

**Tentative Agenda Items for  
April 29, 2005 AHECB Meeting**

**Arkansas State University-Beebe**

Technical Certificate and Associate of Applied Science in Welding Technology at ASU-Heber Springs and ASU-Searcy

Program Summary

The Technical Certificate in Welding Technology and the Associate of Applied Science in Welding Technology will be non-transferable programs designed to provide students with both entry and advanced-level marketable welding skills. Hands-on training, combined with laboratory and classroom experience, will give the student proficiencies in metal fabrication, shielded metal arc welding, gas metal arc welding, gas tungsten arc welding, blueprint reading, and layout techniques. Completion of the various levels of training will enable the student to test for certifications from the American Welding Society.

The curriculum for the Technical Certificate consists of 32 credit hours in welding and six hours of general education. The Associate of Applied Science degree consists of 32 hours of welding, eight hours of drafting, and 21 hours of general education courses for a total of 61 hours. (See attached degree plans for more detail)

Facilities, equipment, and faculty needed for this proposal are already in place. State-of-the-art welding labs are already in use at two campuses: ASU-Heber Springs and ASU-Searcy Area Career Center. The program could be expanded to other ASU-Beebe locations if local needs indicate a demand for the program. Presently, welding courses are being taught by qualified instructors for high school credit and continuing education credit.

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**Arkansas State University-Jonesboro**

Doctor of Philosophy in Molecular Biosciences

Program Summary

Arkansas State University (ASU) is proposing an interdisciplinary Doctor of Philosophy degree program in Molecular Biosciences to begin in January of 2005. The proposed Doctoral degree is required to support the Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ABI) and the students and faculty involved. This will be an interdisciplinary program integrating the knowledge and technical skills of several disciplines in the science and techniques related to biotechnology. This proposal has been reviewed by external experts and has been modified based upon their comments.

Molecular Biosciences addresses classical and contemporary problems in biology through creative integration of cellular, molecular, developmental and genomic information and knowledge. Among other topics, Molecular Biosciences research may include the study of biomolecular interactions, the engineering and design of metabolic pathways to produce bioactive proteins, discovery and development of novel biomaterials, etc. It also involves development of methods for molecule detection and diagnostics, tools for bioinformatics, and genetic engineering technologies. As such, Molecular Biosciences contributes fundamental knowledge as well as the basis for biotechnological applications, including novel biological patents. Cell Biology is the study of various aspects of cell function, structure, metabolism, and chemical functions on,

within, and between cells. Molecular Biology is generally defined as the study of biomolecular interactions, the relationships between biomolecular reactions and observed cellular properties, molecular genetics, protein chemistry, and biological structures, as well as the use of molecular detection methods to detect or characterize biological states in animal and plant sciences, systematics, forensics and health care. Cell Biology and Molecular Biology are the fundamental bases for biotechnology and are expanding areas of research. Thus, rapid growth has sprung out of the biotechnology revolution which has affected state, national and international aspects of agriculture, life sciences, human health, and commercial enterprises.

This proposal is an extension of a well-established need for broadly based and interdisciplinary technical training of graduate students to meet state, regional and national needs in the coming years. The program is in direct support of the state's ABI mandate and funding and a logical extension of faculty recruitment and an increased focus on Molecular Biosciences at the department and college levels. As such, dissertation research will focus on plant-made pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals and other high-value modifications of plant products through biotechnology. This research training focus complements the strengths of our partner institutions in the ABI consortium and our existing masters programs.

The University is continuing to expand its research and teaching capacities and is continuing to recruit and hire new faculty members in this area, primarily in the College of Agriculture, the College of Sciences and Mathematics and the ABI Research Center. Taken together, the increased need for trained Molecular and Cell Biologists in Arkansas and nationally has made it apparent that degree programs are required to foster interdepartmental and intercollegiate graduate student training and research. The proposed doctoral program in Molecular Biosciences at ASU will serve both state and student needs.

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## **Arkansas Tech University**

Associate of Applied Science in Business Technology at ATU Ozark

### Program Summary

Arkansas Tech University is requesting approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Business Technology. The A.A.S. in Business Technology is designed to provide students with a direct path to employment in a business-related field after graduation. The degree is comprised of three blocks: General Education courses (15 hours), Technical Core courses (30 hours) and Technical Support courses (15 hours) that vary by option. Students pursuing the A.A.S. in Business Technology may choose one of two options: Business Technology or Business Medical. Both emphases share the same Technical Core classes. Most of the Technical Core and Technical Support courses are routinely offered in SBHE-approved Technical Certificate programs.

Arkansas Valley Technical Institute's merger with Arkansas Tech University in Russellville in July 2003 allows for a joint effort between the two campuses in offering the A.A.S. degree on the Ozark campus, as technical core and support courses will be taught by current Ozark campus faculty, while the general education block will be administered and taught by faculty from the main campus in Russellville.

The A.A.S. in Business Technology with two options is designed to address industry demand for graduates by offering a more extensive general education background, including communication, technology, and critical thinking skills. In addition to currently

offered Technical Certificate programs on the Ozark campus, the A.A.S. degree augments this curriculum by requiring in-depth training in the option area during the second year. Based on a recommendation from regional businesses and local advisory boards, both option areas have included courses that address recent technological advances in the business field in order to matriculate competitive graduates.

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## **Arkansas Tech University**

Associate of Applied Science in General Technology at ATU Ozark

### Program Summary

Arkansas Tech University is requesting approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science Degree in General Technology. The A.A.S. in General Technology, with options in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, Applied Laboratory Technology, Automotive Service Technology, Cosmetology, Computer Information Systems, Collision Repair Technology, Electronics Technology, and Welding, is designed to provide students with a direct path to employment in a specified technical field after graduation. The degree is comprised of three blocks: General Education courses (15 hours), Technical Core courses (24-30 hours) and Technical Support courses (15-21 hours) that vary by option.

Arkansas Valley Technical Institute's merger with Arkansas Tech University in Russellville in July 2003 allows for a joint effort between the two campuses in offering the A.A.S. degree on the Ozark campus, as technical core and support courses will be taught by current Ozark campus faculty, while the general education block will be administered and taught by faculty from the main campus in Russellville.

The A.A.S. in General Technology with eight options is designed to address industry demand for graduates by offering a more extensive general education background, including communication, technology, and critical thinking skills. In addition to currently offered Technical Certificate programs on the Ozark campus, the A.A.S. degree augments this curriculum by requiring in-depth training in the option area during the second year. Based on a recommendation from regional businesses and local advisory boards, most option areas have included cross-training and interdisciplinary work with other trades and skills programs in order to matriculate competitive graduates.

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## **Arkansas Tech University**

Associate of Applied Science in Allied Health at ATU Ozark

### Program Summary

Arkansas Tech University is requesting approval to offer the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Allied Health. The A.A.S. in Allied Health is designed to provide students with a direct path to employment in a health-related field after graduation. The degree is comprised of three blocks: General Education courses (15 hours), Technical Core courses (36 hours) and Technical Support courses (17-18 hours) that vary by option. Students pursuing the A.A.S. in Allied Health may choose one of two options: EMT/Paramedic or Licensed Practical Nursing Certification. As a result of the clock hours required by each program's respective accrediting body, the EMT/Paramedic option has 69 credit hours, while the LPN option has 68 credit hours.

Arkansas Valley Technical Institute's merger with Arkansas Tech University in Russellville in July 2003 allows for a joint effort between the two campuses in offering the

A.A.S. degree on the Ozark campus, as technical core and support courses will be taught by current Ozark campus faculty, while the general education block will be administered and taught by faculty from the main campus in Russellville.

The A.A.S. in Allied Health with two options is designed to address regional and national demand for qualified, skilled, and well-rounded graduates in the health professions.

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### **Arkansas Tech University**

Department of College Student Personnel

#### Program Summary

ATU proposes to create the Department of College Student Personnel, which will be part of the College of Graduate Studies

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### **NorthWest Arkansas Community College**

Off-Campus Site/Secondary Center in Fayetteville

#### Program Summary

West Campus Technical Center, Fayetteville, is the oldest technical high school in Arkansas, founded in 1965. Through the years its mission of providing superior vocational education became diluted when the Fayetteville Public Schools also used West Campus as an alternative high school. With encouragement from the Department of Workforce Education to align West Campus with a community college, the Fayetteville Public Schools decided to separate the alternative program from the vocational programs and approached NWACC about sponsoring the re-established technical high school.

Because of the appropriate current emphasis in Arkansas on aligning secondary with post-secondary programs to create seamless educational experiences for students, NWACC agreed to explore with the Fayetteville Public Schools the possibilities inherent in sponsoring a technical high school. When it became clear that the students will be the winners in this sponsorship, NWACC agreed to work with the Fayetteville Schools on the specifics of this sponsorship (see attached Agreement).

Northwest Arkansas (and all of Arkansas for that matter) will benefit from having a regional technology center devoted to educating especially high-risk students for jobs and to encourage these students to continue with some post-secondary education. NWACC has for several years offered a few concurrent classes at West Campus; statistics show that students who enroll in these classes persist through to graduation at a higher rate than students who do not enroll in concurrent classes.

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### **Pulaski Technical College**

Associate of Applied Science in Occupational Therapy Assistant

## Program Summary

This degree is the result of a partnership between Pulaski Technical College and the Baptist Health School for Occupational Therapy Assistant. The occupational therapy assistant is a healthcare professional whose training is focused on treatment and structure activities that include specified areas of self-care, employment, recreation and spiritual aspects. Pulaski Technical College adds to the Occupational Therapy Assistant curriculum general education courses that enhance the overall training of a well-educated professional.

This degree consists of 72 credit hours. Thirty-two credit hours (44%) are provided by Pulaski Technical College including: English/writing – 6 hours; mathematics – 3 hours; social sciences – 3 hours; and computer applications/fundamentals – 3 hours. Forty credit hours (56%) in the technical area (occupational therapy assistant) are provided by the Baptist Health School for Occupational Therapy Assistant.

Pulaski Technical College courses are taught by its fully qualified general education faculty holding at least a master's degree with a minimum 18 hours in the discipline taught. Baptist Health School for Occupational Therapy Assistant courses are taught by a fully qualified instructor with a master of science in occupational therapy. Library resources, facilities and equipment on both campuses are more than adequate for the courses taught.

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## **Rich Mountain Community College**

Off-Campus Site and Associate of Arts in Waldron

### Program Summary

The off-campus site has grown in course offerings and in student headcount the past several years because students in Waldron and the Scott County vicinity have requested additional general education transfer-oriented courses from RMCC. Their primary reason for the request is to decrease their travel burden as related to either taking general education classes at the RMCC main campus in Mena or taking general education classes at surrounding regional state universities. (The University of Arkansas-Fort Smith is 45 miles north of Waldron and Arkansas Tech University is approximately 60 miles northeast of Waldron.) The students can stay at home and work or raise families while taking classes at night that will transfer toward their chosen four-year degree.

The present location of RMCC educational support, grant (TRIO and Adult Education), and community/workforce activities is in a building provided by the Waldron school district located at 410 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street. RMCC classes are conducted each semester in classrooms in the Waldron High School building. The off-campus site does not and will not house a full range of instruction. The off-campus site does not and will not provide a full range of administrative and support function. The off-campus site at Waldron is currently staffed part-time by Adult Basic Education professionals and TRIO grant professionals. The courses are offered in classrooms at Waldron High School with appropriately credentialed adjunct faculty. In addition to course instruction, services include GED classes, GED testing, ESL classes, Educational Talent Search services,

Student Support Services, Educational Opportunity Center services, and Workforce Training classes. All admission, registration, financial aid, and business office functions are provided or supervised by full-time RMCC employees from the main campus in Mena, Arkansas in a timely and effective manner. No RMCC employee is assigned full time at the Waldron off-campus site.

As a result of this proposed change, Rich Mountain Community College will be in compliance with federal financial aid regulations and The Higher Learning Commission's expectations for approval of such off-site offerings. The degree program for which 50 percent of the courses are offered is the Associate of Arts (AA) degree. The 50% is met because the AA contains fourteen hours of selected electives. No other degree program is offered or planned to be offered at this off-campus site. In reality, very few of the enrolled Waldron area students actually plan to obtain an Associate of Arts degree from RMCC. The students' primary objective is to complete as many transfer-oriented courses as possible close to home before traveling or moving to the university. In 2003-2004, comparison of students enrolled at the off-campus site in Waldron with their stated goals upon enrollment, only twenty-three percent of the students enrolled at the Waldron off-campus site state their goal was to achieve an Associate of Arts degree from RMCC. Rich Mountain Community College does not expect to increase course offerings, nor administrative and support functions, but will continue to offer general education courses to area students who are pursuing the Associate of Arts degree or pursuing transfer work as they prepare to enter one of the surrounding state regional universities. Rich Mountain Community College has no plans to develop the site as an instructional site which offers degree programs. There are no plans for full-time faculty or full-time administrative personnel.

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## **South Arkansas Community College**

Associate of Applied Science and Advanced Certificate in Network Security Technology

### Program Summary

South Arkansas Community College is requesting approval from the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to implement two new programs entitled Networking Security Technology (Associate of Applied Science) and Advanced Network Security Technology (Advanced Technical Certificate). These programs will eventually supplant the colleges existing networking option in Computer Information Technology but will maintain some of the courses in that program. Students who complete the applications track of the Computer Information Technology program will be accepted into the Advanced Technical Certificate program.

Computer networking has become the design, implementation and administration of voice, video and data networks. With the convergence of these three means of communication, the reliability and the security of the converged network has become more critical to the daily operations of business and industry, as well as public and private organizations. Network Security Technology will build on skills in network technology to include the protection of network and computer resources as well as critical information and data.

Infused in both of these programs will be the latest technologies in combating malware, viruses, worms, and hacking attacks. Case studies will focus on the most current events in the industry. For advancement, a network technician must acquire advanced training. The Advanced Technology Certificate that is proposed will address this issue.

The goal of the program is to prepare students to enter the new and emerging network security occupation by providing the knowledge and understanding and the skills required to effectively protect network and data resources, while applying the principles of professional and ethical conduct (see more information about Network Security in Appendix 17.1). Graduates of the programs will acquire marketable skills and industry recognized certifications from (ISC)<sup>2</sup> (International Information Systems Security Certifications Consortium Inc.) and the SANS Institute (SysAdmin, Audit, Network, Security).

The entire program curriculum will be built around the Certified Internet Security Professional (CISSP) 10 Domains of Network and Data Security:

- Access Control Systems and Methodology
- Operations Security
- Cryptography
- Applications and Systems Development Security
- Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Planning
- Telecommunications and Networking Security
- Security Architecture and Models
- Physical Security
- Security Management Practices
- Law, Investigation, and Ethics

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## **South Arkansas Community College**

Technical Certificate in Building Trades Technology

### Program Summary

South Arkansas Community College (SouthArk) is requesting approval from the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to implement a new program entitled Building and Construction Trades Technology.

Arkansas Department of Labor statistics show that carpentry -- which includes sub-trades such as drywall hanging, tapers, framers, bricklayers, and roofers -- is the top construction job based on total annual employment numbers. Those statistics show that there are over 6,000 carpenters employed statewide. Nationwide over 1,200,000 carpenters are employed.

America is experiencing a skilled labor shortage, and predictions show it may get worse. A Construction Industry Institute study indicates that 75% of contractors are experiencing shortages. The U.S. Department of Labor's, Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that the construction industry will need to attract 240,000 workers each year to replace those leaving the workforce or retiring, while still allowing for industry growth. Furthermore, many of those workers who have entered the construction arena were trained poorly and sometimes not at all.

In a 1999 study conducted by the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), it was found that 92% of national construction firms reported shortages of skilled labor. Over 85% of those surveyed said their current workforce is not as skilled as it should be in today's market.

The industry needs more people entering the workforce to replenish the ranks. Construction industry professionals say a carpenter shortage is making it difficult to finish commercial and residential projects on time and under-budget.

The retirement of older workers becomes a greater concern when one considers that today's construction workforce is an aging one. The Bureau of Labor Statistics states that the average construction worker is 47 years old. In ten years, many of them will be retiring leaving the industry with major shortages.

Predictions state that the skilled labor shortage will only get worse, but South Arkansas Community College is working to do something about the problem before it is too late. We want to make sure tomorrow's builders are learning their skills today. Being a carpenter or plumber in 2010 will compare to being a computer programmer in the 1990's. Programs like Building Trades Technology will give the Arkansas construction trades high hopes for the future.

The goal of this program is to provide courses, which will lead to marketable skills in the construction and building trades industry and will encourage economic development in the region by providing employers with a skilled workforce.

Currently, the closest Building Trades Program to SouthArk is located at National Park Community College, which offers a Technical Certificate in Residential Carpentry Technology.

In August 2004, SouthArk began a [high school Building Trades program as part of the High School Secondary Career Center](#). The Building Trade Technology program at SouthArk will consist of a one-year Technical Certificate in Carpentry and/or a two-year certificate in Building Trades Technology. This certificate will consist of carpentry, plumbing, and residual electrical. Infused in both of these programs will be the latest technology in residual and commercial construction trades. We will also award a Certificate of Proficiency in Carpentry at the completion of Building Trades I and Blue Print Reading.

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## **Southern Arkansas University-Magnolia**

### **Master of Science in Computer Science/Computer Information Technology**

The degree offers a course of study leading to the Master of Science in Computer Science/Computer Information Technology and is designed to reflect the tremendous and ongoing changes in the computer science field. It will provide a solid foundation in computer hardware and software, systems design, communications, and project/team management skills, particularly in the networking environment. It will provide students the training and information for an enduring foundation needed for future professional growth. Specific career tracks anticipated for graduates include Information System Project Management, System Analyst and Design or Development Specialist, Data Manager, and Pre-Ph.D and MD Research Assistant Data Managers.

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## **Southern Arkansas University-Magnolia**

Master of Public Administration

### Program Summary

The program offers a course of study leading to the Master of Public Administration degree designed to prepare individuals for positions of leadership in public service organizations. Two areas of emphasis are offered: a local government track and a non-profit track, each with an internship in a corresponding setting. The curriculum will enhance the student's values, knowledge, and skills in the areas of management of public service organizations, public policy and organizational environment, and quantitative and qualitative analysis and their application in the decision making process.

Existing undergraduate degree programs at SAU that support the proposed program are as follows: Political Science (B.A.), History (B.A.), Psychology (B.S. and B.A.), Social Work (B.S.W.), Sociology (B.S. and B.A.), and Criminal Justice (B.S. and B.A.).

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## **University of Arkansas, Fayetteville**

Department of Education Reform

### Program Summary

The College of Education and Health Professions proposes the formation of a new Department of Education Reform for the direct purpose of improving K-12 education in Arkansas and across the nation. This department will promote student achievement in public education through the use of multifaceted activities that will break new ground in terms of instruction, service and research in important policy areas and establish intervention programs through which these efforts will be brought to bear in the public schools. It is anticipated that these programs will serve as examples to reform-minded educators as well as policy makers in Arkansas and around the nation.

The Department of Education Reform is being created through a \$10,000,000 gift from an anonymous private foundation and \$10,000,000 from the Matching Gift Program, created by the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation. This financial support of \$20,000,000 will create an endowed department, which is an explicit term of the gift agreement, and amounts to one of the largest gifts ever received by any college of education in the country.

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## **University of Arkansas at Little Rock**

Construction Management Department

### Program Summary

UALR's Bachelor of Science in Construction Management was first offered in the Fall of 1994 due to the demand from the state's construction industry. An Industry Advisory Board chaired by Jim May, along with the Arkansas Contractors Licensing Board, provided a \$100,000 grant to the University to purchase computers, instructional resources, and a remodel of existing facilities. The program is experiencing reasonably rapid growth in the number of students, especially over the past few years, and currently has 173 majors with 5 full-time and eight part-time faculty members. Demand for this specialization by the Construction Industry is so great, that the department currently has 100% placement at graduation. As reported by the Construction Financial Management Association, starting entry-level project managers salaries are \$45,138.00. The University is requesting departmental status for this program.

The construction management program was initially accredited by the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) in July 1998, and has since received its initial 6-year extension under full accreditation. The construction management curriculum is the only UA system program accredited by ACCE.

The construction management program is housed organizationally in the George W. Donaghey College of Information Science and Systems Engineering (CyberCollege) along with the departments of Engineering Technology, Applied Science, Computer Science, Systems Engineering and Information Science. The Dean of CyberCollege reports directly to the Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (the current organizational chart and the proposed organizational chart is on page 3).

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## **University of Arkansas at Little Rock**

Center for Economic Development Education

### Program Summary

The Institute for Economic Advancement (IEA) is a public service unit of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. It is the applied, customer-oriented arm of the College of Business. Originally formed by state legislation, IEA's mission is to support statewide economic development through research, information dissemination, service, education, and training. Pursuant to this mission, this proposal seeks to establish a new organizational entity within the Institute to be called the Center for Economic Development Education.

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## **ADHE**

### **Annual Report of Student Retention and Graduation**

The annual Graduation and Retention Rate Study will be presented to the Coordinating Board as an information item. This study tracks for six years the cohorts of "first-time entering freshmen enrolled as full-time, degree-seeking students". Demographic and institutional data pertaining to the cohorts from 1992 through 2003 will be presented.

## **Institutional Certification Advisory Committee**

**Graceland University, Independence, MO**

Graceland University of Independence, MO, submitted application for initial certification of the following online programs: Bachelor of Arts in Health Care Administration, and Masters of Education with emphasis in Collaborative Learning and Teaching, Technology Integration, and Quality Schools.

Graceland also submitted application for recertification of the Bachelor of Arts in Addiction Studies, and decertification of the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies. The programs, which have been offered to Arkansas students via distance delivery since 1995, were recertified in 2003. The applications were reviewed by the ICAC at the March 29, 2005 quarterly meeting and will be submitted for Board action at the April 2005 meeting.

#### **University of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ**

The University of Phoenix of Phoenix, AZ submitted application for initial certification of the following online programs: Bachelor of Science in Business with specializations in Retail Management, and Public Administration; Bachelor of Science in Information Technology with specialization in Software Engineering; Master of Business Administration with specializations in Human Resource Management, Public Administration, and Marketing; Master of Information Systems; Master of Arts in Management with specialization in Human Resource Management and Public Administration; Master of Science in Administration of Justice and Security; and Executive Master of Business Administration. The University of Phoenix has offered online programs in Arkansas since 2003. The applications were reviewed by the ICAC at the March 29, 2005 quarterly meeting and will be submitted for Board action at the April 2005 meeting.

#### **University of Memphis, Memphis, TN**

The University of Memphis of Memphis, TN requested decertification of the Bachelor of Professional Studies in Fire Administration/Fire Technology, initially certified in 1985. Decertification is requested because the University is not actively recruiting Arkansas students for the program, but promoting the program through National Fire Academy Literature. The request was reviewed by the ICAC at the March 29, 2005 quarterly meeting and will be submitted for Board action at the April 2005 meeting.

#### **Economic Feasibility for Bond Issue for NorthWest Arkansas Community College**

NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds for a building project and requests approval to re-finance existing debt.