



# NSU News

A Publication for the Northwestern State University Faculty & Staff

VOLUME 45 No. 11 DECEMBER 2021

## PEOPLE

Creative Writing Program Coordinator and Assistant Professor of English **Dr. Rebecca Macijeski** is a winner of the 2021 Split Rock Press chapbook competition.

Her poetry chapbook will be published next year. Split Rock Press publishes “eco-friendly books that explore place, environment, and the relationship between humans and the natural world.”

## Jazz for Pups concert Dec. 8

The NSU Jazz Combos will present a “Jazz for Pups” Concert on Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in Magale Recital Hall. Admission is free and open to the public but donations to benefit Natchitoches Hope for Paws including dog foods, treats or toys along with monetary donations will be accepted.

The Monday Night Jazz Combo and Wednesday Night Jazz Combo will each play a selection of holiday favorites and jazz classics.



## Jones selected as NSU’s 20th president

The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System voted unanimously to name **Marcus Jones** the 20th president of Northwestern State University Nov. 8.

Jones has served the institution in many ways throughout his 23-year career including roles such as professor of business law and international business, vice president for university affairs, and executive vice president for university and business affairs. He has most recently served as interim president since July of 2021.

“Northwestern is home to me. I know Northwestern and Northwestern knows me,” Jones said. “This is about fit and timing for Northwestern, and I will hit the ground running.”

The Northwestern State Presidential Search Committee narrowed the field to two finalists, Jones and Kim LeDuff, after interviewing six semifinalists on

Northwestern’s campus.

“It’s an historic day for Northwestern State,” UL System President and CEO Jim Henderson said. “Marcus is an authentic leader of character, integrity, and vision. His familiarity with the community, his passion for student success, and his commitment to excellence will advance our alma mater for the next generation.”

During his interview, Jones spoke of the importance of a strong institution for university alumni and the Natchitoches community as a whole. He also discussed his vision for the university working more collaboratively with business and industry to ensure graduates have both the hard skills and soft skills to meet the needs of the global market.

Jones is a native of Winnfield and is the 18th of 20 children. He is a graduate of Northwestern State, Grambling State, and Southern Law Center.

# Commencement will take place Dec. 15-16

Northwestern State University will hold Fall 2021 commencement exercises at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 15 and at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16 in Prather Coliseum.

“We are thrilled to be hosting in-person graduation ceremonies, but we continue to be mindful of public health and safety,” said **Dr. Greg Handel**, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. “We appreciate everyone’s understanding and adherence to COVID protocols as we welcome the families and friends of our graduates to campus to celebrate this important milestone.”

Graduates will not be limited in the number of guests in attendance. Everyone must wear a mask to enter the building. Guests will be directed to seating and are asked to adhere to social distancing guidelines between families/groups. Saving seats will not be allowed. Guests are asked to remain seated for the duration of the ceremony.

It is recommended that graduates and guests arrive at least 30 minutes prior to each ceremony. Graduates will enter the front of Prather Coliseum, check in and be escorted to their seat. There will be no processional. Guests for graduates with last names beginning with A-L should use entrance and exits on the east side of Prather Coliseum, the side facing the tennis courts. Guests for graduates with last names beginning with M-Z should use entrance and exits on the west side of Prather Coliseum, the side facing the Kappa Sigma House. ADA accessibility entrance is on the West side.

Hand sanitizing stations will be available. Prather Coliseum will be disinfected between ceremonies.

Parking is available around Prather Coliseum.

All ceremonies will be livestreamed at [www.nsula.edu](http://www.nsula.edu) and recorded.

Summer 2021 NSU graduates are invited to participate in Fall 2021 commencement exercises. Those who wish to do so should complete and return the Commencement Attendance Form. A form letter is provided at <https://www.nsula.edu/documentprovider/docs/17/SUMMER%202021%20CANDIDATE%20ATTENDANCE%20FORM.pdf>

Completed forms may be sent via email to [registrar@nsula.edu](mailto:registrar@nsula.edu) or by fax to (318) 357-5823 and must be submitted no later than Wednesday, December 1.

The schedule of ceremonies is as follows.

## **Wednesday, December 15, 2021**

*10:00 A.M. Ceremony*

*College of Nursing and School of Allied Health  
(Bachelor and Associate Degrees)*

**BAS** – Allied Health

**BS** – Radiologic Sciences

**BSN** – Bachelor of Science in Nursing

**ASN** – Associate of Science in Nursing

*2 p.m. Ceremony*

*Graduate School (Graduate Degrees)*

*College of Arts and Sciences*

**MA** – Art, English

**MM** – Music

**MS** – Homeland Security

*College of Nursing and School of Allied Health*

**DNP** – Doctor of Nursing Practice

**MS** – Radiologic Sciences

**MSN** – Master of Science in Nursing

*Gallaspy Family College of Education & Human Development*

**EDD** – Adult Learning and Development

**EDS** – Educational Leadership and Instruction

**MA** – Adult Learning & Development, Counseling, Student Affairs in Higher Education

**MAT** – Early Childhood Education Grades PK-3, Elementary Education Grades 1-5, Elementary Education and Special Education Mild/Moderate

Grades 1-5, Middle School Education Grades 4-8, Middle School Education and Special Education Mild/Moderate Grades 4-8, Secondary Education Grades 6-12, Secondary Education and Special Education Mild/Moderate Grades 6-12

**MED** – Curriculum and Instruction, Early Childhood Education, Educational Leadership, Educational Technology Leadership, Special Education

**MS** – Health and Human Performance, Psychology-Clinical





*Commencement ... Continued from Page 2*

*College of Business and Technology (Bachelor Degrees)*

**BS** – Accounting, Business Administration, Computer Information Systems, Hospitality Management & Tourism

**Thursday, December 16, 2021**

*10:00 A.M. Ceremony*

*College of Arts and Sciences (Bachelor and Associate Degrees)*

**BA** – Communication, Criminal Justice, English, History, Liberal Arts

**BFA** – Dance, Fine and Graphic Arts

**BGS** – General Studies

**BM** – Music

**BS** – Applied Microbiology, Biology, Electronics Engineering Technology, Industrial Engineering Technology, Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Theatre, Unified Public Safety Administration

**AD** – Veterinary Technology

**AGS** – Associate of General Studies

**AS** – Engineering Technology

*Louisiana Scholars' College – Bachelor Degrees*

**BA** – Communication, Criminal Justice, English, History, Liberal Arts

**BFA** – Fine & Graphic Arts

**BM** – Music

**BME** – Music Education-Instrumental-Grades K-12, Music Education-Vocal-Grades K-12

**BS** – Accounting, Applied Microbiology, Biology, Business Administration, Computer Information Systems, Electronic Engineering Technology, Elementary Education-Grades 1-5, Health and Exercise Science, Hospitality Management and Tourism, Industrial Engineering Technology, Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Psychology, Secondary Education and Teaching, Theatre, Unified Public Safety Administration

**BSW** – Social Work

*2 P.M. Ceremony*

*Gallaspy Family College of Education & Human Development (Bachelor Degrees)*

**BME** – Music Education-Instrumental-Grades K-12, Music Education-Vocal-Grades K-12, Music Education-Vocal/Instrumental -Grades K-12

**BS** – Addiction Studies, Child and Family Studies, Early Childhood Education-Grades Pre-K-3, Elementary Education-Grades 1-5, Health and Exercise Science, Health and Physical Education-Grades K-12, Psychology, Secondary Education and Teaching

**BSW** – Social Work

Information on commencement is available at <https://www.nsula.edu/graduation/>.

## Child Development Center director selected as LELA Fellow

**Faith Stanfield**, director of the Child Development Center at Northwestern State University, was one of 24 early childhood directors from across Louisiana named to the third cohort of Louisiana Early Leaders Academy. The Louisiana Early Leaders Academy was created by the Louisiana Department of Education to strengthen leaders in the field of early childhood education and expand access to quality early childhood care and education.

As a Fellow, Stanfield will have the opportunity to enhance leadership skills and boost impact on young learners. Fellows are selected through a competitive application process. The 10-month executive level program is for directors of highly rated publicly funded early learning centers.

The directors are aiming for excellence in



**Stanfield**

the daily leadership of their early learning centers. They must be certified as reliable in Louisiana's classroom observation tool. Fellows will articulate their vision for personal and professional growth while in the Academy.

LELA will hold training in July and will include virtual and in-person training, opportunities to meet national and

state leaders in early childhood education,

one-on-one coaching to support areas of need and peer learning communities to enhance instructional leadership and quality in early learning programs.

Fellows also learn about managing systems changes, building strong teams and improving program operations, among other content areas. In addition to the new cohort, there are 82 alums from previous Academy cohorts statewide.

## NSU relaxes mask mandate, masks still required in classrooms

Following new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showing several weeks of sustained improvement to low/moderate transmission of COVID-19 in Natchitoches Parish, Northwestern State University has relaxed its indoor mask mandate effective immediately in public spaces on all campuses for all fully-vaccinated individuals. For those who are not yet fully vaccinated, the indoor mask mandate remains in place. Masks will still be required in classrooms, but not

required in other facilities on campus.

“Out of an abundance of caution as we approach cold and flu season, monitor the fluid situation of COVID-19, and monitor the Omicron variant, the mask mandate will remain in place in the classroom setting for all individuals,” said NSU President **Dr. Marcus Jones**. “Students, faculty and staff are asked to continue to observe COVID-19 health and safety protocols and mitigation measures in classrooms.”

The University will continue to monitor COVID-19 trends, including the Omicron variant. Masking protocols are subject to change if transmission patterns and rates increase, or positivity rates in Natchitoches Parish increase. As of today, there have been no reported cases of the Omicron variant in the United States.

Information on NSU's COVID-19 protocols can be found at <https://www.nsula.edu/return-to-campus/>.

# January Non-Credit Classes

**For more information or to register for classes, go to [checkout.nsula.edu](http://checkout.nsula.edu) or call (800)376-2422 or (318)357-6355.**

## **Playing in the Mud: Beginning Ceramics Limited Seating**

This course is an introduction to working with clay. The student will learn hand-building and sculptural techniques, as well as work on the potter's wheel. There will also be room for intermediate and advanced students to take the class who want to use the facilities during the class time.

Date: January 13-February 17, Thursdays  
Time: 6:00 - 8:00 pm  
Fee: \$125 plus \$20 material fee (mat. fee paid directly to instructor first night of class)  
Location: 113 Creative & Performing Arts Building (CAPA)/New Wing  
Instructor: Matt DeFord

## **Mentor Teacher Training Program**

This program is offered by the School of Education, which consists of 2 courses and when combined are the equivalent of the requirement for the Mentor Teacher Professional Development Program. The courses will be offered on a traditional semester basis enrolling new cohorts each term. Courses will be taught by a current practitioner who has earned the State Mentor credential.

The course is designed to prepare participants for the Bloomboard Assessments. Achieving the credential requires an assessment by BloomBoard (extra fee-not included in course fees.)

Date: January 24-May 6  
Time: Online  
Fee: \$250/course  
Location: Online  
Instructor: Paula Callender

## **Security+ Intensive Boot Camp**

Security+ Intensive Boot Camp- This intensive boot camp is designed with one thing in mind: Certification. In this course you will study, at your own pace, for the CompTIA Security+ (SYO-501) exam. You will be provided resources, lecture notes, and access to a live professor that will prepare you to take the certification exam.

This comprehensive package includes the software, recorded lectures, a test voucher (good for 1 year) and a free retake, and a weekly live session should you need it. These tools will help you succeed and become Security+ certified.

This course is self-paced so that you may begin any time and will have 9 months of live access.

Date: Online/Open Enrollment  
Fee: \$1,899  
Location: Online  
Instructor: Eddie Horton

## **Fine and Graphic Art will host Maker's Faire Dec. 8-10**

Northwestern State University's Department of Fine and Graphic Art will host the annual Maker's Faire in Orville Hanchey Gallery next week. Dates and times are 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9 and 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10.

Students and faculty from the department host the sale each December at the start of the gift-giving season to offer unique and original artwork in a variety of mediums that includes paintings, ceramics, jewelry, sculpture, fiber arts, photographs, mixed media and more.

Prices are reasonable and shoppers may be able to visit with the artists.

Cash, check, card, PayPal, Venmo and Cash App are accepted.

For more information, contact Professor of Art **Matt DeFord** at [defordm@nsula.edu](mailto:defordm@nsula.edu) or call (318) 357-6560.





## Christmas Gala returns to A.A. Fredericks

The Mrs. H.D. Dear Sr. and Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts at Northwestern State University will present the 33rd annual Christmas Gala Dec. 1-3 in the A.A. Fredericks Auditorium. Performance times are 7 p.m. each evening with a 9 p.m. performance on Dec. 3.

This will be the first time in three years a live Christmas Gala will be performed in the renovated A.A. Fredericks Auditorium. The 2019 Gala was moved off campus due to construction in the auditorium. Last year's performance was virtual due to the pandemic.

Tickets are \$15. NSU, BPCC@NSU and Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts students are admitted free with a current student I.D.

"The Christmas Gala is eagerly anticipated by both local audiences and our students who perform and work behind the scenes," said Gala Director **Brett Alan Garfinkel**. "The School of Creative and Performing Arts works on the Gala year-round to be sure we provide a memorable event for the community."

The Gala will feature performances by the NSU Jazz Orchestra, "Out on a Limb Improv" Troupe, the NSU Dance Company, NSU Percussion Ensemble, Demon Dazzlers, Demon Heat Colorguard, NSU Brass Choir, NSU Chamber Choir and the Natchitoches-Northwestern-Symphony Orchestra,

The Gala story was written by NSU students Olivia Hancock of Dubach, Mekayla Jenkins of Jennings, Mikiah Odom of Marshall. Texas, and Kaylon Willoughby of Hammond. Ensemble directors and conductors are Galindo Rodriguez, Robert Richoux, Kenneth Green, David Steele, Jena Elfer, Dr. Grace Edgar, Dr. Nicholas B. Cummins, Dr. Douglas Bakenhus and Garfinkel. Choreographers are Pia Wyatt, Kirstin Riehl, Rebecca Morgan and Michael Lomeka.

More than 400 Northwestern State students, faculty and staff in the School of Creative and Performing Arts combine their talents to present the Gala as a kickoff to the Natchitoches Christmas Festival. Large crowds attend the Gala each year which is based on the long-running Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular.

Garfinkel said the Gala will combine popular parts from past shows along with new elements that are added this year. He said this year's Christmas Gala will be a version of a Louisiana Nutcracker.

"A Fais-do-do will take the place of the usual Christmas Party," said Garfinkel. "Instead of the Land of the Sweets in Act II the show will take a journey through the Land of Spices. The music and performance acts will have a Louisiana flare."

Information on the Gala is available at [capa.nsula.edu](http://capa.nsula.edu).