



# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

MAY 2019

VOLUME 3, NO. 04

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

May is the month we celebrate commencement! This year's graduation ceremonies happen to fall on May the 4th – May the Fourth be With You!

Many of you know I enjoy quoting Yoda, from Star Wars, any time of year, and one of my favorite sayings is,

**"DO OR DO NOT.  
THERE IS NO TRY."**

This quote is a lesson in commitment and the power in giving something our all—not just giving it a try with no real expectation for success.

I am very proud of the students who have worked so diligently to complete their certificate and degree programs. It takes grit and determination to "do." The faculty and support staff at Northwest Florida State College are doing exceptional work in assisting our students to be successful in their educational pursuits. We make sure students are not flying solo by providing exceptional navigation (advising) and effective wrap-around support services as they pursue their credentials. "Today is a new day, and you are not the same person you were yesterday, last week or years ago. Today is a day to be better than you were the day before." As Yoda says,

*(continued on next page)*

## NWF ONLINE LAUNCHES FOR FALL 2019



**KEEP MOVING FORWARD**

[ONLINE.NWFSC.EDU](http://ONLINE.NWFSC.EDU) affordable education

Northwest Florida State College is proud to announce the Fall 2019 launch of NWF Online, offering distance learning academic programs, advising and tutoring to students.

We were motivated to establish NWF Online due to the proliferation of expensive out-of-state online programs attempting to market a product that saddles students with large amounts of debt and provides ineffective support services. NWF Online is just the opposite.

"Northwest Florida State College has taken bold steps to establish an Online Department comprised of some of the most experienced and brightest minds in online program delivery," said Dr. Devin Stephenson, president. "Dr. Deidre Price is leading our team to develop the finest online coursework in the Nation."

NWF Online offers a \$1 eRate for online courses for out-of-state students, meaning out-of-state online students only pay \$1 more per credit hour than in-state tuition. NWF Online combines affordability and accessibility, providing engaging and flexible online learning environments

for students. Online courses are offered year-round in full 16-week terms and 8-week "fast-track" terms.

"NWF Online is a top-quality, student driven, support-based delivery system of excellent coursework and programs we believe will serve students from around the world – and that is exactly where we are going to market this new product," added Stephenson.

The College offered distance learning courses starting in 1990. In spring 1998, the College delivered its first online course, LIS 2004: Introduction to Internet Research. The College now offers three bachelor degrees and 11 associate degrees and certificates fully online with more than 200 courses online annually. Additional selective-enrollment bachelor's online programs include the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education.

Have questions about online courses with NWF State College? Email [online@nwfsc.edu](mailto:online@nwfsc.edu) or visit [online.nwfsc.edu](http://online.nwfsc.edu).



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

## "YOU MUST UNLEARN WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED."

As creatures of habit, we tend to love our routines and our go-to methods. But sometimes, we must shake up those traditional processes—and even unlearn those processes—to succeed. We understand this continuous improvement concept at Northwest Florida State College, and we are committed to standing with our students when new perspectives are awakening and new challenges present themselves.

## "PASS ON WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED."

The wisdom we gain in life is a gift to pass along—not to keep to ourselves. It is important that we share insights with others. I recently heard a motivational speaker say to an audience that “we are not here to see through people, but to see people through.” And that is exactly what we intend to do – Improve Lives through the transformational power of education and training.

So, to the Northwest Florida State College Graduating Class of 2019, we wish you a bright and prosperous future. Congratulations! The Force is strong with you,

Dr. Devin Stephenson  
President  
#TheBestisOurStandard

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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



■ **NWF students** brought home three first place and two second place accolades from the SkillsUSA State Conference held in Pensacola on April 7 – April 9, 2019. All NWF students who placed first in their category at the state level are invited to compete at the National Leadership and Skills Conference in Louisville, Kentucky on June 24-28, 2019. First place awards were earned in audio/radio production by Samuel McClead and Rachel Williams, early childhood education by Lena Webb and computer programming by Gabrielle Jackson. Second place awards were earned in medical terminology by Jacquelyn Figueroa and career pathways by Donna Michelle Long, Amber Mihacsi and Jami Schultz.

■ **The Strategic Communications Office** at Northwest Florida State College recently won a silver for original photography and a bronze award for its Twitter profile from the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR).

■ **Collegiate High School** Wins Big at 32nd Annual Math Bowl – Team 1st place Class Y, and individual winners in Class Y – Teertho Bhattacharya (1st) and Eric Fowler (2nd)



*Pictured Above: SkillsUSA participants (L-R) Lena Webb, Gabrielle Jackson, Candice Jackson-Montague, Ariel Sprague, Suzette "Michelle" Brazill, Jacquelyn Figueroa, Rachel Williams, Samuel McClead, Amber Mihacsi, Jami Schultz and Donna Michelle Long*



*Pictured Right: Math Bowl Team (L-R) Matthew Nguyen, Teertho Bhattacharya, Eric Fowler and Collin McGovern*



## MAY CALENDAR

### ► THE MATTIE KELLY ARTS CENTER GALLERIES

May 18-21

27th Emerald Coast National Juried Exhibition with Isaac McCaslin, 2018 Best in Show Winner

### ► MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT

\$20 - Mattie Kelly Arts Center Amphitheater

May 25 at 6:30 p.m.

In honor of America's veterans and first responders, the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra and Northwest Florida State College present a stirring concert of patriotic tunes for the whole family. Pack a picnic and enjoy an evening under the stars!

**MEMORIAL DAY Concert**

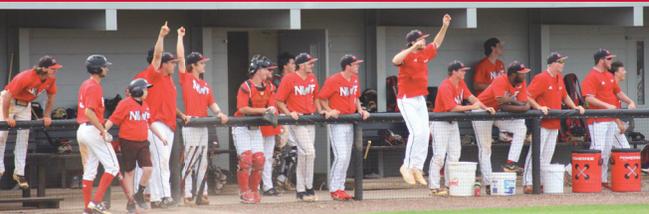
In honor of America's veterans and first responders, the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra and Northwest Florida State College present a stirring concert of patriotic tunes for the whole family. Pack a picnic and enjoy an evening under the stars.

**Saturday, May 25, 2019  
6:30 p.m. | Amphitheater  
Mattie Kelly Arts Center**

**nfso** Devin Patrick Hughes, Music Director & Conductor  
NORTHWEST FLORIDA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
at Northwest Florida State College

100 COLLEGE BOULEVARD EAST | NICEVILLE FL 32578  
Northwest Florida State College is committed to equal access/equal opportunity in its programs, activities, and employment. For additional information, visit [www.nwfsc.edu](http://www.nwfsc.edu).

# ATHLETICS



2019 PANHANDLE CONFERENCE

# CHAMPIONS

### Raider Baseball is on Fire!

Raider Baseball claimed the Panhandle Conference championship, their first since 2011, with a 3-2 win over Tallahassee Community College on April 20 and currently sits at #5 in the nation as the regular season winds down. The Raiders currently rank first nationally in ERA with a combined average of 1.99 and have notched 11 shutouts on the season. The Raiders now turn their sights to the FCSAA State Tournament that will be held at Joker Marchant Stadium in Lakeland, Florida on May 10-14, 2019.

### Raider Softball Finishes 2019 Season

NWF Softball's season ended in the conference playoffs with an 8-4 loss to Pensacola State College on April 18. A notable highlight from the season was a walk-off home run from Emily Sinclair to give the Raiders a 13-12 victory over conference rival Chipola that handed the Indians their only conference loss of the season. Freshman Ashley Autuori led her team at the plate with a .418 batting average and .778 slugging percentage that included 21 doubles, five triples and eight home runs while only striking out three times.

### Raider Basketball Teams Place in the Elite Eight

The NWF men's basketball team earned the #1 seed in this year's NJCAA National Tournament after clinching the FCSAA/NJCAA Region VIII Tournament. The Raiders faced Ranger College in the national quarterfinals where their season ended after making their third Elite Eight appearance in the past four years. They finished with an overall record of 28-5 on the year and made their seventh national tournament appearance in the last eight years.

Coach Bart Walker and the Lady Raiders entered the national tournament as the #11 seed after finishing as runner-up in the FCSAA/NJCAA Region VIII championship game. Their season also ended in the Elite Eight for the second straight year. They ended the season with a record of 26-6.



Ashley Autuori at the plate in a game earlier this season.

#### NWF STATE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Shane Abbott	MGen Don Litke, USAF Ret.
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100 College Boulevard, East  
Niceville, FL 32578

## NWF STATE COLLEGE WELDING EARNS ACCREDITED TEST FACILITY DESIGNATION

Northwest Florida State College Welding recently earned the designation of an Accredited Test Facility (ATF) by the American Welding Society (AWS). NWF State College is the only ATF between Tallahassee, Florida, and Mobile, Alabama, making it the exclusive welding testing location on Florida's Emerald Coast.

AWS evaluated NWF's welding program on their facilities, personnel and equipment's abilities to test and qualify welders. Once accredited, ATFs are able to test and qualify welders on behalf of the American Welding Society and their strict standards for quality fabrication.

"We are a leader in welding education and aim to be Florida's best welding training and testing center," said Dr. Devin Stephenson, president. "Scottie Smith and his team have significantly raised the profile of our program and continue

to find innovative ways to enhance the workforce and career educational pathways available to our students and the surrounding communities of Northwest Florida."

NWF State College Welding was also recently honored as the Top Educational Institution by the American Welding Society at the Excellence in Welding Awards in Atlanta, Georgia.



STRATEGIC PLAN:  
Goals 2, 4 and 6



## CBA BECOMES PART OF 1% FOR THE PLANET PROGRAM



The Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA) has been accepted into the unique 1% for the Planet network. Each nonprofit organization entering 1% for the Planet is nominated by a business or individual already participating in the movement.

After donating to CBA programs for two years, New Belgium Brewing Company nominated CBA. Members of the network give 1% of their revenue or individual earnings back to environmental nonprofits each year. As an organizational member of 1%, CBA is now eligible to receive these gifts to improve swimmable, fishable waterways.

"1% for the Planet allows us to reach a brand new audience not only in our region, but nationally as well," explains Alison McDowell, Director of CBA, "We appreciate that 1% for the Planet encourages partnerships through monetary gifts, but also through volunteer events, in-kind contributions, and more." McDowell continues, "Each gift will be invested into the Choctawhatchee Bay watershed to preserve the heart and soul of our community for generations to come."

For more information, please contact Erika Zambello, at [zambelle@nwfsc.edu](mailto:zambelle@nwfsc.edu).

STRATEGIC PLAN:  
Goal 5

