NWACC’s IT one of Nation’s Best

National survey ranks innovation in information technology

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (Oct. 7, 2011) – 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.

A survey commissioned by the two organizations documents advances made by community colleges in utilizing information technology and recognizes which colleges are providing a high-level of service to their faculty, students and communities. The survey looked at technology involvement in college curriculum and campus life, specifically documenting use of technology in online admissions processes, distance education, technology training for students and faculty, campus security alerts, use of Web 2.0 social and collaborative capabilities, and online tutoring and advisory services.

NWACC ranked sixth nationally among colleges with more than 5,000 but less than 10,000 students. Paige Francis, the college’s Associate Vice President for Information Technology, recently accepted the award at the national STEMtech Conference in Indianapolis, Ind.

“This ranking proves what we already knew about our Information Technology department – that we have one of the best in the nation,” NWACC President Dr. Becky Paneitz said. “Each member of our IT department is not only committed to serving our campus community, but implementing the latest technology to best serve our students and faculty.”

More information about the survey can be found here.

“As community college enrollments continue to increase, school leaders are incorporating new technologies to enhance student services and improve course curriculum,” said Cathilea Robinett, executive vice president of the Center for Digital Education. “Expanded distance learning offerings, use of mobile devices, and greater collaboration – among other efforts – demonstrate these winners’ drive to provide students with a high-quality education at a lower cost. Congratulations!”

NorthWest Arkansas Community College is a comprehensive, public two-year college that serves and strengthens the community through learning for living. NWACC’s service area is defined by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education as Benton and Washington counties in extreme northwest Arkansas. The commitment of NWACC to life-long learning can be seen in the quality of instruction it offers, and the variety of programs it has designed to move students into the job market in a minimum amount of time, enrich people's lives, and prepare them to further their education. For more information, visit www.nwacc.edu.