NWACC Offering Online AA Transfer Degree
Track Structured for Those Seeking Focused Way to Complete Degree in Two Years

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (May 3, 2013) – Students can obtain an Associate of Arts online from NorthWest Arkansas Community College in two years with a structured degree track tailored to fit the needs and schedules of working adults.

“NWACC is taking the lead in offering not just online courses, but also full degree programs that are online,” said Dr. Kate Burkes, the college’s director of distance learning. “We realize that students are looking for the convenience of completing their degree without having to travel, so we believe the Online AA program will benefit students by providing an affordable local alternative to on-campus classes.”

Burkes said the degree track includes all of the basic courses that are accepted at most four-year colleges and universities. “This is an accelerated cohort program designed to allow working adults, and those with other responsibilities, to concentrate on two eight-week online classes per term,” Burkes said. “It’s called a cohort program because participants move through the courses with the same group of classmates.”

Courses are offered in a pre-determined sequence that will allow students to complete the associate degree in the shortest amount of time possible and to plan around family and work schedules. Classes are taken year-round (including summer sessions) for two years.

Enrollment for the program is under way. A student group will begin taking the classes in August. Other groups will begin study in January and May of 2014.

Lacey Nast of Greenwood is one of the first to enroll in the program. She is the import sales manager/senior account executive for Clear Channel Outdoor in Fort Smith.

“It’s giving me the opportunity to go back to school and to continue working full-time,” Nast said. “This program was perfect. It fits in my schedule, and it’s going to allow me to pursue my future.”
The degree track was developed with the input of many faculty members at NWACC. The college’s online classes use the same curriculum as traditional on-campus classes, and they are taught by NWACC faculty.

Burkes said NWACC online classes are designed to be affordable. Tuition and fees are the same rates as traditional classes, plus a distance learning fee per class. Qualified students in the program are eligible for financial aid.

Individuals interested in the program can obtain more information by emailing online@nwacc.edu or by completing the online form found at https://www.nwacc.edu/web/disted/nwacc-online-cohort-programs.

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.