The president of NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC), Dr. Becky Paneitz announced at the April 9 Board of Trustees meeting her plans to retire as president of the college in June 2013. Paneitz has presided as president since 2003.

For nearly 10 years, Dr. Paneitz has led the college during a time of tremendous growth, helping make it one of the largest and fastest growing community colleges in Arkansas and the country. Enrollment at the time she became president was 4,915, and enrollment today is at 8,528.

“Dr. Paneitz has been key to NWACC’s successes over the years,” said Alex Vasquez, Chairman of NWACC’s Board of Trustees. “She has inspired students on how to set and achieve their educational goals. She has led our administration, faculty and staff to continue providing quality education. And she has demonstrated what the impact of enthusiasm and vision can mean to a community college and the community it serves.”

Among her list of accomplishments, Dr. Paneitz established five learning centers to broaden post-secondary educational opportunities in nearby communities. The learning centers include: Jones Trust Center in Springdale, Washington County Center in Springdale, Regional Technology Center in Fayetteville, Center for Nonprofits in Rogers and College at the Crossing in Bella Vista.

To accommodate growth and new programs for students and faculty, Dr. Paneitz and her team engaged in an aggressive building initiative that included the Shewmaker Center for Global Business Development, Center for Health Professions, the Student Center, renovation and expansion of Burns Hall and the first parking garage in Benton County.

During her tenure, Dr. Paneitz spearheaded new partnerships between NWACC and several area businesses and organizations, some of which include the University of Arkansas, S.I.F.E., La-Z-Boy, Tyson Foods, J.B. Hunt Transport Services, Walmart and Sam’s Club, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and the National Child Protection Training Center. Dr. Paneitz has also helped raise more than $69 million in private and federal grants and donations, a tribute to her commitment to expanding the overall revenue base of NWACC.

Continued on Page 2...
President Announces Retirement

Past Board Chairman Howard Slinkard recalls serving on the search committee in 2003 when Dr. Paneitz was selected. “The Board was looking for someone who could work with area business leaders and private sector donors, provide inspiration to students, and uphold the reputation of the college. Dr. Paneitz fit that role, and has put her heart and soul into transitioning NWACC into a 21st century community college with walls,” said Slinkard.

After hearing of her plans to retire, Coleman Peterson said, “Having served as the Chairman of the NWACC Board of Trustees for three years, and seven years as a trustee, I was afforded the personal privilege of working directly with Dr. Becky Paneitz. She has worked tirelessly for the benefit of NWACC students, helping to focus on affordability, accessibility and a quality education for everyone. She has also built strong partnerships with community partners and stakeholders – realizing the true power and potential of the community college. In my view, she is one of the true dynamic leaders in NWA, and we are all better for her having served with such distinction.”

Dr. Paneitz received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Arkansas at Monticello and her master’s from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She began her career in higher education at Pueblo Community College in Colorado in 1985 as a part-time criminal justice instructor and then served as the department chair. Later, she served as the Dean of Technology and Trades before serving as the Dean of Arts, Business and Communication. She then became Dean of Instruction at Hutchinson Community College in Kansas, where she was instrumental in the planning and development of their advanced technology center – a feat she also accomplished at Pueblo. Dr. Paneitz completed her doctorate in vocational education at Colorado State University in 1997. In 1999, she moved to Charlotte, N.C. and joined Central Piedmont Community College as Vice President for Instruction until her return to Arkansas in 2003 when she was named the second president of NorthWest Arkansas Community College.

College President Welcomed Into Entrepreneurship Forum

College Part Of National Initiative

Dr. Becky Paneitz, president of NorthWest Arkansas Community College, has joined the Presidents for Entrepreneurship Forum. The National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship launched the forum through which community college presidents make specific commitments to advance entrepreneurship and the impact these colleges have on the economic well-being of their communities.

The Presidents for Entrepreneurship Forum is a select group of innovative community college presidents from across the country. Paneitz joins more than 100 presidents in the initiative and is the only president from Arkansas to become a member.

The forum will work in partnership with the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship, the Association of Community College Trustees, Startup America and the Obama administration to encourage economic growth through entrepreneurship.

In December, the White House hosted the first board meeting of the Startup America Partnership. At that time, the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship, among other organizations, became a committed partner in the Obama administration’s proposed $2 billion in resources being dedicated to support startups.
Professor Completes Book

**Huggard’s New Book Explores A Copper Mining Community in New Mexico**

NorthWest Arkansas Community College history professor Dr. Chris Huggard has published a new book, “Santa Rita del Cobre: A Copper Mining Community in New Mexico” and hosted two book signings on the NWACC campus in February.

Signings were held Thursday, Feb. 16, and Monday, Feb. 20.

In 2008 Dr. Huggard was awarded sabbatical that allowed for him to complete this book, which has been nominated for several awards. The work, which tells the compelling story of a mining town that no longer exists because the open-pit mine grew so large it swallowed up the town, has more than 120 illustrations and was published by the University Press of Colorado.

The publication sells for $45, plus shipping. Huggard has served on the NWACC faculty for 17 years.

For further information, contact Dr. Huggard at 479-619-4270 or chuggard@nwacc.edu.

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Topping Out Ceremony Completed

NorthWest Arkansas Community College held a topping out ceremony for the Center for Health Professions on Friday, Jan. 20, which was sponsored by Nabholz Construction and Crafton Tull.

Members of the college community had the opportunity to sign the beam in the days before the ceremony. The beam was then secured as the top-most beam in the building's superstructure.

The new 83,000-square-foot center is expected to open in spring 2013.

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Kudos Cups

**March**

- **Marsha Woolfolk**
- **Brenda Flemming-Studt**
- **Connie Bondurant**

Not Pictured

- Leslie Hardaway
- Dr. Jami Forrester
Congratulations >>>

Event Spotlight >>>

ProStart Culinary Team Wins State Competition

The NorthWest Arkansas Community College High School ProStart Culinary Team won the Arkansas ProStart Invitational held in March in Little Rock.

The team participated in the hour-long competition using nothing more than two tabletop butane burners as heat sources.

The all-female team of Paulina Moya, Alyssa Byers, Elizabeth Roark (all from Bentonville High School) and Bethany Roughton (Pea Ridge High School) created from scratch a fabulous southern Italian inspired menu: an appetizer of fennel, orange and beet salad, an entree of lobster and crab ravioli with grilled eggplant vegetable rolls, and for dessert, a chocolate dome filled with honey-mascarpone cream and fig jam served with hazelnut biscotti. Along with the presentation and taste of their dishes, the girls were also judged for poultry fabrication and knife skills, as well as safety and sanitation, communication, and teamwork.

ProStart is an industry-driven culinary and hospitality curriculum developed by the National Restaurant Association, specifically for the best and brightest high school culinarians. The NWACC Early College Experience Culinary Arts students complete ProStart levels 1 and 2 during their year-long course of study, and therefore have the opportunity to participate in the affiliated Culinary and Management competitions while in the program.

The team and their instructor and mentor Chef Rebecca Liles traveled to Baltimore, Md., for the 11th annual National ProStart Invitational. Results are pending. A special fundraiser was held April 18 for the team’s trip to nationals. “A Night in Germany” offered a multi-course meal at the Center for Nonprofits in Rogers.

Walton, Bacigalupi Discuss Vision; Conant Notes Leadership in Lecture Series

Alice Walton and Dr. Don Bacigalupi, founder and executive director of the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, respectively, participated in a casual question- and-answer session inside the Walmart Auditorium on Feb. 27.

Walton and Bacigalupi came to the NorthWest Arkansas Community College campus as part of the Jack Shewmaker Business Leaders Lecture Series, hosted by Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE).

Speaking on the vision and mission of Crystal Bridges, selection of the site, and work-life balance, both speakers shared personal stories that helped shape their business acumen.

Wyley Elliott, vice president for public relations and development at NWACC, moderated the forum in front of a diverse audience of more than 150 people.

Doug Conant, a New York Times bestselling author and sought-after speaker, also was a part of the lecture series. Conant is the former CEO of Campbell Soup Company and is credited with a significant turnaround for that company. He shared his ideas about leadership in front of an audience of approximately 60 in an evening lecture March 15.

During the Feb. 27 program when asked about what goes into creating a vision, Walton responded, “First, we have to dream,” sharing that her mother and father built the foundation for her love of the arts.

According to Walton, there was never a question about where the museum should be located.

Walton shared that the tight-knit community and strong sense of volunteerism among the residents of NorthWest Arkansas made Bentonville the clear choice.

This statement was met with a great applause from audience members.

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Message from the President

This is a busy and exhilarating time in the life of NorthWest Arkansas Community College.

Commencement, the crowning event of the academic year, is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, May 10, at the John Q. Hammons Center in Rogers. We hope all of you who are part of the college family will make plans to attend to celebrate the achievements of more than 1,200 students who have completed certificate and degree plans.

Following the ceremonies, the first Alumni Graduation Reception will be held for friends and family, and refreshments will be served. If you were not able to attend the Academic Awards program on May 4, you missed a great opportunity to celebrate some of our greatest success stories. Approximately 30 of our graduates were honored for their achievement and service to our college and the community at large. Several other special occasions also are scheduled in coming days.

The nurse pinning ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 12 at the Arens Arts Center on the Bentonville High School campus. Come celebrate the accomplishments of these professionals who will work in hospitals, clinics and offices throughout the region. The Adult Education graduation also will be conducted at 7 p.m. May 12 at the Arens Arts Center. That ceremony is always such a moving event.

As always, it’s an honor to serve our students in such a vibrant and caring college community, and I hope you will be able to join us at these events as we celebrate our students’ successes and prospects for a bright future.

Congratulations, Graduates

Several members of the NWACC faculty and staff have earned doctoral degrees during this academic year.

Those earning doctorates and their degree fields include:

- Brian Aguiar, Business Administration
- Chris Hubbard-Valentine, Educational Leadership
- Meredith Brunen, Higher Education
- Jami Forrester, History
- Todd Kitchen, Leadership and Policy Analysis
- Doug Krueger, Philosophy

Individuals earning master’s degrees and their degree fields include:

- Judson Crabb, Criminal Justice
- Grant West, Geography
- Valisha McClain, Addiction Counseling
- Connie Cox, Adult Education
- Jonathan Langner, Education
- Sammi Eddie, Business Administration.

Other degrees earned by college faculty and staff include:

- Seth Schader, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
- Toni Marie Sauerwein, Associate in Computer Networking
- Mark Scott, Associate in Computer Networking
- Debi Tillman, Associate of Applied Sciences in Computer Information Systems
- AJ Shirey, Associate of Arts
- Danielle Johns, Associate of Arts
- Brian Aguiar, Business Administration
- Candace McKinley, Associate of Arts
- Sammi Eddie, Business Administration
- Diane Johns, Associate of Arts
- Mark Scott, Associate in Computer Networking
- Toni Marie Sauerwein, Associate in Business Administration
- Sammi Eddie, Business Administration
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Q. How is social media changing the way colleges and universities recruit prospective students?

A. Social media, or “new media”, is an added bonus in terms of traditional public relations and marketing practices, and for the most part – it’s free! In our digital world, news can spread, pictures can be taken, and locations can be shared via social media in a matter of seconds. Our on-the-go stakeholders have been engaging in social media outlets for years and they use websites like Facebook, Twitter, and foursquare, just to name a few, to gather information and make informed decisions, which is why it is vital for higher education institutions to become involved in these outlets. The main purpose of social media is to consistently engage your audience and provide them with information that they connect with. When done correctly, your fans and followers have the opportunity to provide real-time feedback and share information with their friends, which creates loyalty to your institution.

Q. When learning how to use social media, what are some things people should keep in mind?

A. There are a few things I stress to people when it comes to engaging on social media outlets:

- Anything and everything you post on social media – including posts and pictures that have since been deleted – can still be found on the Internet! A simple Google search will open your eyes!
- You should never take yourself too seriously on social media. It’s meant to be fun! Embrace it, but remember the “it lives on forever” rule.
- Join the conversation! Find your audience, form relationships, participate, and share! You get out of social media what you put into it.

If you’d like more tips and tricks when it comes to social media engagement, feel free to reach out to me! I can be reached at 479.986.4072, choltman@nwacc.edu, and of course, on social media!
College President, Cabinet Host Reception

Dr. Becky Paneitz, NorthWest Arkansas Community College President, and Christine Davis, NWACC Dean of Business and Computer Information programs, welcomed Dr. Donald Bobbitt, University of Arkansas system president, to an April 26 reception in his honor.

Dean Davis shared information with those gathered about articulation agreements between the University of Arkansas and NWACC, specifically highlighting the ability for students to transfer classes between NWACC and the UofAs Sam M. Walton College of Business, College of Engineering, or the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food, and Life Sciences. Members of the NWACC Board of Trustees, Dr. Steve Gates, Senior Vice President for Learning & Provost, and several faculty, staff, and administrators were present to greet Dr. Bobbitt.

Golden Eagle Awards

D’Etta Stephens-Mason: February

Jesse Greenhill: March

Jerri Dalrymple: April
Dr. Ted Phillips has been named the Vice President for Learning at NorthWest Arkansas Community College. In his new role, Phillips will be responsible for leading and administrating the delivery of all general education offerings, transfer degrees, and adult education. He will also develop, coordinate, and evaluate the instruction and learning support programs and personnel of NWACC. Additionally, Phillips will provide leadership and oversight to maintain compliance with academic program delivery requirements by the Higher Learning Commission, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, and other agencies as required. Phillips will begin his new role June 18. "We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Phillips to our team," said Dr. Steve Gates, Senior Vice President of Learning and Provost, NorthWest Arkansas Community College. "His passion for higher learning and putting students as the number one priority fits our overall mission here at NWACC."

- Dr. Steve Gates, Senior Vice President of Learning & Provost

"His passion for higher learning and putting students as the number one priority fits our overall mission here at NWACC."

- Dr. Steve Gates, Senior Vice President of Learning & Provost

Ted Phillips has been named the Vice President for Learning and will be returning to his position as Dean of Science and Mathematics. "He has done a phenomenal job," Gates added. "The college is thankful for Dr. Galloway's time and leadership."

Prior to joining NWACC, Phillips served as Dean of Academic Affairs at the Leadville and Chaffee County campuses of Colorado Mountain College. Prior to Colorado Mountain College, Phillips spent 24 years as Dean of Public Services and Social/Behavioral Sciences at Tarrant County College in Fort Worth. Phillips began his career in higher education as an adjunct faculty member and progressed through the ranks, teaching Sociology and Criminal Justice and serving as a coordinator and division chair before becoming a dean. In addition to his academic leadership, Phillips serves in several professional associations. He recently completed service as a board member on the Land Trust of Upper Arkansas.

Phillips earned a Ph.D. in Philosophy in Higher Education with a Community College Leadership emphasis and his Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of North Texas in Denton.
NorthWest Arkansas Community College Foundation held its 9th annual Scholarship Gala March 29 at the John Q. Hammons Center with approximately 500 people in attendance for the event.

This year’s Gala, with the theme “Plant a Seed,” raised more than $111,500 for scholarships to support some of the 8,500 credit students attending NWACC.

Dennis Smiley, Foundation Board Chair, said that there will be 71 privately named scholarships awarded in the upcoming academic year (2012-2013), an increase of 25 percent over the previous year. The Gala offered dinner and music performed by the NWACC Guitar Ensemble. NWACC’s own Wyley Elliott, Vice President for Public Relations and Development, and Meredith Brunen, Executive Director for Development, served as last-minute emcees when KNWA anchor Neile Jones had to cancel due to illness. The Gala also named 3 Quality of Life Honorees: The Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas, Donald E. “Buddy” Wray and McDonald’s of the Ozarks.

The Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas has been generous in its financial support and sponsorship of NWACC events and has made a lasting impact on the College and its students through investment and engagement through volunteer services.

Donald E. Wray serves as the Executive Vice President–Special Assistant to the President and Chief Executive Officer of Tyson Foods, Inc. Wray holds a bachelor’s degree from University of Arkansas and has served on the dean’s advisory boards for the Walton College of Business and Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences at the University. Wray currently serves on the boards of the Jones Center for Families, the Endeavor Foundation and the Care Foundation, National Board for the American Studies Institute and Arvest Bank.

McDonald’s of the Ozarks is operated and owned by Bill and Walter Mathews. The Mathews take pride in supporting projects essential for the community’s growth and have invested in local organizations like NorthWest Arkansas Community College and Ronald McDonald House Charities.