

NIC to honor longtime community supporter Josephine Webb

- Who:** Longtime college and community supporter Josephine Webb
What: will be honored with a reception hosted by North Idaho College and the NIC Foundation
When: at 11 a.m. Friday, March 27
Where: in the Edminster Student Union Building Driftwood Bay Room.
How: The event is open to all who wish to honor Webb. Refreshments will be available. Information: (208) 769-5978.

North Idaho College and the NIC Foundation will honor longtime community and NIC supporter Josephine Webb for her many contributions to the college during a reception Friday, March 27.

Webb has plans to move to Seattle to be closer to her immediate family after 60 years in North Idaho.

“For over 40 years, Jo has been active in supporting the college and foundation’s success on so many levels,” said NIC Foundation Director Rayelle Anderson. “She will certainly be missed, but we share in her excitement as she moves closer to her granddaughters, daughter and son-in-law in Seattle.”

Webb graduated from Purdue University with a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering in 1940. After working for years as an engineer, she moved to the Coeur d’Alene area from Pittsburgh in 1949 with her husband Herb.

She was a member of the NIC Board of Trustees from 1968 to 1976. While on the board, a developer came forward with a proposal to construct condominiums on the property at the head of the Spokane River. In 1972, Webb along with other community members objected to the plan and launched a public battle against the proposal. Due to the effort, the developer backed out and NIC was able to purchase the lakeshore from Pack River Lumber Company in 1977 and maintain public usage of the beachfront.

Webb said during her time as trustee, she is most proud of securing the beach for public use for future generations. She spoke at the 30th anniversary celebration of Yap-Keehn-Um Beach, which means “The Gathering Place” in the Coeur d’Alene language, in 2007.

Webb served as assistant to NIC presidents Barry Schuler and Bob Bennett, a position that entailed grant writing and private fund-raising. Between 1978 and 1983, NIC was able to fund 12 new administrative positions with approximately \$1.5 million in federal grant money.

Webb founded the NIC Foundation in 1977 and has been an active member of the board of directors since then. In 2004, Webb served as a cabinet member for the Providing

Opportunities—Fulfilling Dreams Capital Campaign, which raised more than \$3.5 million for college technology and scholarship needs.

A lifelong learner, Webb has been enrolled in one NIC class each year. Webb said she has been an active participant in the NIC Concert Choir for as long as she can remember and she is almost always the oldest registered student at NIC.

In 2003, the NIC Alumni Association honored Webb with the Alumna of the Year Award, which honors distinguished alumni for their contributions to NIC.

“My heart is at NIC,” Webb said. “The American idea of community colleges is unique and important. The community college concept allows students of all means to earn an education and I will always be an advocate for that.”

The reception will begin at 11 a.m. in the Edminster Student Union Building Driftwood Bay Room. It is free and open to anyone interested. Refreshments will be available.