

August 23, 2010

Shewmaker Center for Global Business Development
NorthWest Arkansas Community College
1201 SE Eagle Way
Bentonville, AR 72712

To: Gillett Charter School

From: NWACC, the Shewmaker Global Business Development Center, and SIFE

Re: NWACC Partnerships with Gillett Heritage Academy

NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) is very pleased to offer our support to Gillett Heritage Academy. Our mission is to strengthen communities through learning for living. Gillett Heritage Academy is strengthening their community, its citizens, and the young students of the region by instituting a new charter school that focuses its curriculum around entrepreneurship. NWACC supports this innovative approach to education and will be involved with the Academy to help them fulfill their dream of a local school that prepares their students for local careers.

NorthWest Arkansas Community College is recognized as the entrepreneurial leader in Arkansas. NWACC created the state standard for community college entrepreneurship which has now become the statewide curriculum. Our entrepreneurship program is now available in a dozen community colleges around the state through the Arkansas Association of Two-Year College Entrepreneurship Consortium of which NWACC is a founding and guiding member. Our work in the entrepreneurship area goes beyond the classroom to many of our other educational and outreach activities. Through the Shewmaker Center for Global Business Development, NWACC creates partnerships with entrepreneurs, development agencies, chambers of commerce, and communities. We have recently initiated projects in the Arkansas Delta region through our award-winning Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) program and will be working in the Delta to foster an entrepreneurial movement in schools there.

Gillett Heritage Academy will be involved in our SIFE entrepreneurship project when they open their doors and NWACC anticipates supporting this new charter school in other ways as well. Through the resources of the Shewmaker Center, our SIFE team, and with the help of Business Faculty, we will be offering our assistance and expertise in entrepreneurship curriculum, education, and community development to help this new venture succeed.

Attachment 2 – NWACC Letter of Cooperative Services

Our SIFE team and its Sam Walton Fellows are actively engaged with Gillett Heritage Academy already and we will offer additional expertise when it is needed. We are fascinated with the idea of an entrepreneurship school and believe helping it launch and succeed will be important to our goal of developing a statewide entrepreneurship curriculum in all Arkansas schools.

Gillett Heritage Academy has our support and commitment to assist in ways that fit our mission to educate and build a better, more entrepreneurial Arkansas.

Sincerely,

Tim Cornelius, Associate Vice President, NWACC

George Tanner, Sam M. Walton Fellow & Entrepreneurship Faculty

Tiphany Hall, Sam M. Walton Fellow & Business Faculty

Rebecca Hudson, Sam M. Walton Fellow & SIFE Advisor