NorthWest Arkansas Community College marked 2011 with new construction, new initiatives and significant recognition for students, faculty and staff.

Some highlights included:

• More than 200 people attended the groundbreaking of NorthWest Arkansas Community College's $14.2 million Center for Health Professions. The 83,000-square-foot, LEED-Silver building will house all of the College's health professions programs.

• NWACC kicked off a $3 million capital campaign in October for the Southern Regional site of the National Child Protection Training Center.

• Manny Espinoza, CEO of ALPFA, spoke at commencement exercises on May 12 as more than 900 students graduated.

• NorthWest Arkansas Community College was a part of more than $34 million worth of grants awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor in late September – money that will help students improve achievement rates and establish new high-tech course offerings.

• Danny Sheffield, who teaches English as a Second Language in NW ACC's Adult Education Program, was named the 2011 Outstanding Adult Education Teacher by the Arkansas Association of Continuing and Adult Education.

• The award was announced at the association's convention in North Little Rock on Oct. 27 and 28.

• Cynthia King, international languages coordinator at NW ACC, received an Individual Artist Fellowship Award from the Arkansas Arts Council in October.

• Ben Aldama, the College's Dean of Adult Education, received the Lifetime Achievement Award when ALPFA, a national Latino organization, presented the Lideres de Corazon honors on Sept. 16. Dr. Becky Paneitz, President of NWACC, received the Lideres de Corazon Award for Higher Education.

• Dr. Paneitz also was selected to be roasted and toasted at the annual Youth Bridge gala, “It’s a Wonderful Life.”

• NorthWest Arkansas Community College’s innovations in information technology ranks it among the nation’s Top 10 mid-sized community colleges, according to Converge Online and e.Republic's Center for Digital Education.

• Student Sharon Fox was named a Coca-Cola New Century Scholar. She was one of 50 community college students in the country to win the award.

• The NWACC Testing Center became one of just eight centers in the nation to be certified by the National College Testing Association.
NWACC Instructor Chosen For Study Abroad Program

Hamm Plans To Develop Course Meshing Slow Food, Ecotourism Concepts

A NorthWest Arkansas Community College instructor has been chosen for a study abroad program that will help her establish a sustainable culinary/ecotourism course at NWACC.

Dede Hamm, a hospitality instructor in Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management, was selected based on a number of factors, including a clear commitment and passion for the subject of sustainable food production,” Bradshaw said. “This emphasis will complement and expand the fields included in the Capacity Building for Study Abroad Network.”

Hamm said she was honored to be chosen. “This opportunity allows me to combine several passions: my love of teaching, my deep appreciation for cultural diversity, and my commitment to sustainable culinary and agricultural processes,” she said.

She plans to focus her studies on establishing a course that meshes principles of slow food and ecotourism. The course will introduce students to the benefits of small-scale, sustainable, and local agricultural and culinary practices that can be used in their future restaurant and culinary tourism businesses. Hamm said that through course work and study abroad, students will gain increased commitment to the preservation of biological and cultural diversity.

Hamm plans to develop a study abroad program for students to visit Tuscany, Italy, and Costa Rica. Depending on the season and region selected, students may be introduced to culturally traditional culinary and agricultural practices such as organic beekeeping, natural fabric dye crops, organic cheese making, sustainable coffee production, cooperative group markets, restaurant operation and more.

In addition to Hamm, Chef Rebecca Liles of the NWACC staff will participate in course development and teaching.

Hamm earned her Bachelor of Science in hospitality management from the University of Central Florida in Orlando while working for Walt Disney Co. She also earned her Master of Science in tourism and travel administration from New York University while working on the NYU International Hospitality Industry Investment Conference at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. She worked in the hospitality industry for 13 years before becoming a full-time instructor in 2007.

Dr. Becky Paneitz, NWACC President, said Hamm’s selection represents a great opportunity for the faculty member and the community college’s students.

“We see the service learning program experience in Costa Rica as a major opportunity for NWACC to expand its international mission,” Paneitz said. “We are committed to developing more study abroad courses as part of our growing number of programs with international focus. In addition, we are committed to making international education an integral part of our students’ general education experience.”

The Capacity Building for Study Abroad Network is made possible through funding from the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. This three-year award is administered by Madison Area Technical College and will establish a network of 24 community and technical colleges working together on sustainable development study abroad programs by the award’s completion in 2013.

NWACC Hosts Ice House Luncheon

Program Focuses On Cultivating, Inspiring Entrepreneurship

NorthWest Arkansas Community College hosted a luncheon presentation about The Ice House Entrepreneurship Program on Dec. 8.

The free program featured three speakers, including a renowned author, and representatives from the business community throughout the region attended. The event was hosted by NWACC in collaboration with the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges, Mid-South Community College and Arkansas State University – Beebe.

The program lineup included Kauffman Foundation Director of Entrepreneurship Thom Ruhe, Pulitzer nominee Clifton Taulbert and author and entrepreneur Gary Schoeniger.

Ruhe told the audience the Ice House program is about encouraging an entrepreneurial mindset, and he explained why the Kauffman Foundation had become willing to support the initiative’s advancement.

Schoeniger detailed how a high school program encouraged an entrepreneurial spirit in young participants in a way that simply studying from a textbook could not.

Clifton Taulbert, author of “Who Owns the Icehouse?”, discussed the entrepreneurial influence and eight essential life lessons Taulbert gained from his Uncle Cleve, an unlikely entrepreneur in the segregated South. The Ice House Entrepreneurship Program is based on the eight life lessons described in the book.

NWACC will be offering the program locally beginning in January.
Sheffield Receives Honor

ESL Teacher Honored At Association’s Annual Convention

Danny Sheffield has been selected as the 2011 Outstanding Adult Education Teacher by the Arkansas Association of Continuing and Adult Education. The award was announced at the association’s convention in North Little Rock on Oct. 27 and 28.

Sheffield teaches English as a Second Language in the NorthWest Arkansas Community College Adult Education Program. He has been a member of the college’s ESL faculty since 1999.

Sheffield said he believes that no one receives an honor like the outstanding teacher award without the support of many others. He identified key elements of that support as the backing from NW ACC for the adult education program and, within the program itself, the support of the director, teachers and staff. He also cited the support of his wife, Patti, during the past 36 years.

Sheffield received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English from San Francisco State University. His concentration at the graduate level was in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. After graduating from San Francisco State with honors, Sheffield taught English for two years in the island state of Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia. He said this was a great learning experience and solidified his desire to work with non-native speakers of English.

During his tenure as an ESL teacher, Sheffield has written curriculum, developed new classes on-site and in industry off-site, and provided professional development for full-time and part-time teachers. He also wrote the curriculum for a bridge program to help ESL students transition to college credit classes. This program became NWACC’s College Intensive English Program.

Sheffield has presented at the Arkansas Association of Continuing and Adult Education and at Arkansas Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages conferences. He also served on the Department of Career Education’s committee, which developed the Arkansas ESL curriculum guidelines.

While Sheffield has accomplished much at the community and state levels, his true passion has always been for his students, said Ben Aldama, Dean of Adult Education at NWACC. Sheffield spends hours preparing for his classes and modifying the curriculum to meet his students’ needs, Aldama said.

“Danny helps them with financial planning/budgeting, has helped them with clothing and household needs, and has guided them in meeting their health care needs,” he said.

“Danny encourages all of his students to continue their education in NWACC credit classes. He assists them in applying for admission and for financial aid. He takes groups of students on field trips to the main campus and to sites throughout the city.”

Sheffield said the greatest reward he receives from being a teacher of non-native speakers of English is the opportunity to associate with a worldwide audience. “Appreciation of people and cultures is one of the best benefits that comes with teaching ESL,” he said.

AACAE is the state organization for adult education professionals. The organization meets annually for professional development and to honor outstanding teachers, administrators and students.

Sheffield’s honor is the fourth AACAE honor for the NW ACC Adult Education program. Linda Harris was the Outstanding Adult Education Teacher in 2005. Martha Cortes was the 2006 Outstanding Adult Education Paraprofessional, and Margarita Solorzano was the 2007 Outstanding Friend of Adult Education for her partnership efforts between the Hispanic Women’s Organization and NWACC Adult Education.

The NWACC Adult Education program provides free instruction to adults throughout Benton County in GED preparation, English as a Second Language, and basic reading, writing and math skills.
NWACC Faculty Member Named To National Office

Gloria Febro Grilk, an associate faculty member at NWACC, was installed as Vice President of the South Central Region for the National Federation of Music Clubs this summer at the federation’s 58th biennial convention in McLean, Va. The South Central Region includes Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas.

In her leadership role as a vice president, Grilk will attend state meetings throughout the region, sit on the Governing Board of Opera in the Ozarks at Inspiration Point and strive to be a resource for members and leaders. She also has worked with other Federation members to set up an endowment fund for the South Central Region. Her term is for two years.

Her service in the new role is just part of her continued focus on supporting performers and composers and promoting and advancing music education.

She has taught courses in music appreciation, music history and theory and has given private lessons in piano and organ.

She loves teaching others.

There’s something exciting about watching that “Aha” moment for a student that she finds most rewarding.

“It’s the exhilaration of watching a human being discover something on their own,” she said.

“There is a germ of genius in every individual,” Grilk said, “and part of the mystery of teaching, or dealing with the public, is that it is our job to find and nurture that germ so that it can grow.”

Dr. Steve Cooper, Chairman of the Department of Performing and Visual Arts, said Grilk has been an associate faculty member in the music department for more than 16 years and has been a wonderful colleague.

She volunteered her time and talents to help the college purchase an organ and later helped NWACC acquire an even better professional-level organ that was a gift from a church, Cooper said.

In her work with the National Federation, Grilk has lobbied to get NWACC on the Arkansas tour of the NFMC Young Artist Competition winners every year for the past 16 years, he noted. Andante Music Club is a partner in this venture.

“These are recital artists who will enjoy a career as soloists, and Ms. Grilk has worked so hard, giving much more than her job required to give our NWACC students a chance to hear these amazing artists,” he said. Most recently, mezzo soprano Maria McDaniel performed in September.

Grilk regularly volunteers at a school in Bokoshe, Okla., not far from Fort Smith. She has family ties to the location and was able to arrange for the NWACC Chamber Singers to make a concert stop there on the way to a Dallas tour. The students performed there and were able to visit with children from Bokoshe.

“It turned out to be a wonderful opportunity for both groups,” Cooper said. “This is typical of the way in which Gloria works to use the arts to brighten lives.”

After the singers’ presentation at a church, a principal at the school asked about the possibility of providing some private music instruction, and an after-school program was born. Local churches have opened up their doors to provide access to pianos, and instructors, including scout den mothers and 4-H leaders, have volunteered their time and talent. Grilk has given piano lessons as well.

She also has been involved in a variety of community betterment projects, including the planting of jonquils around town.

For Grilk, it all started with that foundation of music.

“Music has opened a door to get to know a new generation of people there,” she said.
A concert pianist who has performed at benefit events throughout Northwest Arkansas presented a concert in December aiding college scholarships in his late father’s name. “A Knight To Remember” was held Friday, Dec. 16, in the Walmart Auditorium of the Shewmaker Center for Workforce Technologies.

Dr. John Story was a longtime faculty member at NorthWest Arkansas Community College, teaching science courses to hundreds of students during a span of almost 20 years. Student evaluations through the years referenced his teaching ability, his compassion and his interest in helping each student learn. “Dr. Story is the strength of this course,” wrote a student from a spring 2008 class. “His knowledge is unbelievable. … He goes above and beyond what most instructors do, and his comedy makes this class enjoyable!”

Story, who was known as the “white knight” within the college’s Science department, died in late July.

Dr. Daryl Lancaster, life science Department Chairman at NWACC, said his recollections of Story are based on his colleague’s love for students and the institution.

“John was always one of the first here and the last to leave,” he said. “We would consistently joke about how amazing it was that he could put away his cot from sleeping here overnight, and get cleaned up for teaching before I arrived at 7 a.m.”

Lancaster said for many students, Story was truly a champion who saved the day. “After a very lengthy meeting helping a student with both an in-class and out-of-class issue, I jokingly said, ‘Wow, you just rode in on your gallant steed and saved the day. You were her white knight.’ The nickname stuck. He was remarking about the pictures on the office doors one day. To then have him join the ‘club,’ I copied a white knight chess piece and put it on his door. This has become his emblem. “John will forever be remembered for his giving personality, his willingness to do whatever the department needed, and his steadfast focus on the good of the students,” Lancaster said.

Story’s son, Jonathan, holds a master’s degree in piano performance from the University of Arkansas and has

“John Story was a ‘knight’ in so many ways.”

Dr. Dixie Androes

accompanied such diverse ensembles as Schola Cantorum at the University of Arkansas, the Mashburn Singers, and the Gospel Echoes Quartet. A recent performance, “Concert on the Lawn,” raised more than $12,000 for Habitat for Humanity of Washington County.

The musician said his father always attended his concerts and enjoyed hearing him play. It was a natural decision for the faculty member’s son when Dr. Marvin Galloway from NWACC introduced the idea of a concert to benefit a science scholarship to be presented in John Story’s name.

Jonathan Story asked tenor John Garst, a renowned opera singer and instructor at NWACC, to participate also, and he agreed. Garst sang selections that included “La fleur que tu m’avais jetee” from “Carmen” and “Nessun dorma!” from the opera “Turandot” while Story provided accompaniment. Story also performed selections from Franz Schubert and Franz Liszt such as “Standchen” and “Der Muller und der Bach.” He closed out those selections with “Spanish Rhapsody” by Liszt. Garst and Story presented an encore selection of “The Lord’s Prayer.”

The concert on the NWACC campus in Bentonville was free, but donations were accepted for the John Story Memorial Scholarship program.

“My dad would be pleased, and he would be honored and humbled.” Story said for him, the concert was a way of honoring his father and at the same time showing appreciation to the community college, where his father enjoyed teaching for 17 years. Story worked for Campbell Soup as a research scientist from 1977 to 1994 and began his career as a professor of microbiology at NWACC in 1995.

“He felt so valued and appreciated,” Story said.

With the concert, the son wanted to help a good student who loves science to succeed, a goal Story believes his father would endorse. “My dad would be very pleased,” he said.

Heidi Migliori, science department secretary, led in organizing the event. She and Dr. Dixie Androes, an instructor in the science department who also worked with the veteran faculty member in the Baptist Collegiate Ministries, provided opening remarks and introduction. The two also provided a movie and tribute to John Story during the program.

Androes described Story as a colleague able to connect with students. “The first I knew of John was when he was our son Spencer’s biology instructor,” she said.

“Spencer was a concurrent student (high school/college), so he was still living at home and rarely came home from classes without a story or a comment about how funny his biology teacher was. He loved his class. John knew how to connect with students. I observed him firsthand with students in NWACC’s Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) as he would get on their level to find out how they were doing, what was up in their lives, or whether they could outdo him in the number of cookies they could devour by the end of the hour.”

“John Story was a ‘knight’ in so many ways,” she said. “He earned my respect because he stood up for things he believed in and fought the good fight. Yet, like the knight in a game of chess, he could come out of nowhere with a joke or a laugh that would get everyone going. I learned quickly that this knight was also completely human with both the gift of humor and gab. He glowed with pride about his son, Jonathan, and his wife, Jan. He loved his church, NWACC and the BCM. He gave so much to us all.”
Congratulations

Event Spotlight

NWACC student Amanda Dias-Jayasinghe, who is also a 10th-grader at Bentonville High School, was named the Golden Eagle Award recipient for November.

Amanda, who is in her fourth semester at NWACC, was taking four fall classes at the community college in addition to taking five AP classes at BHS – calculus, statistics, physics, biology and world history.

“I am very impressed with Amanda’s abilities to juggle a full schedule at college as well as at high school,” wrote Heidi Migliori, a secretary in the NWACC science department, who nominated Amanda for the honor. Migliori is acquainted with Amanda because of her friendship with the student’s parents. “Amanda has drive and determination to get ahead,” Migliori wrote. “She has two goals in life at this time – graduate from NWACC and be valedictorian at Bentonville High School.”

The Golden Eagle Award was presented during the Nov. 14 NWACC Board of Trustees meeting. Students may be nominated for the 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.

Amanda, 15, has a 4.0 grade average at NWACC. In addition to Migliori’s recommendation, she was nominated by two instructors at the college. Instructor Patti Staugh said that Amanda was her top student in seventh-grade pre-AP math studies. “She is a wonderful example of a perfect, diligent student, always striving to do her very best and going the extra mile at all opportunities,” Staugh said.

Dr. Theodore O. Ekechukwu said Amanda is exceptional in all aspects of her endeavors and deserving of the Golden Eagle recognition.

In addition to her academic pursuits, Amanda spends much of her free time volunteering for various community organizations. She has served as a volunteer at the Bentonville Public Library, working at the summer reading desk, where she encouraged children to develop the habit of reading and assisting them in setting goals of how much reading they should do each week. She has volunteered at the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank, where she helped organize the offerings for easy access and assisted representatives from nonprofit organizations in making healthy food choices. She also helped bake desserts at the Samaritan Community Center to be used for meals the center was serving. “It gives me a lot of happiness,” she said, “to know that I have helped someone else.”

The Golden Eagle Award recipient is the daughter of Tamara and Andrew Dias-Jayasinghe of Bentonville, both of whom are NWACC employees.

Teen Receives Golden Eagle Award

Shelley Simpson, Chief Marketing Officer and Executive Vice President for J.B. Hunt Transport Services Inc. and also President of Integrated Capacity Solutions, told students, campus and business leaders about how she had found that influence existed at every level of her career. Simpson was the guest speaker for the Jack Shewmaker Business Leaders Lecture Series presented by NWACC’s Students in Free Enterprise on Nov. 17.

Simpson began her career in 1994 after graduating from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

Her career has included positions across various business segments, including Director of Pricing for both Truck and Intermodal divisions, Vice President of Economic Analysis, Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration, President of ICS and Chief Marketing Officer.

Simpson led the audience through her career and varied responsibilities at J.B. Hunt and explained the strengths and opportunities at each stage along her professional journey in the organization.

She stressed the importance of making connections in each job and of being willing to assume extra responsibilities. She identified possessing a strong work ethic, displaying ethics and loyalty and setting goals high as key elements in job and career success.

Simpson Speaks In Lecture Series

J.B. Hunt Executive Says Influence Exists At All Levels

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Ceremony Honors Veterans

Eric Heckathorn easily sees ways that skills and knowledge gained in military service translate to a college setting and beyond.

Heckathorn is in the U.S. Army Reserves and a third-semester student at NWACC. He was one of several speakers at the annual Veterans Day program conducted on Nov. 11. Heckathorn drew laughter from the audience by comparing his start in college with embarking on a military assignment. He likened the course syllabus to a mission plan and going to the bookstore to buy books to approaching the supply sergeant to secure materials needed for the mission.

He also offered a serious message for fellow veterans. “We all have a skill set,” he told the audience. “The skills aren’t always easily put down on paper, but the abilities can make the service member a successful student and a valued employee, he suggested.

Dr. Jerry Vervack, Dean of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Division at NWACC, was the honored guest speaker. Vervack recalled his entry into Officer Candidate School and his assignment in Vietnam. He also discussed the experience of returning home from the war. When the returning troops arrived in Los Angeles, they were met by war protesters, he recalled. The returning soldiers became a symbol of a policy they didn’t like, he said, and the veterans suffered as a result.

Todd Kitchen, Vice President of Learner Services, provided greetings from NWACC. The campus community remembered those who served and are still serving with a slideshow organized by Dianna Portillo, Coordinator of Veterans Resources. Student Zackary Jackson, who is in the Army, served as master of ceremonies.

Li McClain sang “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

Gail Klesen conducted a POA/MIA white table ceremony.

Other student speakers include Duane Jones, who served in the Marines, the Army and Coast Guard, and Clifford Mosier, who served in the Army.
Recognition

20 Years
- Jim Hall
- Carey Chaney
- Barbara Maybury
- Kathryn Ramirez

15 Years
- George Kiser
- Mary Moore
- Timothy McGinn
- Carol Olson
- Sandra Tedder
- Alan Sikes
- LaDonna Lowe-Sauerbry
- Elizabeth Holloway

10 Years
- Jean Anderson
- Billy Deans
- Danny Sheffield
- Bryan Aguiar
- Roxann Maish
- Harold Bass
- Diane Gower
- Barbara Stewart
- Larry Hughes
- Scott Byrd

5 Years
- Rick Mayes
- Rebecca Hudson
- Dr. Ricky Tompkins
- Stephanie Lewis
- Adelaide Kolb-Selby
- Christina Smith
- Jackie Mitchell
- David Vinzant
- Ginger Holloway
- Mary Ross

- Lois Chun
- Evelyn Samuel
- Curtis Swartzlander
- Marie Scharfenberg
- Rebecca Ford
- Mary Gomes-Ettienne
- Christopher Jacob
- Paula Carollo
- James Nelson

Employee Promotions

Ethan Beckcom has been selected for the position of Emergency & Risk Management Coordinator in the Operations Division. He reports to Jack Thompson in the new role.

Van Huynh has been selected for the position of Programmer/Analyst in the IT Department. He reports to John Strother in the new role.

New Employees

Jerod Bradshaw has joined NWACC as a case manager with Career Pathways. His job duties include tracking student progress toward completing academic work, assessing individual needs of students such as child care, fuel vouchers, tuition assistance, textbook loans, advising students and offering employment advice. His hobbies are golfing, fishing, hunting, photography, travel, coffee, music, and movies.

Karen O’Donohue has joined NWACC as a case manager in the Disability Resource Center. Her job entails working to ensure equal access to educational opportunities for students with disabilities at NWACC. Her hobbies are reading, Irish dancing, mountain biking, kayaking, and gardening.

Aguiar Defends Dissertation

NWACC faculty member Bryan M. Aguiar successfully defended his dissertation on Nov. 22. The campus community was invited to attend a pizza and soda event on Dec. 12 to celebrate his accomplishment.

Aguiar is president of the Faculty Senate and teaches in Business Information.
Dr. Becky Paneitz, NWACC President, and members of the College's cabinet hosted a festive drop-in reception on Sunday, Dec. 18, at the Center for Nonprofits in Rogers. The drop-in event was catered by the NWACC Culinary Department. The Student Government Association members served as special ambassadors at the event attended by college trustees, faculty and staff, foundation members and community leaders.
Society Inducts NWACC Students

Several Receive Honors For Service To College, Chapter, Community

More than 40 NorthWest Arkansas Community College students were inducted into The National Society of Leadership and Success on Dec. 17.

The induction ceremony was held in White Auditorium on the Bentonville campus, and Dr. Becky Paneitz, NWACC President, provided the keynote address.

To be inducted into the society, the students must attend a Leadership Training Day, three social networking team meetings, three speaker events and five hours of community service with the chapter.

Students inducted into the organization included: John Grubb of Bella Vista; Sharon Bettis, LaRanda Crabb, Taylor Daylong, Shana Gallagher, Holly Ingle, John Morey and Christina Weathersby, all of Bentonville; Andy Ellis of Berryville; Ranae Henson, Daphne Winters and Yiyang Zhang, all of Centerton; Michael McAllister of Eureka Springs; Christina Friend, Darrell Goff, Will Hankins Jr., Andrew Johnson, Kendra Kirklin, Dacia Malone, Tiffany Terral, Samantha Trefren and Jacyleen Usiel, all of Fayetteville; Christine Carmichael of Gravette; Anna Calderon of Johnson; Dulce Aguirre, Brenda Bates, Charles Bell, Renee Cook, Andrea Goucher, Karina Jones, Ana Kuefner, Felisha Morales, Joana Pinto, Trista Spongberg, Gabriela Villalobos, Holly Wilder, James Williamson, all of Rogers; Angela Bradford, Ismael Hernandez, Sonya Knight, Amanda Murray and Karouna Sysavanh, all of Springdale; Jonathan Coody of Siloam Springs; Samuel Guenther of West Fork; Michael McAllister of Eureka Springs; and Michelle Taylor.

Three of the student inductees were presented with Excellence in Service to Students awards. Those recognized were Karouna Sysavanh and Ismael Hernandez, both of Springdale, and Samantha Trefren of Fayetteville. The Excellence in Service to Students Award is presented to students who have contributed greatly to the chapter and the community throughout the semester.

Nathaniel Jeske of Fayetteville and Nancy Grizzle of Prairie Grove were recipients of Excellence Awards. This award is presented to students who have doubled the induction requirements.

Excellence in Teaching awards were presented to Angela Peace, Natasha Washington and Anita Marshall. These teachers were honored for their commitment to the organization and the students involved.

Honorary memberships were awarded to Paneitz, Jacqueline Jones, an English faculty member and advisor for the NWACC chapter, and Todd Kitchen, Vice President for Learner Support Services at NWACC and co-adviser for the NWACC chapter.

The National Society of Leadership and Success was founded with the sole purpose of creating lasting positive change. Beginning with a handful of chapters and no membership component, the society now reaches more than 90,000 students around the world. It encourages community action, volunteerism, personal growth and strong leadership from its chapters and members around the world.

Pay It Forward Winner

Diana Pruett, an intake coordinator in Career Pathways, won $101 in the “Pay it Forward” Contest in early November from a local radio station, KLRC 101.1.

The monetary award was for her plan to use the money to give back. Her winning idea was to use the money to provide goodies for Career Pathways students during the Thanksgiving holiday to show them how much their hard work is appreciated. Kendall Wilson, Director of Career Pathways Initiative, said, “We’re so proud of her and thankful to have such a thoughtful person working on behalf of our students.”

Students Awarded Grant for Cherokee Advocacy Project

The Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church’s Committee on Native American Ministry Fund has awarded a $1000 award to five NWACC students doing a service learning project, the Cherokee Advocacy Project.

This grant will help to fund trips to area schools so that D’Etta Stephens-Mason, Nate Argent, Clint Christman, Terry Thurman and Natasha Yarbrough can make presentations on Native American history and culture to schoolchildren in Northwest Arkansas. The grant will pay for travel, supplies, meal, and other expenses for the students as they plan, schedule, and present to schools attended by Native Americans.

Chris Huggard expressed his appreciation to Jerry Moore, who informed the students of the grant opportunity (Moore also chairs the Native American Ministry Fund committee).
The NorthWest Arkansas Community College Foundation hosted a holiday reception on Dec. 8 for friends and supporters of the college. The College’s Jazz Band provided various holiday selections, and culinary students served a wide assortment of foods. Scores attended the event, enjoying the festive music and culinary creations.