

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

*Aviation Job Fair draws scores of visitors, pg 3*



NorthWest Arkansas Community College

# THE WEEKLY INSIDER

December 3-7, 2007

## NWACC absorbing insurance hike

NWACC picking up 8.9% increase for two health insurance plans; no reduction to benefits.

Pam Watkins, the Executive Director of Business Development at NWACC Corporate Learning, said she nearly fell out of her chair when HR specialist Barbara Gordon told her that she would be paying half of what Watkins paid at another Arkansas community college for the same insurance coverage.

The deal that excited Watkins got a whole better just last week.

NWACC received a rate increase of 8.9% for the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Preferred Provider Organization Plan (PPO), and an overall rate increase of 14.6% for the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Comp Major Medical Plan (CMM).

In order to address the needs of the largest populations affected, and after review it has been recommended by the President and College Cabinet that NWACC will absorb the 8.9% increase across the board for both health insurance plans with no reduction to the benefits.

Effective January 1, 2008 the rates presented in the tables at the right will apply.

"We have continuously looked for ways to compensate our employees for dedicated service to our community," President Dr. Becky Paneitz said.

Please be reminded that all full-time college employees receive the following additional benefits paid by NorthWest Arkansas Community College:

- \$20,000 life insurance policy on all full-time employees
- Long-Term Disability policy that pays 60% of monthly wage up to \$5,000 per month cap
- Free Fitness Center to all college employees

### BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD PPO **OLD RATES** ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2007

Plan Type	Total Premium (monthly)	Employer Share (monthly)	Employee Share (monthly)	Employer Amt Per pay period	Employee Amt Per pay period
Employee	\$316.58	\$282.64	\$33.94	\$141.32	\$16.97
Employee/Spouse	\$791.43	\$665.83	\$125.60	\$332.92	\$62.80
Employee/Child	\$550.84	\$471.68	\$79.16	\$235.84	\$39.58
Family	\$949.73	\$793.55	\$156.18	\$396.78	\$78.09

### BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD PPO **NEW RATES** BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2008

Plan Type	Total Premium (monthly)	Employer Share (monthly)	Employee Share (monthly)	Employer Amt Per pay period	Employee Amt Per pay period
Employee	\$344.62	\$310.68	\$33.94	\$155.34	\$16.97
Employee/Spouse	\$861.54	\$735.94	\$125.60	\$367.97	\$62.80
Employee/Child	\$599.64	\$520.48	\$79.16	\$260.24	\$39.58
Family	\$1,033.86	\$877.68	\$156.18	\$438.84	\$78.09

### BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD CMM **OLD RATES** ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2007

Plan Type	Total Premium (monthly)	Employer Share (monthly)	Employee Share (monthly)	Employer Amt Per pay period	Employee Amt Per pay period
Employee	\$343.89	\$283.37	\$60.52	\$141.69	\$30.26
Employee/Spouse	\$859.74	\$667.67	\$192.07	\$333.83	\$96.04
Employee/Child	\$598.37	\$472.96	\$125.41	\$236.48	\$62.70
Family	\$1,031.68	\$795.76	\$235.92	\$397.88	\$117.96

### BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD CMM **NEW RATES** BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2008

Plan Type	Total Premium (monthly)	Employer Share (monthly)	Employee Share (monthly)	Employer Amt Per pay period	Employee Amt Per pay period
Employee	\$394.10	\$313.98	\$80.12	\$156.99	\$40.06
Employee/Spouse	\$985.26	\$744.19	\$241.07	\$372.095	\$120.535
Employee/Child	\$685.73	\$526.21	\$159.52	\$263.105	\$79.76
Family	\$1,182.31	\$887.58	\$294.73	\$443.79	\$147.365

- Tuition Waiver of up to twelve hours per semester/per family
  - Contributions of 10% to 14% of annual salary for retirement benefits depending upon the plan
  - July 1, 2007 COLA of 2%
  - October 1, 2007 1% across the board increase for Faculty/Administrative Staff
  - Merit increase beginning October 1, 2007 for classified staff
- Watkins said that lineup is impressive.

"When interviewing for the position at NWACC, I expected the benefits to be comparable to those of the Arkansas community college that I previously served," Watkins said. "I was utterly shocked, pleasantly so, to find that my share of the insurance premium would only be half of what I had been paying for nearly identical coverage.

"The benefits at NWACC are great, you just can't beat the benefits."

## Testing Service tops 1,000 in November

Shannon Siebler, Testing Services Coordinator, reports that with an overall total of 1,027 tests in November, this is a 22% increase over Nov. 2006 and a 55% increase over Nov. 2005.

This is the second month in a row for the center to top 1,000. See attached PDF.

Student use of the testing center is continuing to grow, said Diana Johnson, AVP for Student Services.



## NWACC SIFE SUPPORTER

Bentonville Mayor Bob McCaslin (right) pulls the winning entry as SIFE student Stacey Marshall looks on for a new 32 inch TV in a drawing that supports a SIFE trip this spring.

Winner of the TV was Chad Dowd from Texarkana.

Consolation prizes went to Jared McGaugh and Glenna Scott.

The consolation prizes were gift bags of assorted sauces from Indulge.

## Wellness Corner

### Have a plan to resist holiday treats

The opportunities to eat around the holidays seem endless. Couple the abundance of in-your-face tempting food

#### About The Weekly Insider

The Weekly Insider is produced for the internal college community and for those interested in the College by the NWACC Public Relations Department. Email items for publication to [jhall@nwacc.edu](mailto:jhall@nwacc.edu).

#### NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES:

[www.nwacc.edu/weekly-insider/index.php](http://www.nwacc.edu/weekly-insider/index.php)

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**NWACC**  
Learning For Living

with the stress of a to-do list that's out of control, and it's no wonder that we often pack on the holiday pounds. But this year, it's going to be different, right?

Having a plan for handling all the temptations ahead will help.

#### "NO-POUND" PARTY STRATEGIES

Here are suggestions of a few basic "rules" whenever you go to a holiday buffet or party:

- Always wear a snug-fitting outfit that does not easily expand. Girls, carry a clutch bag that keeps one hand occupied.
- Eat a small but filling meal before leaving home, such as a bowl of soup or a vegetable salad, so you can resist the hors d'oeuvres.
- If you don't LOVE it, don't eat it. This is your new "golden rule" at all times. We hate wasting food, but hey, you hate extra pounds even more, don't you?
- No lingering around the buffet table, bar, or appetizer or dessert display.
- Limit cocktails to two, with sparkling water and a citrus wedge rounding out the evening.
- Engage in mindful eating: make a

plate of food, sit down, and enjoy. This helps you recognize when you're full and means you're less likely to mindlessly eat during the rest of the evening.

- Follow these guidelines and indulge in only a couple of bites of your absolute holiday favorites -- but just a little, and no second helpings.

#### MORNING AFTER: I CAN'T BELIEVE I ATE THAT!

The best-laid plans sometimes fail. If you go overboard, don't beat yourself up. Just brush it off, exercise a little more the next day, and learn from it so it won't happen again at the next holiday function.

Establish your own personal ground rules and do your best to stick to them, and don't forget to exercise daily. And remember to relax, the holidays are supposed to be fun!

Source: *Weight Loss Clinic*. These health tips are brought to you by *Wellness Works* for health education purposes only. You should always consult your treating physician(s) for any medical advice or services you may need.

# Aviation Job Fair



David Lohr, right, director of RTC Aviation Maintenance and Mechanics program, visits with a student.

Photos by Gene Schneider/Norma Dees



Jeff Sorrells, customer service representative, and Shawnee Yahn, human resources assistant, of AAR Aircraft Services in Hot Springs pose with Gene Schneider.



LEFT: XNA Administrative Operations Coordinator Charles Butcher and Regional Jet Center Director of Maintenance at XNA Matt Shubet visiting with student. RIGHT: Wal-Mart Aviation Pilot Julie Hall and Aviation Inspector Todd Verge visiting with students



NWACC's Eric Vest of Career Services and Patrice Whitley of Admissions.

## ANB Career Center hosts successful Aviation fair

The ANB Career Center hosted an Aviation Job Fair last Wednesday, November 28th, from 2-7 p.m. in the Student Center, Room 108 A.

"The fair was a tremendous success", said Eric Vest, who organized and coordinated the fair.

Several different Aviation businesses were on hand including American Eagle Airlines, Wal-Mart Aviation, Million Air

FYV, NWA Regional Airport, AAR Airport Services, and Dassault Falcon Jet.

In addition, the fair also included informational booths on the college's Aviation program.

There were 61 people who attended the fair with 31 representing nonstudents and 23 representing students.

"I was amazed of how well the community responded to this event", says

Vest. "This is such a growing and high-demand field right now."

David Lohr, the NWACC Aviation Program Coordinator, was on hand to visit with potential students interested in the program.

Vest thanked David Lohr, Paula Carollo, Derek Crews, Lynda Lloyd, Casey Cawein, Patrice Whitley, David Bowman, Norma Dees and the marketing department, Paul Rehberg and the aviation partners.

# The Back Page

Page 4 **Insider on the web:** <http://www.nwacc.edu/presidentsoffice/PublicRelations.php>

## Suggestion Box

### Suggestion: Make after-hours (5 p.m.) faculty staff parking available to all.

**Reply from Ed Carson,  
Administrative Services Coordinator**

The good news is that this is already our campus's policy. Our parking policy indicates that only restricted spaces are enforced 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Restricted spaces include parking spaces for NWACC's state vehicles and reserved parking spaces for which either a faculty or staff member has paid to have a reserved parking space.

Handicap spaces are enforced following our parking policy which mirrors state law. I confirmed with our Director of Public Safety, Richard Nelson, that students can park in the faculty/staff parking spaces after 5:00 pm.

Our parking policy does require that "All enrolled students must have a NWACC-issued hangtag, valid for one academic year, displayed for any motor vehicle parked on the main campus..." 2007-08 NWACC Parking Policy [http://www.nwacc.edu/documents/Parking\\_Policy\\_2007-08.pdf](http://www.nwacc.edu/documents/Parking_Policy_2007-08.pdf)

### Suggestion: Can you create a student online classified ad section?

**Reply from Diana Johnson,  
Associate VP for Learner Services**  
NWACC has available to students a

bulletin board in the Commons of Burns Hall to post classified ads. Students wanting to post ads can submit the ad to the Student Information Center on the 1st floor of the Student Center. The ads will be posted for up to 4 weeks.

Developing an online website would require staff to maintain and monitor the website. At this time, NWACC employees are fully focused on helping student meet their educational goals.

## Letters

### Aviation Fair

*From Paul Rehberg*

Dear Eric Vest, well done!

Please let everyone know that the feedback that I have received was all positive with the companies commenting that they hope the activity will be repeated next year.

I believe that I was told that your final participation count exceeded 100; and we think that the A & P Program will have 5 or more new students in January as a direct result of the Fair.

In addition: [1] the local Spanish speaking TV station has requested that they be allowed to visit the campus in order to do a story, and [2] the program has gained a new advisory committee member and opportunities to visit two industrial sites.

### A Child's Christmas in Wales

From Gloria Chambers, Purchasing Specialist

*Dear Norma Dees*

Thank you for all your advertisement for the NWACC Drama Department.

I went to see the play on Saturday night and took some food to be given to the Children's Support Center, sponsored by the Drama department.

The play was fantastic. I am extremely fond of musicals and everyone did a wonderful job.

Please let everyone know that they should drop by and see the play. We have a great drama department and I think that it should be supported more by all of our staff here at NWACC.

**Note: Details are included in the regular Campus Announcements sent out by Jim Hall.**

## Employee Birthdays

### December

2 Rebecca Hudson  
3 Pamela Duck  
4 Steve Cooper  
7 David Wilson  
8 Erica Holliday  
9 Harold Bass  
10 Carolyn Spellman  
10 Diana Hoke  
10 Paul Lowrey  
11 Glenda Lee  
12 Dale Howard  
14 Connie Jones  
16 John Lindsey  
19 Jacqueline Pauly  
21 Carl Collier  
22 Murphy Gill  
22 Tom Mattmann  
24 Carey Chaney  
25 Rebecca Ford  
25 Christina Smith  
26 Rebecca Webb  
26 Chris Meyer  
28 Conrad Krauft  
28 Denise Nemec  
28 Christopher Jacob  
29 Theresa Collins  
31 Donald Koelling

NWACC employees are given a choice to have their birthdays announced in the newsletter. For more information, contact Jim Hall at [jhall@nwacc.edu](mailto:jhall@nwacc.edu)

## Employee Free Classified Ads

**FOR SALE:** Christmas Week time share in Scottsdale, AZ. Spend December 23-30 in a beautiful location! One bedroom, all amenities. Best offer. Contact Linda Long at [llong@nwacc.edu](mailto:llong@nwacc.edu) or call 619-4331.

**FOR SALE:** 1999 Buick Century Custom. New brakes, new tires. 1 family, 2 drivers. \$3,000 OBO. Contact Carl at 479-263-6725.

**WANTED:** Good used Xbox

game system [not 360] for Christmas for my son. Contact Kate at [kate@kate-burkes.com](mailto:kate@kate-burkes.com) or 469-644-5433.

**FOR SALE:** Slide-in Overhead camper, A/C, stove, sink, new refrigerator, sleeps 2-4, \$600 for info or to see- call 479-464-0841

**FOR SALE:** Bella Vista - 2DR, 2Bath, 2 Car Garage Townhouse with beautiful view. Call Daveine Burgess 649-4340.

**FOR SALE:** Carry on trailer, 5ft x8ft; easy load gate\ramp; new in 06, \$600; 479-633-5179.

**FOR SALE:** American Bulldog puppies, ABA or NKC registered. Excellent bloodlines. Shots/wormed \$450 West Fork 479-761-0014 or 841-3919.

**FOR SALE:** 1997 Isuzu Rodeo, 4-door, 4-wheel drive/manual transmission. \$2900 OBO. Contact Genny 619-4307.

Classified ads are free to College employees. Email your ad copy to [jhall@nwacc.edu](mailto:jhall@nwacc.edu)



# **Holiday Open House**

**Friday, December 7, 2007  
10:00 – 11:30 AM**

**Division of Finance & Administration**

**Where: New Administrative Services Suite  
(Old LDC Area)**

**Please drop by – Enjoy old friends  
and meet new ones**



NWACC  
TESTING SERVICES

06/07 Monthly Overview and Comparisons

	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
Disability Accom			50	61	48						
make-up/dl	318	26	263	714	461						
outside proctored	25	19	19	36	28						
compass	410										
ecompass on-campus	70	264	44	114	373						
ecompass off-campus	63	290	16	68	92						
bio-con-haps	7	2	2	14	3						
computer challenge	9	16		1	11						
hobet					11						
clep/dsst	11	17	8	16							
<b>totals</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>1024</b>	<b>1027</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>monthly total '06</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>840</b>						
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006-07			
Disability Accommm	257	213	232	502	296	256	240	228			
make-up/dl	572	1121	1027	1636	1365	2140	2412	3842			
outside proctored	27	55	132	150	158	22	290	258			
COMPASS v.3.2.1	1642	1963	1747	2770	2161	3115	2435	2410			
eCompass on campus								51			
eCompass off campus					190	158	346	2461			
bio-con/haps			39	59	34	59	31	65			
computer challenge								29			
hobet	44	16	27	28	36	34	64	94			
clep/dsst					5	57	51	59			
<b>ENDAR YEAR TOTALS</b>	<b>2542</b>	<b>3368</b>	<b>3204</b>	<b>5145</b>	<b>4245</b>	<b>5841</b>	<b>5869</b>	<b>9497</b>			
		1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05				
<b>FISCAL YEAR TOTALS</b>		<b>3190</b>	<b>3303</b>	<b>4441</b>	<b>5075</b>	<b>5571</b>	<b>6369</b>	<b>9497</b>			

