

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

All professions are characterized by special, rigorous educational and experiential preparation which 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 special 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 the professionals carry out their obligations to each other, to the people they serve, and to society in general.

Northwest Florida State College 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 both challenging and nurturing. Critical elements of such relationships and such an environment are the freedom to exercise professional judgment; cooperation; broad-based participation in decision-making which includes all levels of professionals; open, honest communication; trust; a harmonious atmosphere; and attitudes which both promote and cultivate the development of potential in students, in faculty and staff, and in the community.

Northwest Florida State College 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.