

Northwest University History  
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Twenty-five years before Northwest College moved to Kirkland, two sisters lived in a cabin in the property where the college now stands. The Stewart sisters were Christian school teachers who hosted a Bible study for Japanese young people for a few weeks each summer. Their home, "Twin Acres," became known as Stewart Heights. In 1941, the government purchased the land to build the Stewart Heights Housing project for Lake Washington shipyard workers.

In 1958, Northwest Bible College's second president, Charles E. Butterfield, discovered the property, which had lain vacant for ten years. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare awarded twenty-three acres to the college with the stipulation that if war broke out within 20 years, the land would become a military base. 12 additional acres were purchased, bringing the campus size to 35 acres.

The ground-breaking ceremony was held in October 1958. The only building standing on the grounds was a small daycare center from the housing project. It was renovated during the winter and designated as the Student Union Building.

Classes began in Houghton in Fall 1959. Summer construction of four building on the upper level of the campus housed faculty offices and library, administrator offices, classrooms and a temporary chapel.

During the college's first year in Houghton, students roomed with families in the community. By the second year, the college had completed a dormitory for 88 women. In 1971-62, the college erected a dorm for 100 men. The Northwest Pavilion gymnasium followed in 1962-63.

During the 1960s, the junior college expanded to include a pre-education degree, Associate of Arts degrees in liberal arts, religion, pre-music and pre-science, as well as a one-year pre-nursing program and pre-business courses. The name changed to Northwest College of the Assemblies of God to reflect the growth in academics and Northwest's junior college emphasis.

President Butterfield completed the construction of a new chapel with a basement to house the college library. It was dedicated in January 1966. At the end of the 1966 school year, Butterfield handed the leadership of the college to D. V. Hurst.

Dr. Hurst began a Flying Seminar to Israel in Fall 1966. The college Registrar, Dr. Amos Millard, led one or two seminars each year for Northwest students, faculty and friends. Under Hurst's leadership in 1974, the college became accredited by the National Association of Secondary Colleges (NASC).

By 1976, President Hurst's ten year tenure was celebrated with the naming of the newly constructed DV Hurst library. Dr. Hurst was elected to the City Council of Kirkland in 1976 and served until 1988. He was Kirkland City Mayor in 1980-1984. He encouraged Randy Barton, Northwest's Development Director, to serve on the City Council in 1988. Randy Barton was Kirkland Mayor 1990-1992.

Men and Women athletes were given equal opportunity in 1979. Women students played volleyball in the fall while men played soccer. Both played basketball in winter and tennis in spring.

The college burned the deed from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in 1979. Twenty years had passed, and the property was now owned by Northwest College.

By 1984, another of Dr. Hurst's priorities was realized: Washington State Board of Education approved a program for elementary teachers.

Before he retired in 1990, the campus had been enlarged to sixty acres, and the additional property provided land leased by Seahawks and new married student housing. President Hurst strengthened the curriculum with two majors (Interdisciplinary Studies and a Transfer Degree Program), a certificate for TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language), and a Pacific Rim Center for Cross-Cultural Studies. The Center served scholars committed to Cross-cultural understanding and friendship, especially in the Pacific Rim.

Dennis Davis, an alumnus of Northwest College, became fourth president of the college in Fall 1990. He encouraged a new curricular concept linking Business Management and Life Sciences. An Applied Science Center Atrium housed courses in Biointensive Agriculture and Aquaculture and a 2,500 gallon fish tank. Students learned to help others recover use of land and water resources in third-world cultures with minimal funds.

Northwest's Men's and Women's Basketball Teams won national recognition in 1993. The men's team won the National Christian College Athletic Association Division II national championship. The women's team won the championship in same year, as they already had in 1988, 1990 and 1991.

At the end of 1994, the college purchased buildings adjacent to the campus on 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. The vacated administration center provided additional classroom space and faculty offices.

In 1996, a degree completion program called LEAP (Leadership Education for Adult Professionals) began for adults who already had two year of college and work experience. (The goal is for students to complete their B.A. in as little as 18 months.) A Counseling and Career Development Center opened the following year.

When President Davis resigned in 1998, he left behind new majors in Business Management and Administration, Secondary Education, Ecointensive Biology, and Organizational Management, and a campus and library with up-to-date computer technology.



Don Argue, Ed. D, was inaugurated as Northwest's fifth president in September 1998. Since then, the church ministries program has been reorganized and a new Communications Major – with concentrations in drama and organizational communications – has been developed.

In light of the emerging nursing shortage, Dr. Argue prioritized the inauguration of the School of Nursing (B. S in Nursing) in 1999. The nursing program began in Fall 2000 and emphasizes intercultural nursing.

Northwest took a giant step with a master's degree in Counseling Psychology, becoming accredited by Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges (NASC) in 2001. Since then, Northwest College added a MBA (Master of Arts in Business Administration).

The college purchased the Lakeview Office Building at 6710 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE to ease pressures of student population growth and added programs. Less than a half mile from the main, campus, the 6710 Building houses administration and Graduate and Professional Programs (LEAP).

In January 2005, the college became Northwest University, reflecting its outstanding educational programs and service to the local community, the Northwest region, and beyond.