BENTONVILLE, Ark. (March 8, 2012) -- NorthWest Arkansas Community College students will host several events March 26-31 during Haiti Awareness Week, with the activities culminating in a Soirée en Haïti dinner program on March 31.

Soirée en Haïti will be from 5:30 to 9 p.m. March 31 in Peterson Auditorium of the Shewmaker Center for Global Business Development on the NWACC campus in Bentonville. Dress will be business/casual, but island attire is encouraged. An authentic Haitian dinner will be served accompanied by music listening, poetry reading, and raffle. The dinner, prepared by NWACC students with Chef Lou Rice as a consultant, is to celebrate Haiti’s unique culture.

If registering before March 15, individuals should send payment of $40 to NWACC Foundation, One College Drive, Bentonville, AR 72712, attention Soirée en Haïti. After March 15, the cost is $45. Reservations made by phone will not be considered until a check is received. To make a reservation, individuals should call Jo Davis at 479-619-2248 or Linda Richardson at 479-619-4149.

Soirée en Haïti is being organized to raise funds for a group of students who hope to participate in a study abroad program, “Haiti Today 2012,” this summer. The immersion course is offered by the University of Massachusetts’ Africana Studies Department under the leadership of Dr. Marc Prou.

Other activities during Haiti Awareness Week include:

- March 26, noon – 1:30 p.m.: “Haiti in the Global Context,” presentation by Dr. Marc Prou, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Africana Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston. The public is invited. Admission is free.
- March 27, 6 – 9 p.m., SC 108: Haitian film (selection to be announced later).
- March 28, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. “Marché en Fer” (Iron Market in Port-au-Prince -- Open Market) – sale of T-shirts, Haitian art, and more (donations accepted).
- March 29, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.: Haitian storytelling, raffle, art, food, T-shirt sale (donations accepted).
Individuals also will have the opportunity to donate toward the Haitian study abroad program during each of the week’s events.

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.