

## ASSESSMENT, IMPROVEMENT, & ACCOUNTABILITY

There is something about January, and the way the beginning of a new year invokes thoughts of a clean slate. I enjoy reflecting over the past year, and looking forward to a new year full of hope and possibilities.

As we begin 2018, I want to share with you my priorities and goals for moving Northwest Florida State College to be the BEST this year.

### Build Partnerships

- We will continue to be visibly engaged in campus life and in the events and activities of the communities we serve.
- We will continue to strengthen legislative and congressional relationships to assure that funding and policymaking contribute to, rather than impede, the NWF State mission to serve.
- We will proactively seek opportunities to collaborate with other educational institutions, agencies, and organizations to improve the quality of life and quality of place for Northwest Florida.

### Ensure Programs and Operations are Relevant

- We will onboard a robust continuous improvement plan that encourages introspection and actionable steps toward our goal of becoming the BEST college in the nation!
- We will never accept mediocrity as the standard, but always strive to lead in an exemplary manner, and require

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## COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL MAKING THE GRADE

Collegiate High School (CHS) at Northwest Florida State College ranked first in four-year graduation rate among all state high schools and charter schools. CHS was also among the top 5 percentile in the state in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

"The success of our CHS students speaks volumes for the excellent instruction they receive at CHS and NWF State," said Dr. Devin Stephenson, President. "NWF State's entrepreneurial and innovative approach to education is evident in our collegiate high programming. CHS continues to consistently rank among the top high schools in the state and we commend the faculty, staff, and students for these tremendous accomplishments."

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## NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED!

Northwest Florida State College unveiled a new website. The college rebranded [www.NWFSC.edu](http://www.NWFSC.edu) to be a user-friendly recruitment tool intended to attract new students, and further engage its current students.

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



excellence in every functional area of the institution's administrative structure.

- We will institute regular and frequent assessments and environmental scans that keep the institution on the edge of change.

#### Execute the Strategic Plan

- We will execute the Strategic Plan with a forward focus to maximize productivity in all operations of the college.
- We will focus on the core mission of the college- to improve lives.
- We will create a culture of accountability and transparency that is evident in the day-to-day operations of the college, and continue to demonstrate a commitment to efficiency, effectiveness, and entrepreneurial thinking and acting.
- We will provide leadership in budgeting and financial management to guarantee the college remains strong and is capable of fulfilling the college's mission and the objectives noted in our Strategic Plan.

#### Serve Our Students and Constituents

- Assure that all college services and programs are delivered with the utmost

attention to customer service and that our focus remains on the success of our students.

#### Think and Act for a Change

- We will push the institution into a constant evaluation and assessment mode through data informed decision-making.
- We will make the right decisions at the right time for the right reason.
- We will require every member of the team to be accountable and responsible for the role he/she plays in the organization- everyone contributes and everyone is held accountable for that contribution.
- We will create an environment that fosters forward thinking.
- We will develop and implement processes, data queries, and student success initiatives that facilitate student completion, transfer, retention, job placement, and wage attainment.

#### Create Efficiencies

- We will create efficiencies in administrative structure and operations, policies, and procedures.
- We will assure that the college is doing everything possible to continuously

improve.

- We will create a growing and healthy campus community environment in which our personnel are fulfilled in their work and rewarded for their contributions toward the college's success.
- We will hold senior level administrators, and myself, responsible for follow-through, innovative thinking, and entrepreneurial solution-driven decision-making.

It is my intention to always be transparent with our college constituents about our college-wide goals, plans, and priorities. It is through these goals, the college's Strategic Plan, and our collective resolve that we will make great strides this year and achieve our quest to be the BEST! It takes every employee rising to the challenge to be their individual best to make our college the premier institution that we strive to be.

With the new year, we start with a clean slate to write magnificent accomplishments for NWF State College. Let's make 2018 a real page turner! ■

**#TheBestIsOurStandard**

#### NEW WEBSITE

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"We feel confident that our current and potential students will find our new site to be engaging, user friendly and a positive reflection of NWF State College," said Dr. Devin Stephenson, President. "Our goal with the website is to leverage digital communications to more effectively engage with potential students, parents and other stakeholders. We believe our new site captures that spirit. We will continue to evolve and improve our site to meet our student's needs."

In addition to the new appearance of the site, students will also find updated navigation, dynamic photos and video, and streamlined program descriptions. ■

Check out the website at  
**www.nwfsc.edu.**

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

- **Dr. Southard and Dr. Fontaine** presented "A Cultural Shift Toward Authentic Student Learning Outcome Assessment" at the SACSCOC conference. The presentation described the institutional strategies used to create a climate of faculty-supported authentic student learning assessment.
- **Congratulations to our IT department** for completing 5,432 tickets in the last year, delivering positive results on time 99 percent of the time!
- **Collegiate High School at Northwest Florida State College students Nicholas Gestring, Shannon Reynolds and Julia Kammer** were nominated by Representative Matt Gaetz to military academies.
- **Northwest Florida State College** was recently named in the top five in the state in English Language Skills and Reading in the General Knowledge Test, a test required for students planning to enter the college's Teacher Education bachelor's program.

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



## ALAQUA BAYOU REEF COMPLETED

After over six months of work and countless volunteer hours, the 1700 foot oyster shell reef in Alaqua Bayou has been completed. The largest CBA reef to date, the Alaqua project will reduce erosion along the shoreline of the Eglin Air Force Base reservation, while providing additional habitat for juvenile oysters – known as spat – fish, crustaceans, and more. Because each new oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water each and every day, the reef will improve water quality in the bayou. The Alaqua Reef is part of six acres that CBA restored in 2017.

“Alaqua Bayou was one of my absolute favorite sites to build at,” Rachel Gwin, Restoration Coordinator, explains, “It is so peaceful out there, and because it is all undeveloped reservation area we saw a variety of wildlife, including many dolphins and ospreys, a few bald eagles, and a softshell turtle. The reefs are already teeming with life.” ■



## COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL

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Collegiate High School scored first out of 448 high schools throughout the state in four year graduation rate and first among 71 charter schools across the state.

CHS ranked 6th out of all schools, 3rd out of 463 high schools and 4th out of 524 charter schools in English Language Arts achievement scoring satisfactory or higher, landing them in the 99th percentile.

Collegiate High School scored in the 96th percentile in Mathematics among all state schools, all state high schools and all charter schools. CHS also ranks first among all high schools in this category.

“The high academic achievements of the Collegiate High School at Northwest Florida State College is great,” says Anthony Boyer, Principal of Collegiate High School. “The CHS students and staff work very hard year after year to achieve academic excellence.”

For more information on the Collegiate High School, visit [chs.nwfsc.edu](http://chs.nwfsc.edu). ■

STRATEGIC PLAN: Goals 4, 5, and 6



## MATTIE KELLY ARTS CENTER LAUNCHES NEW MOBILE APP

The Mattie Kelly Arts Center (MKAC) at Northwest Florida State College recently launched a mobile app on Android and iOS.

The app gives MKAC patrons easy and instant access to all information pertaining to events at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, including Broadway and artist shows, Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra concerts and exhibits in the Mattie Kelly Arts Center galleries. Within the app, users can purchase tickets, receive exclusive app-only notifications, view show and artist information, download show programs and much more.

**Download the Mattie Kelly Arts Center app today!** ■



STRATEGIC PLAN:

Goals 1, 2, and 3



# ATHLETICS

## Men's Basketball Remains Undefeated!

As things start heating up in conference play, the top-ranked NWF State men's basketball team remains undefeated. Coming off two big wins against Pensacola State and Gulf Coast, the Raiders are off to a hot start in the second half of their season! Northwest Florida is led by sophomore Andres Feliz, who is averaging nearly 26 points against Panhandle opponents. The high-powered offense is also fueled by Tray Boyd who is ranked third in the nation in three-pointers with 61 made on the season so far.

The #3 nationally-ranked Lady Raiders are currently 18-2, with their only losses coming against reigning national champions Gulf Coast State. The women have a tough road ahead in the remaining Panhandle Conference schedule with all 4 opponents ranked in the top 25. As of mid-January, NWF State women were leading the nation in shooting percentage making 51.2% of their shots. ■



Visit our website at: [www.NWFRaiders.com](http://www.NWFRaiders.com)

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



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# THE GLASS CASTLE AUTHOR JEANNETTE WALLS TO TAKE CENTER STAGE AT ANNUAL NWF READS

Author of a celebrated memoir and one of the most anticipated films of 2017 Jeannette Walls will take center stage at the main event for Northwest Florida State College's NWF READS, the college's annual week-long literacy event, on April 16, 2018, at 7 p.m. in the Sprint Theatre. The event is free and open to the public, and a book signing will follow.

Walls is best known for her best-selling memoir, *The Glass Castle*, which details her life growing up in extreme poverty and the tale of her emergence from it. Named by Amazon as one of the top 10 books of the decade in August 2017, her inspiring story was brought to the big screen in a highly-anticipated major motion picture starring Woody Harrelson, Naomi Watts and Brie Larson as Walls. ■

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



## JOIN THE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

The Northwest Florida State College Foundation will introduce

this year's President's Circle members at center court of Raider Arena at 7:15pm, just before the last men's basketball home game on Wednesday, February 21, 2018.

Members of the President's Circle are special people committed to the future of higher education in our community! Through their contributions

and membership in this program, President's Circle members demonstrate their commitment to improving lives at Northwest Florida State College. President's Circle gifts provide the college the flexibility to use the funds where they are needed most - for program support, instructional needs, support to the Foundation, and many other crucial expenses that benefit NWF State College

students.

Membership is open to any individual or organization contributing an unrestricted, minimum gift of \$500 annually. The membership form is available online or in office. For more information, call the NWF Foundation at 729-5357 or visit [www.nwfscfoundation.org](http://www.nwfscfoundation.org). ■

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

