

MINUTES

JOINT MEETING OF

**THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH,  
LEGISLATIVE & MILITARY AFFAIRS  
THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**Tuesday, October 25, 2011**

**11:00 A.M.**

**Shewmaker Center for Global Business Development  
NorthWest Arkansas Community College  
One College Drive  
Bentonville, Arkansas 72712**

Representative Johnnie Roebuck, the Vice-Chair of the House Interim Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Missy Irvin, Chair.

**MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Mary Anne Salmon, Vice-Chair; Senator Gene Jeffress; and Senator Johnny Key.

**MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, LEGISLATIVE & MILITARY AFFAIRS IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative Stephanie Malone, Chair; Representative Lori Benedict; Representative Gary Deffenbaugh; Representative Justin Harris; Representative Jon Hubbard; Representative Loy Mauch; Representative Gary Stubblefield; and Representative Tim Summers.

**MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative Johnnie Roebuck, Vice-Chair; Representative Duncan Baird; Representative Jerry Brown; Representative Les Carnine; Representative Ann Clemmer; Representative Debra Hobbs; Representative Donna Hutchinson; Representative Randy Stewart; and Representative Tim Summers.

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative Gary Deffenbaugh; Representative Justin Harris; and Representative Andrea Lea.

**OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Cecile Bledsoe; Representative David Branscum; Representative Mike Patterson; Representative Mary Slinkard; and Representative Charolette Wagner.

Representative Roebuck welcomed members to the meeting on the campus of NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC).

**Dr. Rebecca Paneitz**, President, NorthWest Arkansas Community College, was recognized. Dr. Paneitz provided answers to questions previously asked relating to:

**remediation rates** - She said that 63% of students that come out of schools in the area need remediation in math, 36% need it in English, 33% need it in reading, and 39% need remediation in more than one discipline; and

**funding per full-time equivalent (FTE) for higher education** – She said the average for two-year schools is \$3,691 per FTE, for four-year schools is \$5,697 per FTE, for NWACC is \$1,866 per FTE, and for Pulaski Technical College (PTC) is \$1,948 per FTE.

Discussion of the National STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Consortium and NorthWest Arkansas Community College's Involvement

Dr. Paneitz described NWACC as a partner with nine (9) other community colleges across the country in the National STEM Consortium. It is the lead institution of the twenty-two (22) two-year colleges in Arkansas. Dr. Paneitz said she is proud of NWACC's ability to get grants and added that the real test is what it does with the money. She said she hoped her answers, together with today's presentation, would help Committee members with their understanding going forward.

**Dr. Shauna Sterling**, Director of Grants, NorthWest Arkansas Community College, was recognized. Dr. Sterling stated that the National STEM Consortium is a collaborative effort among ten (10) leading community colleges in nine (9) states, organized to develop nationally portable, certificate-level programs in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math to build a national model of multi-college cooperation in the design and delivery of high-quality, labor market-driven occupational programs. She indicated that NWACC will provide programs in Cyber Technology and Environmental Technology.

**Dr. Christine C. Davis**, Dean, Business and Computer Information, NorthWest Arkansas Community College, was recognized, and, using slides, talked about the cybersecurity part of the Grant and strategies that are being developed. Dr. Davis said that as a Dean in a STEM department, she relied on this kind of grant to help keep the STEM curriculum up-to-date. She said that grants such as this provide STEM education groups opportunities to leverage what they do well, as well as take from other colleges what they do well. She discussed job competencies to be developed, national certifications, job outcomes, concentration of networking jobs/location quotient, and leveraging the Cyber Grant for Arkansas. Dr. Davis said that NWACC shares its curriculum and degree program with other community colleges throughout the nation and Arkansas at no cost. The STEM Grant will also help provide those colleges with access to Netlab, a high-tech lab.

**Dr. Marvin Galloway**, Interim VP of Learning, and Dean of Science & Mathematics, NorthWest Arkansas Community College, was recognized. Dr. Galloway spoke on the environmental portion of the STEM Grant and covered the Environmental Regulatory Science (ERS) curriculum available online. Dr. Galloway stated that the mission of the ERS Program is to provide a high-quality safety and environmental educational experience to both pre-service and in-service safety and health professionals. He said that NWACC has an agreement with the Department of Labor and has been presenting successful worker safety conferences on campus for eight years. NWACC, under an agreement with The University of Texas at Arlington, is an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

Education Satellite Training Center. The OSHA Training Institute (OTI) Education Centers programs play a key role within OSHA's safety and health mission.

Following the presentations, a brief discussion ensued. Topics included:

- Networking the curriculum throughout the state,
- Transferring a certificate earned to a four-year, non-public institution for degree completion,
- Number of students in the networking program; skilling up quickly,
- Funding mechanisms,
- Concentration on math and chemistry skills needed to get a job, and
- Number of students that have graduated.

Representative Roebuck expressed appreciation for the informative presentations.

**The Honorable Cecile Bledsoe**, State Senator, District 8, was recognized, and thanked Dr. Paneitz and her staff for hosting the legislators. She said she was grateful for NWACC and what it has meant for the community. Senator Bledsoe also expressed appreciation to Mr. Jim Hall, Executive Director, Government Relations, NWACC, and Mr. Michael Lindsey, Vice President of Government Affairs, Rogers Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, for working to make the two-day visit an enjoyable one.

**The Honorable Missy Irvin**, State Senator, District 10, was recognized. Senator Irvin, the Chair of the Senate Committee on Children and Youth, thanked the hosts for their hospitality. She shared a comment made to her while on the legislative group tour of the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. A curator shared with her the vision of the Museum as an outreach to children, bringing them to the Museum, exposing them to the artwork, and expanding their horizons. An endowment provides education through distance learning, as well as free transportation and meals for the children when they visit. The Museum is looking to make this opportunity available to every child in Arkansas. Senator Irvin also thanked Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter in Vaughn, Arkansas for the morning legislative tour\* of the new facilities of this 24/7, private, nonprofit, emergency residential facility. The Shelter is designed to meet the placement needs of abused and neglected children and youth who need temporary shelter. Children's stays can be up to 45 days within a six-month period. The Shelter provides several distinct programs designed to meet the physical, emotional, and educational needs of the children. The tour was arranged as part of efforts to take legislative committee members into local communities to explore firsthand the issues and concerns within the community.

Dr. Paneitz, in closing the meeting, said it was a pleasure having the legislators visit NWACC.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

\* *From 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., while members interested in issues related to children and youth were visiting the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter, members of the House and Senate Education Committees met with representatives from the Bentonville and Rogers school districts at the Shewmaker Center for Global Business Development, Peterson Auditorium, on the campus of Northwest Arkansas Community College.*