

ALUMNI ANCHOR

PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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CAROL CARLAN:

Nurturing Empowerment
Through Life's Journey
and Leadership



Carol Carlan is a pillar of light and hope in our Pensacola community, and someone we are deeply proud to call an alumnus of Pensacola State College. Carol is a prominent community leader and accomplished business executive with over 35 years of experience in banking, including being the first female president of a large regional bank. Following her banking career, she served as President of the Ascension Sacred Heart Foundation, leading a major capital campaign resulting in a new children's hospital and expanded services. Appointed by Gov. Jeb Bush in 2004, she served as the inaugural chair and was a board member for the Institute For Human & Machine Cognition (IHMC) for 18 years. She now proudly serves as the Director of Philanthropy at IHMC.

As CEO of Carlan Consulting, she's a key figure in leadership development, founding member of the John Maxwell Team, and delivers leadership training to businesses globally. Beyond her professional roles, Carol's deep commitment to community service is evident through her involvement in over 35 nonprofit organizations, earning her numerous awards for her impactful contributions.

We were honored to sit with Carol and learn her rich history, inclusive of her time at our college.

Carol's formative years were marked by profound responsibility and unwavering determination, being entrusted with the care of her siblings when her mother left at a very young age — then in a whirlwind of change, Carol was placed in the care of foster homes through a church ministry. She notes that being raised in six different homes exposed her to the rich tapestry of humanity, fostering a deep-seated empathy and understanding. Despite the weight of her circumstances, she emerged as a nurturer and leader, embodying both strength and compassion.

It's this mindset of embracing challenges and transforming them into opportunities that defines Carol's approach to empowerment. Carol would go on to find work at a local bookstore in Fort Walton Beach, where her mindset, already optimistic, would deepen with the chance to read books like "Think and Grow Rich" on her lunch break. She would also find musical talent and leadership in the band, her band instructor developing her soon to be blooming leadership skills, and leading her to Pensacola State College.

Amidst her pursuit of education, tragedy struck as her father passed away. Yet, even in the face of personal loss, Carol found solace and support in the caring community of faculty and staff at the college. They rallied around her, offering not only condolences but practical assistance, rearranging her schedule and providing the necessary support to ensure she could graduate on time.

This demonstration of empathy and solidarity left a lasting impression on Carol, reinforcing her belief in the power of community and the importance of lifting each other up in times of need. It was through the unwavering support of her college community that Carol was able to navigate through adversity and emerge stronger than ever.

Carol's commitment to her alma mater extends beyond her college years. As the longest-serving

esteemed member of the Pensacola State College Board of Trustees and Emeritus and member of the Pensacola State Foundation, she continues to champion education and mentorship, recognizing their profound impact on shaping future generations.

For Carol, empowerment is a multifaceted journey encapsulated by the mantra of "know, grow, sow." It's about knowing oneself, nurturing personal growth, and sowing seeds of positivity and change in the community. She imparts this wisdom to alumni and aspiring leaders, urging them to invest in their own development, embrace their uniqueness, and give back to others.

As the All TogetherHER women's conference approaches its third year, Carol's vision for empowerment burns brighter than ever. The conference promises to be a transformative experience, a crucible where women can gather, grow, and empower each other to reach new heights.

When asked about creating a legacy, Carol's perspective transcends mere material wealth. True legacy, she believes, lies in the lasting impact we leave on people's lives — the connections we forge, the support we offer, and the empathy we extend. It's about listening intently, sharing our struggles and successes, and lifting others up along the way — knowing we never get anywhere, or achieve anything alone.



Carol Carlan's journey is a shining example of empowerment, highlighting resilience, community engagement, and passionate, transformative leadership.

Learn more about All TogetherHER:
<https://www.pensacolachamber.com/alltogether/>



Captured in photographs, the Hammond family's joy serves as a reminder of the lasting impact of such moments. Their support honors Hammond's legacy and the unity of the Pensacola State College community.

Honoring the Legacy of Carla Williams: A Tribute to a Remarkable Athlete, Coach, and Mentor

Carla Williams, a distinguished athlete, coach, scholar, and mentor, left an unforgettable legacy on the Pensacola State College community. As a standout basketball player and scholar, she led the Lady Pirates to victory while excelling academically. Her achievements continued at Florida State University, where she distinguished herself both on the court and in the classroom.



Carla Williams

After her playing days, Carla returned to Pensacola State College as an associate professor, shaping young minds for over two decades. She remained deeply involved in athletics, serving as a coach, tutor, and mentor. Her impact extended beyond sports, as she mentored and advised countless individuals in her community.

Although her passing in May 2022 left a void, Carla's influence endures. She was posthumously inducted into the Pensacola State Athletics Hall of Fame, and her jersey number, #22, was retired. To commemorate her life, Pensacola State College established the Carla Williams Memorial Endowed Scholarship, ensuring her spirit of

generosity and support lives on. Her remarkable contributions were further recognized at the state level when she was inducted into the 2024 FCSAA Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, solidifying her place among Florida basketball's best.

Carla serves as an inspiration to all, reminding us to strive for excellence and generosity in everything we do.

Remembering Carla means celebrating her generosity, kindness, and commitment to excellence. Though she's no longer with us, her indomitable spirit continues to inspire future generations.



Carla Williams was not merely a basketball player; she was a beacon of excellence both on and off the court. Her family is pictured here after accepting her FCSAA Women's Basketball Hall of Fame honors.

Craig and Amanda Hindsman: Generations of Impact

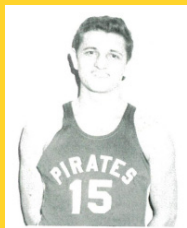
Craig and Amanda Hindsman epitomize the spirit of PSC, their journey mirroring the essence of the institution itself. Their story is one of humble beginnings, fueled by a dedication to both personal growth and community service. PSC provided the fertile ground where their dreams took root, nurtured by a supportive environment that fostered not only academic excellence but also a deep connection to their surroundings.

Their commitment to service extended far beyond the classroom, as they became catalysts for positive change in their community. Through volunteerism, advocacy, and mentorship, Craig and Amanda emerged as leaders, embodying the values instilled by their alma mater.

Now, as proud parents, Craig and Amanda witness a new chapter unfold as their children follow in their footsteps, embarking on their own educational journey at PSC. For the Hindsmans, PSC is more than a college — it's heritage, a testament to the enduring bond between institution and community, and a reaffirmation of a shared commitment to excellence and integrity.

"Both Amanda and I received an incredible education from Pensacola State. Not only was it an affordable option for our education, but it also cemented our place in and love for this community. It was such an essential part of our lives that when our children started looking at their future education, we spoke with them first about PSC. Now both of our kids are currently enrolled and will become graduates as we are. We feel excited knowing that our kids will receive the same great education as a launching pad for their future success," Craig said.

The children's enrollment symbolizes the continuation of a family tradition. It also underscores PSC's role as a catalyst for generational progress — enriching lives and empowering individuals to shape a brighter future for themselves and their communities — one student and one family at a time.



Jake Hammond

Jake Hammond's Heartwarming Homecoming: History in the Making

Jake Hammond, 94 years young, revisited the basketball

is today was a heartwarming affair. The moment symbolizes a lifetime of cherished memories both on and off the court.

court of his youth accompanied by loved ones during a special homecoming celebration. Hammond played basketball on one of the first PSC teams in 1950-51. Coached by Lou Ross, Jake was known, in his coach's words, to dominate, scoring 18-24 points per game.

For the Hammond family, watching their patriarch step foot back on a court that built him into the man, business owner, and community symbol he

Jake's daughter, Barbara McLean, reminisces about their basketball-filled upbringing, a legacy still dear to Jake. "We were especially proud to watch him dribble the ball down the court again!" Barbara exclaimed, recounting how not only basketball, but the college itself was a constant in their lives.

Beyond individual achievements, Jake's homecoming celebrates family, friendship, and enduring bonds.



PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE
 Office of Alumni Affairs
 1000 College Blvd.
 Pensacola, FL 32504

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Message from the President



Since the inaugural class walked the halls of the downtown Pensacola boarding house in 1948, the success of our students has been at the forefront of Pensacola State College’s mission. As we close this historic 75th year, we celebrate the more than 124,600 students who have graduated from PSC, earning

associate degrees, bachelor’s degrees, and workforce certifications. The alumni of Pensacola State have made lasting contributions both near and far. In this edition of the Anchor, we highlight local community leaders who began their educational journeys at PSC.

Recently, PSC held its largest-ever signing day for student-athletes committing to four-year institutions, with 24 demonstrating the college’s slogan “Go Here. Get There.” Among them are five members of this year’s NJCAA Division II Women’s Volleyball National Tournament fourth-place team — a first in the program’s history. More athletes have since committed.

Soon, the PSC Alumni Association will host the Distinguished Alumni Awards to honor five individuals and our first-ever couple for their success, unwavering determination, acts of service, and commitment to their communities. As we celebrate everything they stand for and the trails they continue to blaze, we recognize that they represent the undeniable force that PSC has been and will continue to be in our community and beyond.

With many thanks to alumni, Sen. Doug Broxson, Rep. Michelle Salzman, as well as Rep. Alex Andrade, PSC is positioned with legislative funding to build on the Pensacola Campus a new Soccer Field Complex, a Training and Conference Center, an Aviation Airframe and Mechanic Facility at the Pensacola International Airport, and a Diesel Mechanics Facility at the Truck Driving Training Facility in Santa Rosa County. These new facilities will help PSC continue to graduate students for university transfer and our bachelor degree programs, as well as trained skilled craftsmen for high-wage careers in technical fields.

To learn more about what is taking place at PSC and all we have accomplished in these 75 years, visit our website at pensacolastate.edu.



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 STAY CONNECTED**

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