



# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2021

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## NWFSC EXPANDS ACCESS TO TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Northwest Florida State College continues to build momentum and capitalize on opportunities to advance the College's mission of improving lives through high-quality educational offerings across Northwest Florida. A clear example of this is the College's expanded partnership with Seacoast Collegiate High School and The Seaside School Foundation to create a new facility at the South Walton Campus, named Seacoast Collegiate High School at Northwest Florida State College. Our shared vision ensures we are on a path to broaden access to educational opportunities throughout Walton County.

In early September, the College received the FAA Airframe Maintenance Technician FAR part 147 training school certificate, another resounding example of the College exemplifying its mission. The FAA certificate award process is quite rigorous, and our team members rose to the challenge to ensure that our program receives the necessary approvals to provide this specialized training. I extend my sincere congratulations to the entire aviation team at NWFSC. Be sure to visit our first-class facility, the Aviation Center of Excellence in Crestview, which was built in partnership with many community advocates dedicated to expanding workforce development and ensuring economic prosperity throughout our region.

(continued on next page)

## PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS SEACOAST COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL AT NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE



On September 27, 2021, Northwest Florida State College, Seacoast Collegiate High School and The Seaside School Foundation signed a lease agreement creating a partnership to construct a new educational facility at the College's South Walton Center. The new facility, named Seacoast Collegiate High School at Northwest Florida State College, will provide a dual enrollment educational center housing Seacoast and NWFSC classrooms, as well as a shared-use space for workforce development, continuing education, and other workforce preparedness instruction.

The collaboration between NWFSC and Seacoast Collegiate High School began in 2013 when Seacoast leased space from the College at the South Walton Center to provide instruction for high school students. Seacoast students begin the program in ninth and 10th grade with college-level study beginning in 11th grade at Northwest Florida State College.

"Seacoast and Northwest Florida State College are excited to expand our partnership at the South Walton Campus to show our mutual commitment to improving access to quality educational offerings for students and residents throughout Walton County," said NWFSC President, Dr. Devin Stephenson. "We are pleased to share this vision and partner with Seacoast Collegiate High School and The Seaside School Foundation."

The baseball and softball teams have started pre-season play while our men's and women's basketball teams' schedules start in November. Now is the time to join the Raider Club! As the official booster club to NWF Raider Athletics, these VIPs enjoy exclusive benefits. Your support sets us apart from the competition, helping us meet the financial requirements to remain a top-level program. The athletic team schedules are available at [NWFRaiders.com](http://NWFRaiders.com).

Lastly, the Mattie Kelly Arts Center (MKAC) is celebrating its 25th anniversary with an exceptional season lineup. On Wednesday, October 20, we host MasterChef Live! An immersive audience experience featuring head-to-head cooking demonstrations. The NFSO concert, Halloween Spooktacular, is a family-friendly concert scheduled for Thursday, October 23. Come dressed in costume and enjoy food trucks at the MKAC before the concert.

We appreciate the support and advocacy for our community and join with you in fueling a strong Northwest Florida economy.

Dr. Devin Stephenson  
#TheBestIsOurStandard

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT



## NWFSC AWARDED FAA CERTIFICATION FOR AVIATION AIRFRAME MECHANICS PROGRAM

The College's Aviation Center of Excellence received its official FAA Airframe Maintenance Technician FAR part 147 training school certificate in early September. This certificate authorizes the College to train prospective aircraft mechanics and assures that programs, systems and intended compliance methods have been thoroughly reviewed by the FAA. Training is underway for the first cohort of Aviation Airframe Mechanics students across the three-semester program. Students will be encouraged to subsequently complete the two-semester Powerplant Mechanics program, which will collectively prepare students for high-wage careers across the aviation industry.

## MATTIE KELLY ARTS CENTER 29<sup>TH</sup> EMERALD COAST NATIONAL JURIED ARTS EXHIBITION

The opening reception for the 29th Emerald Coast National Juried Arts Exhibition was held on Friday, August 27th. Attendees were treated to a gallery talk by Irene Pantelis, the 2020 best-in-show artist, discussing her solo show. The exhibition is now on display in the Mattie Kelly Arts Center galleries. Come by the galleries to experience the art in person from August 27 through October 29, 2021.



**Dong Kyu Kim,**  
The Shape of You  
Best In Show



**Zach Zecha,**  
All Things Popsicles and Stuff  
2nd Place



**Thomas Stollar,**  
Form 2 Ceramic Sculpture  
3rd Place





## STOWERS NAMED TO LEAD NWFSC FOUNDATION



Please join us in welcoming Chris Stowers to the College as the Executive Director of the NWFSC Foundation. Stowers has more than 25 years of fundraising experience spanning his time at Orlando Health, Arnold Palmer Medical Center Foundation, and various non-profit organizations. In addition, he served as Senior Consultant at Winkler Group, a full-service fundraising and strategic planning firm specializing in capital campaigns, campaign studies, and strategic planning. He holds a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) credential, a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Florida and a Master of Public Health from Emory University.



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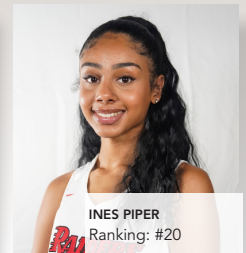
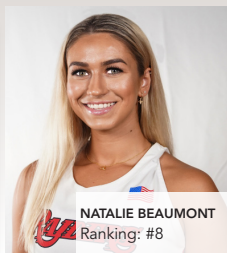


Continuing Education Classes start October 11. Read the stars, brew your favorite beverage, decorate cookies or master your taxes with a class at NWFSC!

## RAIDER ATHLETICS

### SIX RAIDERS RANKED ON WORLD EXPOSURE REPORT PRESEASON LIST

Six Northwest Florida State College women's basketball players were ranked in the top 20 on World Exposure Report's 2022 Junior College Player Rankings list, including the top student-athlete in the nation. The women's basketball team kicks off its national title defense on Nov. 5 against Florida SouthWestern in the Juco Shootout in St. Petersburg, Florida.





NWF

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## FOUNDATION



### 2021-22 FOUNDATION BOARD

The NWFSC Foundation held its Annual Board Installation & Recognition Reception on August 26, 2021. The Foundation closed its fiscal year at just over \$65 million in assets—a 24% increase over the prior year. Past Foundation Chair, JD Peacock, Okaloosa County Clerk of Court was honored for his six years of service to the Foundation Board. Ken Wampler, Newman-Dailey Resort Properties, was recognized as the 2021-22 Foundation Chair, and Jonathan Ochs, Trustmark Bank, was presented with the Chairman's Award for his leadership associated with the sale of the College Apartments.

### IRA MAE AND GAIUS BRUCE

#### WELLNESS CLASSROOM ENDOWMENT

With more than 50 years of service to NWFSC, Gaius Bruce has the distinction of being one of the longest serving instructors in the history of the College, holding positions as a coach, teacher and administrator. His wife, Ira Mae, a Santa Rosa County native, co-owner of Century 21 Island View Realty in Navarre, and the County's first female Commissioner, served as a community stalwart helping to transform Navarre from a barren island to a popular travel destination.

Bruce knows first-hand the value of education. He also knows that quality programs require extraordinary resources. For this reason, he has chosen to memorialize his late wife, Ira Mae, as well as his long and happy career at NWFSC by creating an endowment that names two wellness classrooms in the College's Arena, with earnings directed to support athletic and wellness activities.

