NWACC Student Receives Diana Tucker Youth Award

Three From Area Nominated For Work Program Honor

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (Dec. 20, 2011) – Two NorthWest Arkansas Community College students and a Rogers resident were honored recently at the annual board of directors meeting for the Northwest Arkansas Certified Development Company in Harrison.

Brent Williamson, a current student at NWACC and a 2011 graduate of Gentry High School, received the Diana Tucker Youth Award. He was honored with a statuette and a $250 monetary award.

The recognition is given annually to a Northwest Arkansas youth who has shown outstanding success while enrolled in the Workforce Investment Act Youth Program. The honor is named for the late Diana Tucker, a longtime employee of Northwest Arkansas Certified Development Company and the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District Inc.

Williamson worked in the information technology department at Gentry schools while he was a high school student and was enrolled in the WIA Youth Program.

“He picked everything up really quickly and was very reliable,” said Carole Shaver, a youth case manager with the WIA youth program. Williamson took on a leadership role in the youth program’s various activities, and his dependability and leadership were among the qualities that led her to nominate him for the Diana Tucker Youth Award.

“He loves technology,” Shaver said. She recalled that during the awards luncheon, a problem developed with a PowerPoint presentation. “He had an opportunity to go up there and show off his skills,” she said.

Williamson is the son of Becky and the late Kent Williamson, and he is working toward an Associate of Applied Science degree in computer information systems at NWACC.

Natasha Murray, a criminal justice student at NWACC and a 2011 graduate of Lincoln High School, also was nominated for the award and recognized at the board meeting on Nov. 4. She was nominated for the award by case manager Loree Alrawhani.

Maria Ramirez, a 2011 graduate of Rogers Heritage High School who recently completed studies at Petra Allied Health, also was among the nominees honored. Youth case manager Angie McKinney nominated her for the award.
Courtesy photo
Carole Shaver, left, stands with Brent Williamson, Angie McKinney, Maria Ramirez, Loree Alrawhani at the awards presentation. Nominee Natasha Murray was not available for the photograph.

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 lifelong 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.