NWACC Chef Selected ‘Teacher of the Year’

Chef Lou honored by Bentonville/Bella Vista Chamber

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (Feb. 14, 2011) – NorthWest Arkansas Community College’s Chef Lou Rice has been awarded the 2010 Higher Education Teacher of the Year award by the Bentonville/Bella Vista Chamber of Commerce. The criteria were based on teachers that have gone the extra mile and inspired/made a difference in their student’s lives.

“I’m honored,” Rice says. “It’s an amazing feeling to be recognized for simply doing something you love to do.”

Chef Rice is currently the Executive Chef for NorthWest Arkansas Community College where he offers non-credit training to the NWA community as well as Culinary Team Building to area corporations. He holds a Master’s degree in Family and Consumer Science, is a certified Chef de Cuisine by the American Culinary Federation and he is currently president of the Northwest Arkansas American Culinary Federation. He has more than 12 years of culinary and hospitality educational teaching and administration as well as several years cooking for privately owned establishments, several colleges and his own restaurant and catering businesses.

During his free time, Chef Lou spends his time volunteering at the Benton County School of Arts preparing food and for the past several years he hosts a culinary table at the Botanical Gardens.

“The key to Chef’s success is that no matter whether he’s catering, facilitating a corporate team building experience, or instructing teens at a summer camp, he’s always teaching,” says Wyley Elliott, Vice President of External Affairs at the College. “He really enjoys sharing his excitement for good food. At the same time, he manages to inspire, educate and mentor his students.”

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.