



MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 24, 2019

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FROM: NorthWest Arkansas Community College

RE: NorthWest Arkansas Community College Act 184 FORUM Compliance Report

ACT 184 asks for FORUM compliance information to be sent to the Arkansas Legislative Council and the Governor's Office. Please find outlined below the course of action implemented at NorthWest Arkansas Community College to ensure compliance with the requirements of this subchapter by ninety days after the effective date of the act, October 24, 2019.

In response to subsection 6-60-1008, of this Act, NorthWest Arkansas Community College is submitting this report to detail what the institution has done to comply with the Act and fulfill its accountability to the public. Along with the information below, please see this link directing access to the NWACC Policy entitled *Free Speech/Expression on Campus 2014* as well as *Free Speech/Expression Procedures*: [https://nwacc.policystat.com/?lt=njLiKEwN-LRzInd3Ca2 - j&next=/policy/6903669/latest/](https://nwacc.policystat.com/?lt=njLiKEwN-LRzInd3Ca2-j&next=/policy/6903669/latest/)

- A Free Expression Taskforce was formed in March of 2018 made up of a cross disciplinary group on campus who looked at the Free Expression Policy and procedures in place at that time. The purpose of this taskforce was to revise the current policy with input from stakeholders from across campus including students, faculty and staff.
- A Free Expression Protection Team has been formed; the definition and responsibilities of which are attached and found within the Free Speech/Expression Procedures. The team meets regularly to review policy and to update procedure when necessary.



- Upon passage of ACT 184, adjustments were made to the Free Speech policy and procedures, specifically the removal of a campus map which specified areas designated for free expression.
- The Director of Student Conduct has provided training sessions for the College's Student Ambassador and Government Association (SAGA) members on free speech in January 2019 and August 2019.
- NWACC sent 2 members of SAGA to the annual FIRE conference held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in July 2019.
- On August 1, 10, and 19, 2019, NWACC hosted an on campus Open House for newly enrolled students where over 1,860 students attended. Each student was required to attend a session presented by the Dean of Students and Director of Student Conduct where free speech was discussed.
- On August 20, 2019, the Free Expression Protection Team hosted a forum at the bi-annual Celebrate Learning for faculty regarding the First Amendment. This information will be presented again for the spring 2020 session of Celebrate Learning.
- On September 16, 2019, SAGA, the Honors Program and Department of Social Sciences hosted a Constitution Day Roundtable for the College community with the mission of learning how to better understand First Amendment rights.
- The Dean of Students has performed training sessions with the College's Department of Public Safety concerning free speech and First Amendment rights.
- The Dean of Students purchased a teaching manual through Paperclip concerning free speech to facilitate and accompany teaching materials. This included 6 posters which have been distributed throughout campus including SAGA's office space.

After you have had the opportunity to review the above and attached policy and procedures, please feel free to reach out if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Evelyn E. Jorgenson
President, NorthWest Arkansas Community College