NWACC Faculty Member Named To National Office
Grilk Uses Music To Enrich Lives Of Others

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (Nov. 29, 2011) – A NorthWest Arkansas Community College faculty member is on a mission to share her love of music with others.

Gloria Febro Grilk, an associate faculty member at NWACC, was installed as vice president of the South Central Region for the National Federation of Music Clubs this summer at the federation’s 58th biennial convention in McLean, Va. The South Central Region includes Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas.

In her leadership role as a vice president, Grilk will attend state meetings throughout the region, sit on the Governing Board of Opera in the Ozarks at Inspiration Point and strive to be a resource for members and leaders. She also has worked with other Federation members to set up an endowment fund for the South Central Region. Her term is for two years.

Her service in the new role is just part of the Bella Vista resident’s continued focus on supporting performers and composers and promoting and advancing music education.

She has taught courses in music appreciation, music history and theory and has given private lessons in piano and organ.

She loves teaching others. There’s something exciting about watching that “Aha” moment for a student that she finds rewarding.

“It’s the exhilaration of watching a human being discover something on their own,” she said.

“There is a germ of genius in every individual,” Grilk said, “and part of the mystery of teaching, or dealing with the public, is that it is our job to find and nurture that germ so that it can grow.”

Dr. Steve Cooper, chairman of the Department of Performing and Visual Arts, said Grilk has been an associate faculty member in the music department for more than 16 years and has been a wonderful colleague.

She volunteered her time and talents to help the college purchase an organ and last year helped NWACC acquire an even better professional-level organ that was a gift from a church, Cooper said.
In her work with the National Federation, Grilk has lobbied to get NWACC on the Arkansas tour of the NFMC Young Artist Competition winners every year for the past 16 years, he noted. Andante Music Club is a partner in this venture.

“These are recital artists who will enjoy a career as soloists, and Ms. Grilk has worked so hard, giving much more than her job required, to give our NWACC students a chance to hear these amazing artists,” he said. Most recently, mezzo soprano Maria McDaniel performed in September. Grilk regularly volunteers at a school in Bokoshe, Okla., not far from Fort Smith. She has family ties to the location and was able to arrange for the NWACC Chamber Singers to make a concert stop there on the way to a Dallas tour. The students performed there and were able to visit with children from Bokoshe.

“It turned out to be a wonderful opportunity for both groups,” Cooper said. “This is typical of the way in which Gloria works to use the arts to brighten lives.”

After the singers’ presentation at a church, a principal at the school asked about the possibility of providing some music private instruction, and an after-school program was born. Local churches have opened up their doors to provide access to pianos, and instructors, including scout den mothers and 4-H leaders, have volunteered their time and talent. Grilk has given piano lessons as well.

She also has been involved in a variety of community betterment projects, including the planting of jonquils around town.

For Grilk, it all started with that foundation of music.

“Music has opened a door to get to know a new generation of people there,” she said.

Cutline: Gloria Grilk has been named South Central Region vice president for the National Federation of Music Clubs.

NorthWest Arkansas Community College is a comprehensive, public two-year college that serves and strengthens the community through learning for living. NWACC's service area is defined by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education as Benton and Washington counties in extreme northwest Arkansas. The commitment of NWACC to life-long learning can be seen in the quality of instruction it offers, and the variety of programs it has designed to move students into the job market in a minimum amount of time, enrich people's lives, and prepare them to further their education. For more information, visit www.nwacc.edu.