NWACC Enactus Team Wins Regional Event

Students Will Compete in National Competition in May

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (April 19, 2013) – NorthWest Arkansas Community College’s Enactus Team won in regional competition on Wednesday (April 17) and will advance next month to compete at the national level.

The Enactus National Exposition will be from May 21-23 in Kansas City, Mo. The community college team will compete in presentations and also plans to compete in the Walmart Women’s Economic Empowerment project partnership and the Sam’s Club Step Up for Business project partnership.

Enactus is an international nonprofit organization that brings together student, academic and business leaders who are committed to using the power of entrepreneurial action to improve the quality of life and standard of living for people in need.

The team presenting in competition Wednesday at the John Q. Hammons Center in Rogers included James Miskimen, Dustin Slaughter, Melissa Veach, Nahid Karim and Dulce Aguirre. Colleges and universities from throughout the region were represented, and the NWACC team was named regional champions for the college’s league.

Under the leadership this year of Sam M. Walton Enactus Fellows Becky Hudson and Matthew Voss and Miskimen, the team president, the 15-member Enactus team has worked through varied projects in Arkansas and Guatemala to improve the lives and business prospects for many individuals and organizations.

“I am very proud of my students,” Hudson said. “They have worked very hard and have completed several outstanding projects. These students made significant impact in a number of lives and have helped improve the standard of life for many. That is exciting!!”
She said Enactus is an excellent organization that provides many opportunities for college students and added, “I enjoy watching my students grab onto those opportunities. They truly are changing lives.”

Miskimen noted that NWACC’s Enactus team had to overcome many challenges this year. “One of our Sam Walton Fellows (Enactus Advisers) moved away for a new opportunity, and we lost many of our veteran members at graduation last year,” he said. “But we pulled our team together and worked on several projects that made significant positive changes in our community and in Guatemala. Our presentation team worked hard these last few weeks to show our successes at regional, winning us a spot in the Enactus National Exposition in May. We would like to grow our team next year, so that many more students can experience the life-changing opportunity that we obtain in Enactus.”

Projects included:

- Korporate Kids in which 125 young entrepreneurs were trained, learned how to create business plans and identify high-potential business models, assisting Sustainable Aerodynamic Concepts, which provides stable, flexible green jobs for veterans and fuel efficiency.
- Verde Golf, which sought to turn Enactus’ own charity golf tournament into a zero-waste event and helped to educate organizers of other tournaments in the sustainable measures.
- Genesis, which introduced four business models and funded startups in agriculture, livestock, sewing and specialty crocheting in the poor mountain villages of Baja Vera Paz, Guatemala. The Enactus team also helped the people in Guatemalan villages overcome illness caused by unclean water and helped them improve their quality of life by providing private restrooms.
- Small Business Consulting, which this year enabled the students to work with four small businesses, owned by female and minority entrepreneurs. Services provided include consulting, mentoring and coaching.
- Assisting Christian Women’s Job Corps of Northwest Arkansas, which serves women in need who find themselves in distress because they do not have the skills to improve their job situation. In this new project, the Enactus members are working with Christian Women’s Job Corps to create marketing, website development and fundraising strategies.

Enactus programs encompass 62,000 students at 1,600 universities and colleges in 38 countries.

The highlight of the Enactus National Exposition is a formal presentation in front of a panel of business executives who serve as Enactus competition judges. This panel will evaluate each team’s 22-minute presentation about projects and outcomes, scoring them against the SIFE project criterion and other teams competing. Winning teams advance round-by-round to the Enactus Final Four where the Enactus National Champion will be chosen.

Winners at the national event in May will go on to compete in Enactus World Cup Sept. 29-Oct. 1 in Cancun.

**Photo caption:**
The Enactus team from NorthWest Arkansas Community College holds the award presented after the students were named regional champions in their league. Pictured, from left, are Dustin
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.