College’s Testing Center Makes The Grade
NWACC Site Becomes 1 of 8 Certified Nationally

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (Oct. 27, 2011) - NorthWest Arkansas Community College’s Testing Center has passed a test of its own – with flying colors.

The college’s testing center recently became one of only eight test centers in the country to be certified nationally by the National College Testing Association and the only college testing center in the state to receive the designation. Shannon Siebler, testing services director for NWACC, accepted the award in September during the association’s national conference in San Diego.

Certification first required meeting a detailed application process in which NWACC officials submitted policies, training documents, organizational charts, photographs and a list of security procedures before the evaluation could move forward. Two reviewers came to campus for a site visit, Siebler said. Once the organization was convinced all of the required standards were being met, NWACC was awarded the certification.

David Espinoza, president of the NCTA and testing center director at the University of Oregon, said the granting of test center certification signifies that a test center meets the highest standards for test security and efficiency of operations. Espinoza said through NWACC’s participation in the certification pilot phase, the staff of the NWACC Testing Center has assisted with the development of the organization’s certification process and procedures, which begin full implementation in 2012.

NWACC’s testing center, located on the third floor of the Student Center, is a busy place. Last year, the center staff administered 23,000 tests, a 30 percent jump from the year before. Siebler said the center provides a variety of functions, such as administering the COMPASS test to new students, monitoring makeup and distance learning exams and providing accommodation services for the disability resource center.

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.