NWACC Receives Upward Bound Grant
College Continues Work with First-Generation College Students

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (May 16, 2012) – NorthWest Arkansas Community College’s Upward Bound program has been selected to receive a grant for $250,000 for the budget period beginning Sept. 1, 2012, and ending Aug. 31, 2013, Congressman Steve Womack, Sen. John Boozman and Sen. Mark Pryor announced. It is anticipated that the grant will be awarded for five years, totaling $1.25 million.

This grant ensures the continued success of the program and expands the number of students served from 52 to 55.

Currently, the NWACC Upward Bound project serves target schools in Rogers, Springdale, Gravette, Decatur and Gentry. The Federal TRIO Programs are outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for first-generation, low-income students from ninth grade through high school graduation.

Seventeen Arkansas colleges and universities received Upward Bound grants.

“Educating our next generation is of the utmost importance,” said Womack, R-Rogers. “The services provided by these grants will give our students the opportunity to succeed at the academic and professional levels.”
“Upward Bound has had a positive impact for countless students seeking to expand their educational capabilities,” said Boozman, R-Rogers. “This is a great opportunity to continue the progress and help Arkansans attain the quality education they need for the careers of tomorrow.”

“These funds will expand educational and professional opportunities for Arkansas students, allowing them to reach their full academic potential,” said Pryor, D-Little Rock. “Upward Bound’s innovative curriculum is a win-win for students and Arkansas’s workforce.”

“Our program is successful because of the cooperation and support from parents, fathers, guardians, school officials and counselors,” said Jerry Moore, NWACC director of Upward Bound. “Not to mention the day-to-day, front-line, hands-on work of the NWACC business office, IT and NWACC faculty who serve Upward Bound.”

Jason Ervin, program manager for Upward Bound, said the grant supports the resources needed for preparing these first-generation college students in the classroom and beyond. Because of the continued support and funding, the themed summer sessions and accompanying field trips to colleges and places that are historically and culturally significant are made possible.

Moore and Ervin said the “community is their office” because the Upward Bound Program and NWACC are essential resources for so many students and their parents. The NWACC Upward Bound Program can be reached at (479) 619-2272.

**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](http://www.nwacc.edu).