This summer brings exciting and significant news from NWF State College, including advances in performance funding, groundbreakings and convocation planning. Our momentum is building and we are pleased to share our successes with you.

We are currently celebrating the outstanding accomplishment of earning Silver Status in this year's Florida College System Performance-Based Funding Model! I want to extend my utmost gratitude to all faculty and staff who worked tirelessly to bring us to our goal of advancing to Silver Status. I am overwhelmed with pride when I observe how far we've come, and I look forward to celebrating many more achievements.

Northwest Florida State College is celebrating the announcement of its advancement to the Silver category in the Florida College System's Performance-Based Funding Model.

“For the first time since the inception of the Performance-Based Funding Model in the Florida College System, NWF State has been designated to the Silver category,” said Dr. Devin Stephenson. “This is a significant move upward for the College and the attainment of one of the significant goals in our College’s 2017-2020 Strategic Plan.”

The Florida College System first adopted the Performance-Based Funding Model in 2013, and since that time, Northwest Florida State College has ranked no higher than the Bronze category. Colleges that fall in the bronze or purple categories do not receive additional state-allocated performance dollars. Measurements in the Performance-Based Funding model include retention, completion, job placement/continuing education, and entry-level wages. By advancing to the Silver category this year, NWF will receive approximately $480K in additional funding.

Northwest Florida State College celebrated the beginning of construction on the Athletics’ Indoor Practice Facility with a Groundbreaking Ceremony on July 11. Several local athletes, community members and donors were in attendance as NWF State College President Dr. Devin Stephenson recognized those who helped make this project possible.

“I am humbled by the members of this community who ‘Stepped Up to the Plate’ and raised funds needed in less than a year’s time,” said Dr. Devin Stephenson, President. “The immense support the Raider Athletic program receives from the community cannot be denied. Our community’s encouragement, support and generous contributions guarantee that our organization will continue to grow and provide our students and the community with the best resources possible.”

The state-of-the-art 10,000 square-foot, brick Indoor Practice Facility will contain five all-purpose tunnels with Burbank Sports nets, artificial turf flooring, LED lighting inside, exterior lighting for safety and will be fully climate controlled for year-round practice. Once complete, this facility will help the teams build upon their record of success on the field. Even more importantly, it will provide a consistent routine for NWF student-athletes which will improve the quality of their academic experience.
In July, we broke ground on the Raider Athletics’ Indoor Practice Facility. This state-of-the-art 10,000 square-foot, climate controlled facility will provide year-round practice opportunities for NWF’s baseball and softball teams. We extend our sincere thanks to the many generous donors who helped us turn this dream into a reality. Your support will allow our teams to build upon their record of success on the field as well as in the classroom.

This month we are in the planning stage for our annual Fall Convocation, scheduled for August 15-17. This year’s Convocation schedule is packed with professional development for faculty and staff and is designed to offer opportunities for learning best practices in higher education, reconnecting with colleagues after the summer months, and recharging for the new academic year. Our keynote speaker will be Daniel Eugene “Rudy” Ruettiger, the former University of Notre Dame football player. Rudy is a world-renowned motivational speaker who inspires audiences with his story of overcoming the greatest of odds to fulfill his lifelong dream of joining the Notre Dame football team and obtaining a college degree. We look forward to being inspired to greatness through Rudy’s story.

Also, we are reflecting on our success in reaching a number of goals and objectives in the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan. By reviewing where we are in our journey to “be the best” and by re-evaluating our position, we will realize success and advance the institution toward our goals.

I am proud of NWF’s many accomplishments. As we celebrate, we continue to look for opportunities to improve student success, connect to the communities we serve, and employ innovative and transformative ways to make a positive IMPACT in Northwest Florida…and we are just getting started!

Devin Stephenson
President
#TheBestIsOurStandard

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**IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

- *The Mattie M. Kelly Environmental Institute’s 11th Annual Family Estuary Festival* was hosted at Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park in April and entertained more than 1500 guests who participated in a variety of engaging activities to explore the balance between humans and the environment. Mark your calendars for 12th Annual Family Estuary Festival on Saturday, April 13, 2019.

- *Collegiate High School at Northwest Florida State College (CHS)* has once again been rated as an “A” school. School grades are based on a variety of criteria, including test scores, student learning gains, graduation rates and enrollment in accelerated classes. CHS has received this top designation each year since 2002, when they first became eligible, marking seventeen consecutive years of academic excellence.

- *Choctawhatchee Bay Alliance* was granted $3,000 by Cox Communications to fund an elementary school’s Grasses in Classes curriculum through the 2018-2019 school year. Grasses in Classes raises awareness and individual knowledge of local ecosystems through hands-on restoration projects and in-class instruction.

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**NWF STATE COLLEGE STUDENTS MEDAL AT SKILLSUSA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SKILLS CONFERENCE**

On June 29, multiple NWF students received medals in individual and team competitions at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

- Career Pathways Showcase (Early Childhood Education) •
  - *Gold* — Kaitlyn Crawford, Kayla Greene, Jamie Oldacre
- Dental Assisting • *Silver* — Volha Franskevich
- Audio/Radio Production •
  - *Bronze* — Mathew Hall and Samuel McClead
- Health Occupations Professional Portfolio (Dental) •
  - *Bronze* — Lauren Moore
- Medical Math (Nursing) • *4th Place* — Devin Andrews
- Early Childhood Education • *5th Place* — Christine Clark
PRESIDENT’S PERSPECTIVE

ATHLETICS

Sixteen Northwest Florida State College student-athletes were named to the National Junior College Athletic Association’s Academic All-American Teams after posting an overall grade point average of 3.60 or above. The baseball team led the way with 6 members earning these prestigious honors.

Four students achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA during the year. Baseball player Ethan Routzahn, women’s basketball player Anastasiia Zakharova, and softball players Sheala Brown and Harlee Williams were each named to the First Team.

Women’s basketball players Fanny Paulin and LisaJo Wygal, baseball player Hunter Holcomb, and softball player Emily Sinclair were each named to the Second Team, earning a 3.80-3.99 GPA.

Eight more student-athletes made the third team with GPAs between 3.60-3.79. Corey Armstrong (baseball), Marcie Bewley (softball), Amber Byrd (softball), Christian Camacho (baseball), Thomas Farr (baseball), Andres Feliz (men’s basketball), Brock Mathis (baseball), and Andrijana Reljic (women’s basketball) were the Raiders who earned third team honors.

MATTIE KELLY ARTS CENTER ANNOUNCES 2018-2019 SEASON

The Mattie Kelly Arts Center is proud to announce the 2018-2019 season. This season will be the busiest yet with 19 Broadway performances, artist shows, symphony concerts, speaking engagements and children’s shows. Season packages will be on sale beginning August 13, 2018. Single show tickets will be available for purchase beginning August 17, 2018.

The season’s Broadway and artist shows are:
- Hocus Focus – Theater of Magical Illusion
- Something Rotten
- Kinky Boots
- Mutts Gone Nuts
- Erth’s Prehistoric Aquarium Adventure
- Jim Witter – Experience the Timeless Hits of Barry Manilow
- The Wizard of Oz
- Million Dollar Quartet

In addition to Broadway and artist shows, the Mattie Kelly Arts Center will host the inaugural NWF State College President’s Speaker Series. This is a new initiative that features renowned speakers sharing their expertise with our community.

These free events showcase:
- Bridging the Political Divide featuring Donna Brazile and Sarah Palin
- American Inventor Lonnie Johnson
- Money Experts Rachel Cruze and Chris Hogan

ATHLETICS

NWF ATHLETES EXCEL ON AND OFF OF THE FIELD

The Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra’s 32nd concert season will feature four concerts led by new Conductor and Music Director Devin Patrick Hughes.

The season’s concerts include:
- Tchaikovsky’s Fourth
- Holiday Pops
- Arrival Music of ABBA with NFSO
- Mozart Requiem & Stars of Tomorrow
EILEEN ARPKE STEPS UP TO THE PLATE WITH $50,000 FOR INDOOR PRACTICE FACILITY

Longtime friend and supporter of Northwest Florida State College, Eileen Arpke, stepped up to the plate once again by presenting a check of $50,000 for the Raider Athletics’ Indoor Practice Facility. Previously, Ms. Arpke established the Charles and Eileen Arpke Scholarship, named the Charles K. and Eileen H. Arpke Conference Room, and strongly supported several other areas of the College including the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, President’s Circle, and the Institute of Senior Professionals. Her gift of $50,000 helps close the gap on the necessary funds needed to construct the Indoor Practice Facility.

LYN L. TROXLER SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT ESTABLISHED

Named in honor of Lynda “Lyn” Lewis Troxler, the Lyn L. Troxler Scholarship Endowment was established with a stock gift of more than $25,000. This endowment will support single parent students as well as students whose expected family contribution (EFC) falls outside the Pell eligible range by no more than $2,000. As a tribute to Lyn’s caring spirit, the creators of this endowment wish to aid those who are facing life head-on by seeking a degree to improve their opportunities and those of their families.

TWIN CITIES WOMAN’S CLUB INVESTS $5,500 IN NWF STUDENTS

Twin Cities Woman’s Club (TCWC) presented a $5,500 gift to Northwest Florida State College for scholarship assistance to adult women who are beginning or returning to college and need assistance to complete a college education. Twin Cities Woman’s Club has been investing in NWF students since 1994 and with this gift they have provided more than $100,000.