NWACC to Hold Panel Discussion to Support Irish Themed Semester

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (March 26, 2012) – NorthWest Arkansas Community College, a comprehensive, public two-year college that serves and strengthens the community through learning for living, will hold a panel discussion on Thursday, April 5th to support its Irish themed semester.

NWACC Honors Students will moderate the discussion, The Irish Potatoe Famine: A Conversation on Christine Kinealy’s “A Death-Dealing Famine: The Great Hunger in Ireland,” and the problem of hunger in Northwest Arkansas.

This event is free and open to the public. This is the fourth Themed Semester celebrated at NWACC.

Ireland is the focus of NorthWest Arkansas Community College’s Themed Semester this spring. Performances by Irish folk singer Peg Roach Loyd and the McCafferty School of Irish Dance, and discussions about racial stereotyping, the Catholic-Protestant conflict and the Irish potato famine highlight the semester’s planned events.

In addition to the special events, NWACC faculty members incorporate some aspect of the theme into their curricula. Many faculty are reading Irish authors or discussing Irish immigration to the United States. Math faculty member Michael Zelin has his students write a paper about famous Irish mathematicians and their research. The students’ work will ultimately be posted to a website for users to view a gallery of Irish scientists and engineers.

Student art and short story contests as well as a 10-day trip to Ireland have also been planned. Community members are invited to join participants on the May 2012 trip.

Past themed semesters have focused on Southeast Asia, the Caribbean, and Native America. For a list of events and to find out more about Ireland, visit the Ireland 2012 website at https://www.nwacc.edu/web/themedsemester.
For questions or further information on Ireland 2012 or the trip to Ireland, contact April Brown at 619-2231 or albrown@nwacc.edu.

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.