



# NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

## Memo

To: Board of Trustees  
From: Dr. Devin Stephenson, President  
Date: February 21, 2023  
Re: Chautauqua Center Partnership Opportunity

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The College is actively enhancing the Chautauqua Center in DeFuniak Springs to offer a student- and community-centric space. Facilities is upgrading Building 500 to offer a Raider Central, enhanced instructional spaces, more convenient student studying locations, and a variety of other renovations to make the space more effective for instruction and testing. In late 2022, the College also welcomed former trustee Representative Shane Abbott to house his local office in Building 500.

As the College brings more opportunities to students in DeFuniak in 2023, we must ensure that the College has space to grow within Building 500. Considering space needs, the College has chosen not to renew existing leases with Vocational Rehabilitation and the Tri-County Head Start, both of which currently occupy space within Building 500. The College intends to use the vacated space for faculty offices, conference room, and community use.

Regarding community use, the College has invited the Walton County Economic Development Alliance to bring its operations to the Chautauqua Center. The College is the proud host of One Okaloosa, the Okaloosa County Economic Development Council, at the College's Fort Walton Beach campus. We hope to develop economic, workforce, and training opportunities for Walton County as we do in Okaloosa County through a close partnership with the Walton County EDA. Bringing the College and the Walton County EDA together is a natural fit for both organizations to better serve the students and families of Walton County. If the Board concurs that the College should pursue the opportunity to house the Walton County EDA, the College will continue discussions with the EDA and present a lease to the Board for approval in February.