

**NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
July 26, 2014 – Immediately Following Board Retreat – Shewmaker Peterson Auditorium**

Call to Order

Page

Action Information

Attendance

Action Information

Action Items and Considerations

- Approval to Enter into Discussions and Negotiations 2
Regarding the Culinary Program

Adjourn



Date: July 26, 2014

To: Board of Trustees

From: Dr. Evelyn E. Jorgenson, President

Subject: Approval to Enter into Discussions and Negotiations Regarding the Culinary Program

The College administration has been anticipating the need for a growth and expansion plan for the Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management program to continue meeting the needs of the region. At the current location in the Center for Nonprofits the program is currently at maximum capacity with no opportunity for expansion. In Fall 2013, with the help of private funding the NWACC Foundation contracted a consulting firm, Karp Resources, to prepare a strategic plan for the program. This was performed in conjunction with a study Karp had already undertaken with the NWA Council for a Regional Food Assessment. The results of both studies were recently presented and consideration is being given to the recommendations.

An adequate amount of space is necessary for the future growth of this program, so suggestions were made as to possible locations for this program. One possible area for a new instructional center was mentioned previously at last year's July Board of Trustees Retreat during a presentation by Downtown Bentonville representative Daniel Hintz. The former Tyson plant located in downtown Bentonville, which is slated to be part of the proposed Market District, would provide the necessary capacity to meet with the immediate and short-term enrollment demands for the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management program. It would also allow the College to be an integral part of the developing regional food economy and enhance access to resources and food systems vital for the future of this program. In collaboration with the regional efforts, the College administration feels this would be a positive move for the program and for the College as a whole.

Recommendation: It is the recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve to allow the College administration to begin formal discussions and negotiations with the appropriate parties to relocate the Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management program from the Center for Nonprofits to a larger facility such as the former Tyson plant in the proposed Market District located in downtown Bentonville.

Mr. Ric Clifford, Chairperson

Mr. Dan Shewmaker, Secretary