ProStart Culinary Team Headed to National Competition

NorthWest Arkansas Community College Culinary Team Wins State

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (March 30, 2012) -- The NorthWest Arkansas Community College High School ProStart Culinary Team won the Arkansas ProStart Invitational held each spring in Little Rock. The team participated in the hour-long competition using nothing more than two tabletop butane burners as heat sources.

The all girl team of Paulina Moya, Alyssa Byers, Elizabeth Roark (all from Bentonville High School) and Bethany Roughton (Pea Ridge High School) created from scratch a fabulous southern Italian inspired menu: an appetizer of fennel, orange and beet salad, an entrée of lobster and crab ravioli with grilled eggplant vegetable rolls, and for dessert, a chocolate dome filled with honey-mascarpone cream and fig jam served with hazelnut biscotti. Along with the presentation and taste of their dishes, the girls were also judged for poultry fabrication and knife skills, as well as safety and sanitation, communication, and teamwork.

ProStart is an industry-driven culinary and hospitality curriculum developed by the National Restaurant Association, specifically for the best and brightest high school Culinarians. The NWACC Early College Experience Culinary Arts students complete ProStart levels 1 and 2 during their year-long course of study, and therefore have the opportunity to participate in the affiliated Culinary and Management competitions while in the program.

With the state competition behind them, the team and their instructor and mentor Chef Rebecca Liles will travel to Baltimore, Maryland from April 27-29 for the 11th Annual National ProStart Invitational. A special fundraiser will be held April 18 for the team’s trip to nationals. “A Night in Germany” will offer a multi-course meal at the Center for Non-profit in Rogers at 5 p.m. For tickets and reservations, contact Rosemary Kleine at 479-899-6925.

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.