NWACC Announces Commuter Bus Route

By Delcie Kincaid

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Becky Paneitz, president of NorthWest Arkansas Community College, announced Wednesday the addition of a new free commuter bus route by Ozark Regional Transit that will serve the students, faculty and staff of the college.

With funding provided by NWACC, Rogers, Bentonville, Benton County and Washington county, ORT was able to add the new route and expand its service. "This is the beginning of a beautiful relationship," said Phil Pumphrey, executive director of ORT.

The NWACC Board of Trustees recently approved a fee increase to provide the bus service. Coleman Peterson, chairman of the Board, said, "This college was formed to provide



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Becky Paneitz, president of NorthWest Arkansas Community College, talked about the commitment officials in Benton and Washington counties are making to help students stay in college by partnering with Ozark Regional Transit for free rides on the express route to the NWACC.

easier access to a quality education. It is important we take proactive steps. The right direction is the path we're on." Kelly Henderson, president of the Student Ambassadors and Activities Board, told the audience she spent more on fuel last semester than on tuition and fees. "You have done a wonderful service for us today," she said as she turned to Paneitz.

Bob McCaslin, mayor of Bentonville, described the new route as an important link for the region. "This effort was extra. Everyone stepped up. "Mc-Caslin said.

This service is effective immediately. Visit www.ozark.org to see the new route and other services provided by ORT.

Bus riders must provide student or faculty/staff when boarding the bus. IDs are available at NWACC's Pauline Whitaker Library in Bentonville.

Paneitz has asked everyone to get the word out about the new service and welcomes e-mails with suggestions and comments on the new service. Her address is bpaneitz@nwacc.edu.



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Paneitz, center, heard opinions from college students, Matthew Daniels, left, and Kelly Henderson, second from left, about the new free bus route provided by Ozark Regional Transit.

Additional Information

ORT, NWACC Announce Partnership
www.nwanews.com/bcdr/News/65392/
County To Help Fund Bus Route
www.nwaonline.net/articles/2008/09/03/news/
090308bzpumphrey.txt
KNWA: Free Bus Rides For NWACC Faculty, Staff, Students
nwahomepage.com/media_player.php?media_id=71101



Kelly Henderson, president of the Student Ambassadors and Activities Board, said that she spent more on gasoline than for her tuition and books last semester.

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Coleman Peterson, chairman of the Board of Trustees, explained that the purpose of the college is to provide easier access to quality education. He said the free bus route is in keeping with that goal.