November is a month for giving thanks, and first, I’m extremely grateful that our immediate area was very fortunate to have minimal damage from Hurricane Michael. I also want to extend my thoughts and prayers to those in our surrounding counties who were directly impacted – especially our friends at Gulf Coast State College and Chipola College. Special thanks to our community for your outpouring of generosity to help those in need.

Recently, I experienced, first-hand, the phenomenal resource we have in the Okaloosa Emergency Operation Center located on our Niceville Campus. It takes teamwork and coordination to run such an efficient operation, which provides an infrastructure for communication and resource support. I’d like to thank Okaloosa County, Volunteer Florida, the Red Cross and the many NWF State College employees for operating a very successful emergency shelter at Raider Arena. I am grateful for the many positive community partnerships our College has in this region.

Congratulations to our 2017/2018 AmeriCorps NWF Environmental Stewards who won the best program award for the State of Florida out of 38 Florida AmeriCorps teams! This program lives under the Northwest Florida State College Foundation, and we appreciate AmeriCorps Director Laurie Von Kaenel for this achievement!

Northwest Florida State College held its inaugural Career Day event on Wednesday, October 3, 2018. With more than 1,000 area high school students and 70 business participants in attendance, the event was a great success.

The event promoted career exploration across the many different fields of study and opportunities available at Northwest Florida State College and throughout Okaloosa and Walton Counties. Career Day also featured numerous hands-on demonstrations and presentations from businesses in the areas of culinary arts, health sciences, performing arts, public safety and advanced manufacturing.

“Our inaugural Career Day event set an amazing precedent,” said Dr. Devin Stephenson, President of Northwest Florida State College. “The tremendous support we receive from our many corporate and educational partners allows us to continue to focus and make workforce development connections. Through events like Career Day, we hope to continue to immerse our students and community in all of the amazing career opportunities in Northwest Florida.”

Due to the tremendous turnout and community response, plans are already in motion for Career Day 2019. Next year’s event will take place on October 16, 2019 on the Niceville campus of Northwest Florida State College.
IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Michael Erny is the new Dean of Career Education at Northwest Florida State College. Erny comes to NWF State College with more than three decades of career and technical education experience. He most recently served as Dean for the School of Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering and Applied Science at Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana/Kokomo Service Area, which includes campuses in Kokomo, Logansport, Rochester and Peru.

The Sigma Mu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Northwest Florida State College inducted 47 new members to their ranks. Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society of two-year colleges and academic programs. In order to be eligible for induction to Phi Theta Kappa, a student must be enrolled at full-time status and have maintained a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 out of 4.0.

The NWF State College welding program received gold status, the highest honor given, from the Central Gulf Industrial Alliance. CGIA evaluates the program's curriculum, training standards, safety standards and facilities. NWF welding was one of only two welding programs to receive this distinction.

Sam Renfroe is our new Executive Director of Grant Development. Most recently, he served as Director of Grant Development at North Central State College in Mansfield, Ohio, from 2012-2018, and as their grant writer from 2010-2012. He was responsible for generating more than $19 million in grant funds for the community college.

The Northwest Florida State College Radiography program was recently affirmed for accreditation from the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT).

This is the second time the program has been recognized. The AmeriCorps team works with the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA) to build living shorelines and educate students in elementary, middle and high school, as well as participate in restoration work for local Florida State Parks.

Since 2014, AmeriCorps NWF Environmental Stewards have built or restored more than 100 acres of coastal habitat. Great appreciation and thanks to Volunteer Florida, CBA, Okaloosa and Walton County school districts and Florida State Parks at Grayton for your support and dedication to making the NWF Environmental Stewards program stellar. You can read more about this award at: basinalliance.org/category/blog/.

Soon I will be honored to announce another business partner who has made a generous financial contribution to the Veterans Success Center (VSC). The Center will provide a one-stop shop for educational, transitional learning and service programs for veterans and their families. It will be in a tranquil, professional and respectful location, including state-of-the-art infrastructure and technology. Additionally, the Center will create a cooperative community for veterans and provide resources for leadership, support, advisement and involvement. We are proud to make this additional positive IMPACT for our many veterans.

Thank you again for your unwavering support to Northwest Florida State College! Wishing you and your families a blessed holiday season.

Dr. Devin Stephenson
President
#TheBestIsOurStandard
THE DIVISION OF HUMANITIES, FINE & PERFORMING ARTS AT NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE ANNOUNCES A NEW PRODUCTION: IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE

For the first time in five years, NWF State College is presenting a new holiday production! We are proud to present Joe Landry’s It’s a Wonderful Life: A Radio Play. Set in a glamourous radio production studio, performers are warming up and preparing to present the live radio show of the beloved Christmas story. This live dramatic and musical performance will take audiences back in time to the 1940’s, when radio shows brought families together for story time and good, old-fashioned fun. It’s a Wonderful Life unfolds with beautiful carols of the season sung by student vocal groups, Madrigal Singers and Belle Voci, and features performances by student actors. Dancers from the NWF State College Dance Ensemble complete this holiday spectacle. It’s a Wonderful Life recalls the story of George Bailey’s Christmas transformation. Audiences will fall in love all over again with George and Mary, and laugh as Clarence finally earns his wings. This holiday classic is bound to give wings to all who attend, and the spirit of joy will soar throughout the holidays.

It’s a Wonderful Life runs in the Mattie Kelly Arts Center Sprint Theater November 29 – December 1, with nightly performances at 7:30. A 2 p.m. matinee is scheduled for Saturday, December 1. Tickets are $25 and include an intermission reception in the Mattie Kelly Arts Center Galleries with holiday treats provided by The Eventful Planner. Tickets are on sale now at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center Box Office. Call (850) 729-6000 or visit mattiekellyartscenter.org to purchase tickets before they sell out!

RAIDER CLUB MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FOR THE 2018-19 SEASON

To be a part of TEAM NWF, join the Raider Club and enjoy all the outstanding amenities such as:

• Free entrance to all home athletic events
• Access to “The Arena,” our state-of-the-art basketball facility
• Preferred seating at all home basketball games in the Raider Club section with wider seats and increased leg room
• Access to the Raider Room (Hospitality Room) at all home basketball games where you can enjoy Danny’s Fried Chicken, Marco’s Pizza, homemade soup, Coca-Cola products, etc. during half-time and in between games
• Official Raider Club gifts
• Frequent updates on Raider News via email

Memberships can be purchased online or in person at our Athletic offices.

Mark your calendars! Raider Athletics will host a tailgate on Friday, November 2 at 5:30 p.m. before the men’s first regular season home game. We are inviting all Raider Club members to stop by and grab a bite to eat before picking up their passes and gifts.
OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE DONATES PATROL CARS TO NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

Northwest Florida State College received a generous in-kind gift of two patrol vehicles from the Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office (OCSO), estimated at $7,000, that will benefit the Criminal Justice Training Center at NWF.

“This donation of two patrol vehicles will have a substantial impact on the training we are able to offer our Public Safety students,” said Dr. Devin Stephenson, President. “By investing in our students, corporate partners like the Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office are also investing in the future of their own agency.”

The Criminal Justice Training Center is the hands-on portion of the Public Safety Program at Northwest Florida State College. The program focuses on providing the best possible training facilities, equipment and instruction to local law enforcement agencies and new academy recruits. Emergency Vehicle Operations is a major component of the courses taught at the center, and this type of training takes an immense toll on a vehicle fleet. This gift from the Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office will allow the training center to continue to teach students with reliable equipment.

For more information about this gift or partnership opportunities, please contact the NWF State College Foundation office at (850) 729-5357 or foundation@nwfsc.edu.