Gifts Announced For National Child Protection Training Center
Walmart Foundation Provides Lead Donation For Regional Location

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (Feb. 24, 2012) -- NorthWest Arkansas Community College announced today the awarding of a $500,000 lead gift from the Walmart Foundation toward the renovation and furnishing of the Southern Regional site of the National Child Protection Training Center.

“We’re proud to support the training center at NorthWest Arkansas Community College and the impact it will have to help protect children here in Northwest Arkansas and beyond,” said Karen Parker of the Walmart Foundation.

The Walmart Foundation commitment is the lead gift in the college’s $3.25 million capital campaign for the Southern Regional Center of the National Child Protection Training Center.

The money raised will be used to renovate an NWACC Foundation-owned building into a state-of-the-art training facility, complete with mock living quarters, practice courtrooms and forensic interview rooms.

Also announced today were gifts from The Nabholz Family Charitable Foundation of $50,000, Mel and Vicki Redman of $25,000, as well as gifts from Rep. Les and Linda Carnine, David and Beverly Engle, Harrison and Rhonda French, Stuart and Hadley Hindmarsh, and Dr. Becky Paneitz.

Local state representatives will be pooling General Improvement Funds (GIF) and directing these funds to a grant that will be administered and awarded by the NWA Economic Development District in Harrison. Rep. Carnine and Rep. Tim Summers are leading the effort. Other representatives directing GIF money toward this initiative include Mary Lou Slinkard. State Sen. Kim Hendren has directed funds toward these efforts as well. GIF funds will be used for equipping and furnishing the Southern Regional Center facility.

The National Child Protection Training Center (NCPTC) works to end child abuse, neglect and other forms of child maltreatment in three generations through education, training, awareness, prevention, advocacy and the pursuit of justice. NCPTC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that
focuses on educational curriculum development and training for child protection professionals across the country.

The nonprofit agency’s Southern Regional Center, based at NorthWest Arkansas Community College, serves a 16-state area and began operations in 2010. NWACC was the first of four regional partners of the NCPTC and has delivered training to hundreds of professionals in identifying, investigating and prosecuting child abuse.

Paneitz, NWACC’s president, thanked the donors for their generous contributions toward making the vision of a fully equipped regional center possible.

“These gifts will have a lasting legacy as we move toward establishing this important center in waging the battle against child abuse,” she said. “I believe the work going on here can be an important component as our region and our nation seek to improve the protection afforded the most vulnerable among us – our children. As you can tell, this is definitely a cause that’s near and dear to my heart.”

Victor Vieth, director of the National Child Protection Training Center, was on hand for the announcement. He has been in Northwest Arkansas the past two days to conduct training and to network with key supporters and representatives from partner agencies that work in protecting children.

Stephanie Smith, a former prosecuting attorney, serves as the director of the regional facility. Dr. Steve Gates, the college’s senior vice president for learning and provost, currently serves on the National Child Protection Training Center Board of Directors.

For more information or to donate to the Southern Region National Child Protection Training Center, contact Amy Benincosa at 479-619-4321, email abenincosa@nwacc.edu or visit www.nwacc.edu/web/ncptc.

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.