NWACC Celebrates Continued Accreditation

Higher Learning Commission Extends College’s Accreditation To 2019-20

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (December 3, 2012) – NorthWest Arkansas Community College faculty and staff celebrated the official notification that the institution has received continued accreditation.

A reception was held Monday, Dec. 3, in the College’s Student Center that allowed faculty and staff to learn more about the recent accreditation actions and the continuous quality improvement process. The College uses the Commission’s Academic Quality Improvement Program as its system for the accreditation process.

NWACC was notified by an Oct. 26 letter that the Institutional Actions Council of the Higher Learning Commission voted to continue the accreditation of NWACC with the next reaffirmation of accreditation in the 2019-20 academic year. The Higher Learning Commission is a commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

“We are extremely pleased about the Higher Learning Commission’s action, and we look forward to continuing the process of improving our ability to serve our students effectively,” said Dr. Becky Paneitz, president of NorthWest Arkansas Community College. “This celebration is really a tribute to our faculty and staff for their commitment to providing our learners with a quality college experience. I want to thank our Quality Council and all of the individuals involved in the successful completion of our AQIP action projects. I also commend the Effectiveness Committee's preparation for the site visit this summer. The team was very impressed and even asked our staff to consider presenting at Higher Learning Commission meetings.”

NWACC hosted a Quality Checkup team from the Higher Learning Commission this summer as part of the review process. The team of Dave Overbye, dean of Academic Affairs at Realtor University, and Jill Wright, dean of English, Social Sciences, and Language Studies at Illinois Central
College, met with various groups from NWACC July 16-18 to talk through topics such as leadership, planning and institutional performance evaluation.

A report based on the team’s visit noted that the College uses principles of quality and process-focus to guide its daily and overall actions. “The AQIP principles are evident among its business, academic, and support services,” the team wrote. “Collectively, all groups work toward the goal of quality, and this drives its ability to understand process design, data collection (both qualitative and quantitative), measurement, data analysis, and improvement.”

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.