiate experience for our students, and to once again be chosen for this honor speaks to that commitment.

Awarded every two years since 2011, the Aspen Prize recognizes institutions with outstanding achievements in four areas: learning; certificate and degree completion; employment and earnings; and high levels of access and success for minority and low-income students.

NWF State College will move forward to the next round of the competition for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence by submitting an application to be reviewed through a rigorous evaluation for a spot on the top ten Aspen Prize finalists list. Top ten finalists will be named in May 2018. The Aspen Institute will then conduct site visits to each of the finalists and collect additional quantitative data. A distinguished Prize Jury will select a grand prize winner, finalist(s) with distinction, and rising star(s) in spring 2019. ■

programs. Transformational change can only come to our college and our region when we demonstrate our conviction for change through actionable steps.

Northwest Florida State College Goals for 2017-2020:

1-First Choice- through accessible, affordable, and relevant higher education to bolster community, workforce, and economic opportunities.

2-Student Focused- through an engaging campus culture that promotes student success.

3-Successful Pathways- through academic and career programs and services.

4-Institutional Excellence- through innovative partnerships.

5-Enhancing Resources- through physical, financial, and technological advancement.

6-Encouraging Community- through the promotion of athletics, cultural, and environmental activities.

As you can see, we have established ambitious but attainable goals, and

we are committed to being successful in our endeavors. Won't you join us in transforming our college and our region to be the BEST in the nation?

Speaking of the best, you may have noticed on the cover of this month's edition, our most recent national recognition. We are once again among the Top 150 community colleges in the nation chosen to compete for the coveted \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges. With a singular focus on student success, the Aspen Prize recognizes institutions with outstanding results in four areas: learning; certificate and degree completion; employment and earnings; and high levels of access and success for minority and low-income students.

We are honored to again be considered among the nation's most outstanding colleges. To be chosen each year since the inception of the program in 2010 speaks volumes about our storied

commitment to excellence. Our faculty and staff are committed to providing the best education and collegiate experience for our students, and to consistently be chosen for this honor speaks to that commitment. We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us and established a spirit of excellence and forward thinking. They were the dreamers and doers, and now we must continue that legacy with a firm resolve; an endless journey to Be The Best!

As I mentioned, we cannot do this alone. Together, with YOU, our community partners, we are in an unrelenting pursuit to transform the economy of Northwest Florida by providing the workforce of today and tomorrow and by closing the educational attainment gap- one student, one opportunity, and one possibility at a time. ■

#TheBestIsOurStandard



Tickets can be purchased in two different ways:

1

Come purchase tickets in person at the Raider Athletic Department.

Office hours are Monday-Friday from 8:30am – 4:30pm.

2

Call the Raider Athletic Department at (850) 729-5379

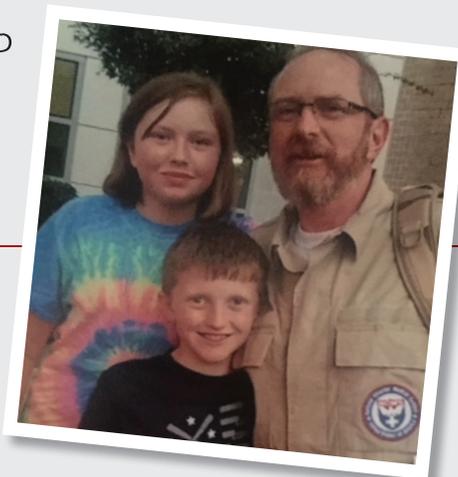
For more information on the Emerald Coast Classic, you can visit their website at www.emeraldcoastclassic.com.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

■ **Dr. Deborah Nester** and **Dr. Victoria Stewart** had papers accepted for the Gulf South History and Humanities Conference in Pensacola, FL (October 4-6, 2017). Their papers are titled "The Fascination of Savage Life: Postbellum Travelers in Florida Narrate Encounters with Seminoles" and "The Civil War from Within: Desertion in Florida During the American Civil War", respectively.

■ **Dr. Deidre Price** had an article published in Online Classroom titled "Inviting Students In: The Art of Hospitality in Online Classrooms" (Vol. 17 No. 8) and is featured in Faculty Focus Premium, with the article "Effective Writing Assessments in the Online Classroom" (September 2017). She was invited to speak at The Teaching Professor Technology Conference in Baltimore, MD (October 6-8, 2017). In addition, she accepted a two-year position on The Teaching Professor Technology Conference Advisory Board (2018-2019).

■ **Director of Emergency Services Barry Reed** recently helped with hurricane relief efforts throughout the Southeast region, and he will soon assist with a medical mission in Puerto Rico. Photo: Barry Reed with his children Lyndsey and Ryan.

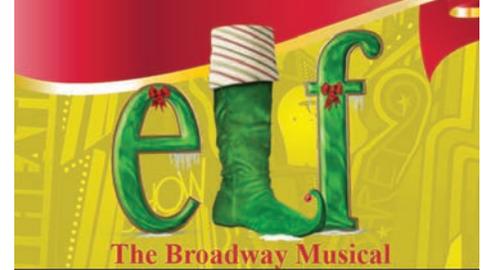


MATTIE KELLY ARTS CENTER KICKS OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON

The holidays are almost here and the Mattie Kelly Arts Center is celebrating! We are kicking off the holiday season with *ELF the Musical* on November 8th at 7:30 p.m. Based on the beloved 2003 hit film chronicling the hilarious tale of Buddy the Elf, this modern day Christmas classic is sure to make everyone embrace their inner elf!

Join us for Victorian style desserts and beverages and a delightful twist of the classic Charles Dickens tale *A Christmas Carol*. With performances on November 30-December 2, you have multiple chances to catch the drama that combines vibrant song and dance along with period costumes, to bring to life the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim, Bob Cratchit and the spirits of Christmas!

On December 8th, the sounds of the holiday season will fill the air at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center as the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, joined by Northwest Florida Symphony Chorale, performs some of the most beautiful seasonal music ever written. It's an evening for everyone, with popular holiday fare, a carol sing-along with the audience, and a special performance by Northwest Florida State College President Dr. Devin Stephenson. ■



November 8 | 7:30 PM | \$45



Nov. 30-Dec 2 | 7:30 PM | \$25



December 8, 2017 | 7:30 PM | \$25

ATHLETICS

Tickets for the Emerald Coast Classic are available now!



We are very excited to announce that you can now purchase tickets for the 4th Annual Emerald Coast Classic! The Emerald Coast Classic is the only NCAA Division-I event to take place in the Florida Panhandle and it will be hosted at the "Arena" at Northwest Florida State College, home of your beloved Raiders and one of the finest basketball venues in the southeast. Tickets for the Emerald Coast Classic will be sold in "Sessions", not individual games, and each ticket will be a reserved seat as opposed to the general admission seating system that is used for Raider games.

Additionally, there will be two different pricing options for tickets:

- \$35.00 for each Session ticket – Reserved Seating along the main sections (two main Raider Club sections and two main sections opposite of the Raider Club)

- \$15.00 for each Session ticket – Reserved Seating along the corners of the Arena and in the end zone sections

Early Sessions are FREE

For Sessions 1 and 3, no tickets will be required for admittance. Seating will be General Admission. After each early Session, the Arena will be cleared out and tickets will then be required for admittance to the evening Sessions. ■

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH

Session 1:

Tennessee Tech vs. Omaha – 11:00am
Maryland Eastern Shore vs.
Jackson State – 1:30pm

Session 2:

New Mexico vs. TCU – 6:00pm
St. Bonaventure vs. Maryland – 8:30pm

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH:

Session 3:

Loser of Jackson State/UMES vs. Loser of Tennessee Tech/Omaha – 10:00am
Winner of Jackson State/UMES vs.
Winner of Tennessee Tech/Omaha – 12:30pm

Session 4:

Loser of New Mexico/TCU vs. Loser of St. Bonaventure/Maryland – 3:00pm
Winner of New Mexico/TCU vs. Winner of St. Bonaventure/Maryland – 6:00pm



Visit our website at:
www.NWFRaiders.com

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SEACOAST COLLEGIATE HIGH JOINS THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE BASIN ALLIANCE IN BUILDING OYSTER REEFS

On October 11th, Seacoast Collegiate High School students joined CBA staff and AmeriCorps members to work on an oyster reef in Alaqua Bayou and discover native bay species with the education team. The students started their morning at the Northwest Florida State College's South Walton Center to bag recycled oyster shells from local restaurants. Once enough bags had been filled, the students and CBA staff headed to Alaqua Bayou. Wading into the warm water, one group of students built a brand new section of oyster reef while another section learned to use seine nets to collect and identify fish, crustaceans, and more. Field trips like this one are a critical component of CBA's mission, promoting future water stewards while giving high school students hands-on experience doing restoration work in their local environment. ■



LUNCH WITH THE PRESIDENT

Northwest Florida State College President, Dr. Devin Stephenson, addresses members of the President's Circle at the Foundation's Lunch with the President event on September 14th, 2017.

To learn more about the President's Circle and how to become a member, visit the NWF State College Foundation's website at <http://www.nwfscfoundation.org/Campaigns/PresidentsCircle.cfm>. ■

DR. STEPHENSON MET WITH THE NWF PACESETTERS TO DISCUSS THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING GOALS