

A L U M N I ANCHOR

PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

11TH EDITION
WINTER 2026



HUNTING TRIP TO
SOUTH DAKOTA



JP WHIBBS:

Whibbs Family Honors a Legend

PIRATES IN THE
COMMUNITY:
HONG POTOMSKI

ALUMNUS ON A MISSION:

JP Whibbs Champions Program-Specific Scholarships to Strengthen Pensacola's Workforce

The Pensacola State College Alumni Association continues to advance its mission of supporting workforce education through its matching funds program — helping alumni and community partners multiply their impact through program-specific scholarships that directly serve students and the region.

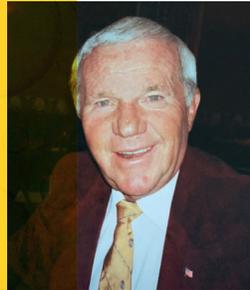
Most recently, the Alumni Association provided a **\$12,500 match** toward the establishment of the **Vincent John Whibbs Sr. Memorial Endowed Scholarship**, a \$50,000 fund supporting students in automotive and diesel technology programs. The scholarship was created through a \$37,500 gift from **PSC alumnus and Alumni Association Board member John Paul "JP" Whibbs** and his family in honor of his father, **Mayor Emeritus Vincent "Vince" John Whibbs Sr.**

Inspired by his father's lifelong commitment to public service, business leadership and workforce development, JP Whibbs established the scholarship to help students pursue skilled trades careers that are vital to the regional economy — careers that strengthen both families and the Pensacola community.

The Whibbs scholarship joins other **Alumni Association-matched, program-specific funds**, including the **Amir Fooladi Student Constructors Endowed Scholarship**, which supports students pursuing construction-related careers — from HVAC and plumbing to project management. Together, these scholarships reflect how alumni leadership and matching funds are being strategically leveraged to grow high-impact opportunities aligned with workforce needs.

These endowed scholarships provide annual financial support to students while building long-term resources for PSC programs that drive economic growth, career readiness and community sustainability.

Pensacola Mayor Emeritus
Vince Whibbs



JP Whibbs, owner of Whibbs Real Estate Group and BuggyWorx, is a graduate of Pensacola Junior College and Florida State University. For 30 years, he and his partners grew Vince Whibbs Pontiac-GMC to include many additional franchises and eventually sold the company in 2018. He has been a PSC Alumni Association Board of Directors member since 2020.



Vince Whibbs Sr. on the day he opened his Pontiac dealership in 1958.



Vince Whibbs Sr., center, was a fighter pilot and flight instructor in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

TRADES

Trades Scholarship Spotlight

The Student Constructors Endowed Scholarship supports students in Building Construction Trades programs:

- Carpentry, Welding, Electrical, HVAC and Plumbing (Vocational Certificates)
- Architectural Design and Construction Technology (AS)
- Business Management: Entrepreneurship & Project Management (BAS)
- Graphic Design Management (BAS)

The scholarship was established with an initial gift from **Amir Fooladi**, president and CEO of ParsCo. The **PSC Alumni Association** matched **\$12,500**, creating a **\$25,000** endowed fund.



Amir Fooladi

Keeping the Match Alive

The Alumni Association's matching program is sustained through **program funds raised by alumni and friends**, ensuring future donors can leverage matching support of up to \$12,500.

Interested in establishing a matching scholarship with the PSC Alumni Association — or supporting the program funds that keep the matching program alive?

Contact Hailey Lotz at 850-484-1714 to learn more.

INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING?
GIVE TODAY!



Cheyenne "Brandon" Putt



Dallas Patterson



Alyson Lamom



Steven "Chris" Williams



VETERANS GAIN SKILLS WITH DONOR SUPPORT

Thanks to the stewardship of the PSC Foundation and the generosity of donors, including our dedicated alumni, students pursuing skilled trades like electrical, plumbing and carpentry gain hands-on training and build careers.

From the 2024-2025 trades cohort, brothers Cheyenne "Brandon" Putt (a U.S. Army veteran) and Dallas Patterson (a U.S. Navy veteran), graduates of the HVAC and carpentry programs, started their own business. They helped with dormitory renovations on the Pensacola campus and are now instructors in the PSC Rebuilds program — a grant-funded program (no out-of-pocket cost for students) that provides training in HVAC, plumbing, masonry, electrical, carpentry and welding to residents of Escambia and Santa Rosa counties with low to moderate household incomes.

Beyond the workforce, some trades program graduates are putting their skills to work as volunteers. U.S. Air Force veteran Alyson Lamom completed PSC's plumbing and carpentry programs and helped build houses in Peru this past year. Steven "Chris" Williams (a U.S. Army veteran), who also completed the HVAC and carpentry programs, volunteers with The War Horse Project, providing equine-assisted therapy to veterans and others coping with PTSD, depression, anxiety, trauma and neurological disorders.

Making a difference. Gifts to program-specific scholarships, combined with the PSC Alumni Association's matching program, help students like these military veterans gain training and opportunities to build careers and to impact their communities.

MILITARY FRIENDLY AND PROUD

Pensacola State College is routinely honored for its work with active-duty military, veterans and their families, most recently designated as a Collegiate Purple Star Campus by the Florida Department of Education, a Purple Heart College by the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and a Military Spouse Friendly School by Viqtory Media, publisher of *G.I. Jobs* magazine. PSC has made the *Military Times* Best for Vets list for nine years and has been designated a Military Friendly School by Viqtory Media for 16 years with a fourth consecutive Gold status in the Large Public College category.



PSC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Lisa York, Secretary/Treasurer

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Patrice Whitten

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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Alumni and Friends,
As we reminisce on a remarkable year at Pensacola State College, we are reminded of the generosity and commitment that define our community.

This fall, the Alumni Association hosted its second President's Hunt at Prairie Sky Ranch, where 17 guests enjoyed an unforgettable South Dakota experience. Beyond the camaraderie, the event helped strengthen alumni program funds that support our Matching Scholarship Program and directly benefit PSC students.

We were also honored to celebrate the creation of the Vincent John Whibbs Sr. Memorial Endowed Scholarship, established by Alumni Board member JP Whibbs and his family in memory of his father. Inspired by Vince Whibbs Sr.'s legacy of service and dedication to education, this scholarship embodies the leadership and spirit of giving that make our alumni community exceptional.

As your Alumni Association president, this mission is personal to me. My Delta Kappa Alpha brothers and their families have seen the Matching Scholarship Program's impact firsthand. We are grateful to have contributed to multiple scholarships in recent years and remain committed to supporting opportunities that help PSC students excel.

These moments remind us that giving is at the heart of who we are. As we look forward the year ahead, I invite you to join us in continuing this important work. Your support, especially through the Alumni Matching Scholarship Program, opens doors for students and strengthens every gift.

Thank you for your loyalty, generosity, and pride in PSC.

Mike Thomas
President, PSC Alumni Association Board of Directors

SAVE THE DATE: ALUMNI EVENTS



MAY 5
PSC/UWF Joint Alumni Social



JUNE 13
2026 Distinguished Alumni Awards



PRESIDENT'S HUNT



“OUR SOUTH DAKOTA GROUP WAS EXCEPTIONAL — NOT JUST FOR THEIR ENTHUSIASM FOR THE HUNT, BUT FOR THEIR GENUINE COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION OF PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE.”

— Gerry Goldstein
PSC Alumni Association Board Vice President

President's Hunt Delivers Big Memories in South Dakota

The President's Hunt at Prairie Sky Ranch provided an unforgettable experience for PSC alumni and friends, while supporting the Alumni Association's flagship Matching Scholarship Program initiative.

The October excursion offered a South Dakota hunting adventure, including two days of guided hunts for pheasant, duck and more and exceptional meals crafted by the Prairie Sky Ranch culinary team. Guests also enjoyed exclusive access to the ranch and free time to fully immerse themselves in the breathtaking prairie landscape.

“Our South Dakota group was exceptional — not just for their enthusiasm for the hunt, but for their genuine commitment to the mission of Pensacola State College and to creating scholarship opportunities for future students,” said PSC Alumni Association Board Vice President Gerry Goldstein, who chaired the President's Hunt. “Their generosity is essential; without it, we would be forced to explore other ways to raise funds.”

Ideal weather, exceptional service and warm camaraderie made for a truly memorable trip, all in the spirit of enriching student success through the Matching Scholarship Program.



PIRATES IN THE COMMUNITY

Hong Potomski applies values from her PSC experience to helping Northwest Florida achieve better health

Photo: Phil Salzman



For Hong Potomski, graduating from Pensacola State College in 2022 with an associate of arts degree in Computer Information Systems had special meaning. “As a first-

generation American and first-generation college graduate, achieving this milestone represented a profound sense of pride, accomplishment and breaking of generational barriers. For my family and me, it signified the realization of the American dream, where hard work and determination pave the way for a brighter future,” said Potomski.

She went on to earn a bachelor of science degree in Business Administration, Management Information Systems & Marketing from the University of Central Florida College of Business and an MBA and master’s degree in Health/Health Care Administration/Management from the University of West Florida.

Today, she is the Northwest Florida Market Leader for Florida Blue with responsibility for market strategy across the Panhandle.

She credits a robust support system and the encouragement she received while enrolled at PSC as crucial to her success.

“The college provided academic advising tailored to my needs, ensuring I stayed on track, career counseling that helped me explore and pursue my professional aspirations, and an inclusive community that fostered a sense of belonging. These resources, combined with the dedication of faculty and staff, empowered me to navigate the complexities of college life and emerge as a confident, career-ready graduate.”

In her role with Florida Blue, Potomski demonstrates a passion for accessible, quality and affordable healthcare and says that her experience as a PSC student embodied these same values.

“In terms of accessibility, PSC’s multiple campus locations and course offerings made it easy for me to balance my academic and professional responsibilities, and the college’s flexible

scheduling allowed me to pursue higher education while maintaining my commitments,” she said. “Regarding quality, PSC’s faculty and staff provided exceptional guidance, support and mentorship, ensuring I received a high-quality education that prepared me for my future career.”

Potomski says that affordability was a significant factor in her decision to attend PSC, citing competitive tuition and grant opportunities that made it possible for her to pursue her degree without incurring substantial debt.

“Overall, my experience as a PSC student was marked by accessibility, quality and affordability — values that I now champion as a healthcare leader at Florida Blue,” she said.

“FOR MY FAMILY AND ME, IT SIGNIFIES THE REALIZATION OF THE AMERICAN DREAM, WHERE HARD WORK AND DETERMINATION PAVE THE WAY FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE.”

— Hong Potomski
Northwest Florida Market Leader,
Florida Blue

collaboration and resource sharing, network with fellow alumni and expand our professional network and potential partnership opportunities, and contribute to the college’s efforts to foster a stronger, more resilient community, which aligns with Florida Blue’s mission.”

Hong Potomski is the Northwest Florida Market Leader for Florida Blue. She is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and currently serves on the boards of Florida’s Great Northwest, the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Pensacola Chamber, Escambia County Public Schools Foundation, United Way Emerald Coast, American College of Healthcare Executives North Florida Chapter, University of West Florida Foundation and College of Health Advisory Board (chair) and Pace Center for Girls.

Her continued affiliation with the college through the PSC Alumni Association supports her role at Florida Blue, where community engagement and strategic partnerships are prioritized.

“Through the Alumni Association, we stay connected to the college’s initiatives and events, allowing us to identify opportunities for

ALUMNI ANCHOR



PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

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Message from the President



As we reflect on the past year, Pensacola State College has much to celebrate — the accomplishments of our students and the dedication of our faculty and staff that speak to the strength and vitality of our institution and the unwavering support of our alumni community.

Our academic programs continue to excel. PSC's RN to BSN online program earned top national rankings once again, and five of our nursing students were selected for the competitive Florida AHEC Scholars cohort. In the arts, our visual arts students continued their remarkable success with 56 awards at the 2025 American Advertising Awards, including multiple Gold, Silver and Judges' Choice honors representing two-thirds of all awards presented!

Our athletics programs also shone brightly with Men's Basketball capturing the FCSAA Division I Championship, Women's Volleyball making its third straight appearance at the NJCAA National Tournament, and Pirates Soccer securing a third consecutive Region 8 Championship. Student athletes, under the guidance of their coaches, as well as many health and science students, performed hundreds of hours of service to our community.

Beyond competition, our commitment to service members and workforce development grew stronger through our 16th consecutive Military Friendly® designation, the opening of the Veteran and Military Family Service Center at both the Pensacola and Milton campuses, and the groundbreaking of our new Aviation Airframe and Powerplant Mechanics facility. PSC Charter Academy also earned its second consecutive "A" rating from the Florida Department of Education.

These achievements reflect a shared mission: **to educate, empower and uplift our community.** To ensure that future Pirates have access to the same life-changing opportunities, endowed scholarships remain essential. As alumni, you play a vital role in continuing this mission. By helping build and grow our program funds — particularly through the Matching Scholarship Program — you help open doors for students.

I invite you to join us in championing these opportunities in the new year. Together, we can strengthen our community, invest in future success stories, and carry forward the proud 77-year legacy of Pensacola State College.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year and heartfelt thanks for your continued support.

Go Pirates!

Edward Meadows, Ed.D.
President, Pensacola State College



GET CONNECTED &
STAY CONNECTED

Join the Pensacola State College
Alumni Association.

