



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 15, 2008

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## **Wichita Area Technical College receives HLC-NCA accreditation**

Wichita Area Technical College has received initial accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (HLC-NCA). The accreditation was effective Oct. 8, when the Commission Board of Trustees validated the recommendation by its review committee. WATC is accredited through 2013, the maximum number of years possible for initial accreditation.

HLC-NCA's report following its site visit stated: "The college is well managed, maintains an enthusiastic and very dedicated faculty and staff, and has positioned itself to respond to the workforce needs of its employer community. In addition, WATC's Board of Trustees provides exceptional vision and leadership to move the institution solidly forward to achieve its mission and meet the needs of its community today and into the future."

WATC's President, Peter Gustaf, said, "HLC-NCA's recognition of our dedication to our students and community is gratifying. I'm extremely grateful to our Board of Directors and proud of our faculty and staff for what we've accomplished together."

All public community colleges and universities in Kansas are accredited by HLC-NCA. This accreditation allows WATC to participate as an equal partner in the higher education community in Kansas and will increase the ability for students to transfer credit from one institution to another.

The Higher Learning Commission is part of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA). NCA, founded in 1895, is one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States. Through its commissions it accredits, and thereby grants membership to educational institutions in the North Central region. Accreditation represents public validation of an institution's commitment to quality and institutional and program improvement.

Since 2000, WATC's programs have been accredited with the Council on Occupational Education.

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Wichita Area Technical College offers nearly 60 programs of study as well as general education and online courses. WATC works closely with business and industry to meet employer and student needs and will be the managing partner of the National Center for Aviation Training at Jabara. Additional information about WATC is available at [www.watc.edu](http://www.watc.edu).