BENTONVILLE, Ark. (November 13, 2012) – Aaron Jones of Bella Vista was recognized as NorthWest Arkansas Community College’s Golden Eagle Award recipient for October during a college Board of Trustees meeting on Monday, Nov. 12.

Jones is a participant in the Honors Program at NWACC and holds a 3.51 grade point average while working 30 hours per week at McDonald’s. He also is involved with school events. He is the project leader for the Native American Advocacy service learning project as well as part of the Student Honors Program Council.

He was nominated for the award by Dr. April Brown, Honors Program director and history faculty member. She noted that he excels in math and science. “This past summer, Aaron applied for and was awarded a coveted internship through Fermilab, a U.S. Department of Energy program. It was a 40 hours/week, 10-week experience at a national laboratory where he worked with other students and lab scientists on a research and development project. I am impressed by Aaron’s willingness to give up the majority of his summer for the experience.”

Brown also noted that Jones is not a stranger to hard work. “He has held a job to pay for his tuition and college expenses since enrolling at NWACC,” she wrote. “In addition to his work ethic and academic prowess, Aaron also is very inquisitive and eager to branch out and learn new things. When I first met Aaron, he peppered me with questions. He wanted to know how things worked and why; he also wanted advice about what would be best for him. Over the past year I have watched Aaron mature to not only pursue his own best interests, but reach out to help others. In the spring Aaron became involved in the Native American Service Learning Project (NAP). He traveled to Tar Creek, a designated Superfund site by the U.S. government, and became interested in doing
whatever he could to help the Quapaw nation. This semester Aaron has taken on the responsibility of leading the NAP.

Jones’ tentative educational goals are to pursue a graduate degree in accelerator physics. His interest in the area began during an internship at Fermilab in Illinois, where he was introduced to various accelerators and concepts. “I would like to pursue undergraduate research opportunities in the future, as well as further my leadership skills and abilities,” he said.

Students may be nominated for NWACC’s Golden Eagle Award by an instructor, administrative staff person or a student organization adviser. Each candidate must have at least a 3.0 grade point average in a minimum of six credit hours of class and demonstrate social awareness, personal development, a diverse interest and involvement in varied activities, interpersonal communication skills and a commitment to education.

NorthWest Arkansas Community College is a smart choice for students wanting to pursue quality higher education. As an accredited institution through The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, NWACC is a public two-year institution that serves and strengthens its surrounding communities in Benton and Washington counties by helping our students maximize their potential and exceed expectations. With state-of-the-art facilities, NWACC provides excellent academic instruction and workforce training needed to succeed, offering personalized attention from highly respected faculty, staff, and administrators. For more information, visit www.nwacc.edu.