Thompson wins top debate award

New NWACC Debate Team successful at Oklahoma Tournament

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (Feb. 15, 2011) – NWACC Sophomore J.J. Thompson was selected as the “Overall Top Speaker” at this past weekend’s parliamentary debate tournament on the campus of Oklahoma University in Norman. Thompson topped 154 other competitors representing 21 colleges.

An economics major from Cave Springs, Thompson placed first in all five of his competitive rounds during the tournament. The victory qualified Thompson to compete in the Pi Kappa Delta Honorary National Tournament March 23 at Mt. Hood Community College in Portland, Ore.

“This is a big accomplishment for both J.J. and NWACC’s debate team,” said Jason Edgar, the college’s director of debate. “There was a lot of competition from four-year schools, and for an NWACC student to place first is beyond extraordinary.”

It was the first competition for the college’s newly-formed debate team, who will next compete in a tournament in Indianapolis, Ind., on March 10.

“The team will continue to compete in a few more regional tournaments, but qualifying for Nationals is a big accomplishment,” Edgar said.

Parliamentary Debate is a two-on-two limited preparation debate in which teams receive a topic and then have 15 minutes to prepare their side of the discussion. At the end of the debate, judges rank each of the four debaters in speaking and then announce an overall winner.

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.