NWACC Faculty Member Receives Arts Fellowship
Grant Recipients Chosen By Jury Of Artists, Writers, Performers, Art Administrators

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (Oct. 11, 2011) – A NorthWest Arkansas Community College faculty member will receive an Individual Artist Fellowship Award during a luncheon presentation in Little Rock next week.

The Fellowship Awards and the 2011 Governor’s Arts Awards are presented by Gov. Mike Beebe and the Arkansas Arts Council. The awards luncheon is scheduled for noon Oct. 18 at The Peabody Hotel Grand Ballroom.

Cynthia King of Fayetteville, international languages coordinator at NorthWest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville, will receive a fellowship in poetry.

The Individual Artist Fellowships are awarded annually to artists in Arkansas in recognition of their individual artistic abilities. These $4,000 fellowships enable artists to set aside time for creating their art and improving their skills. Three artistic disciplines are selected each year as categories for the awards. The three categories for this year are music composition (folk, jazz, pop), poetry and sculpture/installation art. The fellowship recipients were selected by a jury of out-of-state professional artists, writers, performers and art administrators.

King said she is honored to receive the fellowship from the Arkansas Arts Council. “In combination with my sabbatical next semester, I plan to revel in what I have rarely had since beginning my teaching career: time for my writing,” she said. “There’s no greater gift for me at this point. I want to thank the Arts Council and NWACC’s Sabbatical Committee for affording me a true opportunity. My hope is to do good work that merits the support I have received.”

King earned a Bachelor of Arts in French literature and anthropology from Brown University in Providence, R.I., and a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. In 1995, she received the Lily Peter Fellowship in Poetry from the University of Arkansas, and in 2002 she received the Lois Behrman Scholarship from Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vt.

Dr. Becky Paneitz, NWACC President, said she’s proud of King’s accomplishment. “Cindy is an outstanding faculty member and very deserving of this prestigious honor,” Paneitz said. “She represents well the mission of the college to serve and strengthen northwest Arkansas through living
for learning, and we are delighted to see her dedication and talent recognized by a panel of accomplished professionals in the arts.”

Dr. Anita Jones, Dean of Communications and Arts at NWACC, said King’s fellowship is much deserved. “Cindy is a gifted instructor,” Jones said. “She teaches language courses, literature and humanities, but her love of poetry is evident in her own writing. This artist fellowship award is recognition of her talent. Cindy is an effective model for her peers and students of teaching and learning.”

Other fellowship recipients from the region and their fields include Richard Salonen of Farmington and Shannon Wurst of Fayetteville, music competition; Mary Angelino of Fayetteville and J. Camp Brown of Fort Smith, poetry; and John Rankine of Eureka Springs, sculpture/installation art.

Recipients of the 2011 Governor’s Arts Awards include Mike Shirkey of Fayetteville, receiving a Folklife Award; Larry Foley of Fayetteville, receiving the Individual Artist Award; and Hershey and Denise Garner of Fayetteville, receiving the Patron Award.

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.