Progress Continues on National Child Protection Training Center
Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District Awards $25,000 Grant

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (Sept. 6, 2012) -- The Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District today awarded a General Improvement Fund grant of $25,000 to assist NorthWest Arkansas Community College in outfitting the Southern Region National Child Protection Training Center. The grant announcement was made during a presentation about the center to the Rotary Club of Fayetteville.

The funds came from 2011 Arkansas General Assembly appropriations with Arkansas House District 98 Rep. Donna Hutchinson, R-Bella Vista, supporting the grant. The training center project will reach thousands of individuals and benefit millions of children nationally and in Arkansas through comprehensive training and advocacy services.

Rep. Hutchinson said that, upon taking office six years ago, she found hard evidence in her first interim study that “children were dying in our state” because of abuse and neglect. “After six years of working at this [better child protection in Arkansas], I understand how Penn State happened. Good people didn’t know what to do or they were afraid to do the right thing. … We need this training center.”

A number of other Benton County lawmakers also have supported the project through similar General Improvement Fund grants made available through the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District.

The recent grant joins a recent philanthropic gift from John and Emily Douglas of $25,000, and gifts from Mel and Vicki Redman totaling $50,000 — to bring the amount raised for the Training Center renovation and furnishing to more than $866,000.
A total of $3 million is needed to fully renovate and furnish the former oncology building, now owned by the NWACC Foundation, into this state-of-the-art regional training facility featuring a two-story mock home, mock court rooms, medical exam training room, child forensic interview rooms, and more.

Rep. Hutchinson said she encourages the community to join her in supporting the project. “We almost have our first million,” she said. “Help us get two more. We need this training center, now.”

The National Child Protection Training Center works to end child abuse, neglect and other forms of child maltreatment in three generations through education, training, awareness, prevention, advocacy and the pursuit of justice. NCPTC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that focuses on educational curriculum development and training for child protection professionals across the country.

The nonprofit agency’s Southern Region Center, based at NorthWest Arkansas Community College, serves a 16-state area and began operations in 2010. NWACC was the first of four regional partners of the NCPTC, and the college has delivered training to hundreds of professionals in recognizing, reporting and responding to child abuse.

Photo caption:
The Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District recently awarded a $25,000 grant to the National Child Protection Training Center at NorthWest Arkansas Community College. Those participating in the announcement before the Rotary Club of Fayetteville were, bottom row, from left: Mike Norton, state Rep. Donna Hutchinson, NWACC President Becky Paneitz, Hadley Hindmarsh, Rita Farrel; and top row: Mieka Hatcher, past Rotary president, Larry Long, club president, and Brock Showalter.

NorthWest Arkansas Community College is a smart choice for students wanting to pursue quality higher education. As an accredited institution through the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, 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.