

National Park Community College

The blending of Garland County Community College and Quapaw Technical Institute into National Park Community College and managing new enrollment records have been the priorities of NPCC recently. Act 678 of the 2003 Arkansas General Assembly resulted in the merger of the two institutions effective July 1.

Previously, GCCC had been established as a two-year college in 1973 to provide post secondary higher education opportunities to the citizens of Garland County and the surrounding areas. QTI was first established Quapaw Vocational Technical School, a branch campus of the Ouachita Vocational Technical School in Malvern. The facility at the Hot Springs branch opened in 1969 and Act 310 of 1973 stipulated that the Hot Springs branch of the school at Malvern be a separate independent entity named Quapaw Vocational Technical School. As a result of Act 1244 and Act 773 of 1991, the State Board of Vocational Education changed the name to Quapaw Technical Institute, July 8, 1991.

Vocational technical schools throughout history have been designated to provide job train-

Sets new record for enrollment

ing for business and industry. As a technical Institute, Quapaw was committed to providing quality education and training to enhance the employment opportunities and increase the personal development of students. Combined, NPCC forms a comprehensive two-year institution offering associate degrees and certificates as well as continuing education/community services and workforce training.

The college set a new record enrollment for the Fall 2003 term, with 3,148 students enrolled in credit classes. The Fall 2003 enrollment exceeds the previous enrollment record set in Fall 2002 with 3,002 students. The trend continued in the Spring 2004 enrollment with approximately 2,975 students enrolled, according to Dr. Brad Moody, director of institutions research/registrar. Again the recent enrollment tops the Spring 2003 enrollment of 2,872 students.

NPCC continues to improve

facilities, increase student services and expand program offerings to enhance the college's overall effort to better serve Garland County and the surrounding areas. Online courses, telecourses and the expanded flexible schedule of course offerings in the afternoons, evenings and Saturdays continue to extend educational access and provide greater opportunities for students.

The college is among the top 20 employers in the county, providing a significant economic impact to the community as well as providing services that contribute to further economic development in the area. The college has approximately 360 employees, including 210 full time and 155 part time. The college's operating budget is more than \$12 million. The college's payroll for last year was \$9.4 million.

In addition to the more than 3,000 credit students per semester enrolled in college courses blending liberal arts with occupational education to prepare students to enter the workforce or transfer to a four-year institution, more than 2,000 students a year enroll in a wide range of

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