



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:

Anthony Bieda, ACICS

abieda@acics.org

(202) 336-6781 – office

(202) 905-6845 – cell

Phil Smith, Westwood College

PSmith03@westwood.edu

(303) 846-1816

Westwood College Student Awarded Top Prize for Career Education Poster Design Competition

(Houston, TX / Washington, DC) Feb 1, 2012 – After receiving more than 80 entries from students across the globe, the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) today announced the winners of its student poster competition. Clayton Stewart, a Westwood College Houston South Campus student, was awarded first place in the highly competitive competition, earning him \$1,000 in cash prizes and national recognition. His design will also be reproduced and distributed to more than 900 ACICS member institutions worldwide, and featured at ACICS' Centennial gala in Las Vegas in November 2012.

The competition was launched as part of ACICS' Centennial celebration. Since 1912, ACICS has been a leader in advancing excellence and access to post-secondary education that prepares students with the skills needed to become competitive in the workforce. Many of the submissions included designs representing the role of career education in preparing students to succeed in industries such as business administration, allied health, information technology, criminal justice, and culinary arts.

“ACICS received submissions from talented students across the globe, utilizing different artistic styles and techniques that are taught in many of our school's art and design programs,” said Dr. Al Gray, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of ACICS. “Our Centennial marks an important milestone in accreditation history, and we are pleased to showcase the work of our talented design students in this competition.”

The winning design, *100 Years of Quality: Making the Transition Between Education and the Workforce*, was an early favorite among the judging committee for its simple design and clear message, as well as its focus on the transition from student to working professional.

“I like keeping my work simple, and not to put too much stuff in it... to get to the point to make it easy for people to understand,” Stewart commented of his design and vision. “First I designed the 100 year element; then, I came up with the idea of two silhouetted figures, one being the student with a backpack, and the other person with a suitcase – a business person – to symbolize the workforce.”

-MORE-

The poster was designed using the Adobe Illustrator software tool Stewart learned in his classes at Westwood College, which is accredited by ACICS. Stewart will be graduating from Westwood in 2012 with a Bachelor's degree in Visual Communications, but he hopes to continue his education with a focus on videogame design.

"A lot of what I learned in my illustrator class helped me to draw the figures, and a design layout class also helped me learn about composition, making the artwork centered," he said.

Visit the [Centennial](#) section of ACICS.org to view the top three winning posters and learn more about the inspiration for Clayton Stewart's design.

###

About the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools

Founded in 1912, the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) is one of the most respected and longest established national accreditors of academic institutions in the United States. It is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). ACICS accredits more than 800 private post-secondary institutions offering certificates or diplomas, as well as institutions offering associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees in programs designed to educate students for professional, technical, or occupational degrees. For more information, please visit www.acics.org.

About the ACICS Centennial

ACICS will recognize its 100 years of service throughout 2012 with a number of events and initiatives designed to engage schools, faculty, students, and employers in the community. In May, ACICS will launch a week-long [community service initiative](#) to provide an opportunity for schools and students to give back to the communities in which they serve. In November, the ACICS Centennial Gala in Las Vegas will highlight the agency's rich history of serving a leading role in helping students gain access to quality career education. Click [here](#) for more information on the ACICS Centennial and related activities.