Dr. Evelyn Jorgenson will become the third President of NorthWest Arkansas Community College on July 1, 2013. The NWACC Board of Trustees on Dec. 6 approved a three-year contract with Dr. Evelyn Jorgenson to become the next President of the College.

Dr. Jorgenson’s contract continues through June 30, 2016. Dr. Becky Paneitz, current NWACC president, began her tenure in August 2003 and will continue to serve as the College’s chief executive until June 30, 2013.

The board chose Dr. Jorgenson, currently President of Moberly Area Community College, from among four finalists who visited Northwest Arkansas in November for interviews with the trustees and forums with various College and community stakeholders. Trustees approved pursuing a contract with Dr. Jorgenson at the board’s Nov. 12 meeting.

Prior to the naming of the finalists, a nationwide search was conducted with the aid of the Association of Community College Trustees. A presidential search committee, led by Trustee Randy Lawson and including such College stakeholders as faculty, staff, students, donors and community members, reviewed materials from 30 applicants from 17 different states for the position.

“We are delighted to have reached an agreement with Dr. Evelyn Jorgenson to serve as our next president,” said Alex Vasquez, chairman of the NWACC Board of Trustees. “I am confident she will be a great fit for the College and for Northwest Arkansas and will be able to build upon the great foundation laid by Dr. Bob Burns and by Dr. Becky Paneitz.”

Vasquez said the trustees wanted to commend Dr. Paneitz for providing significant lead time for the board to identify and hire her successor. Paneitz announced her retirement in April.

“Dr. Paneitz planned her retirement so that the College and the Board would have a smooth, seamless transition,” Vasquez said.

Dr. Jorgenson holds a doctorate in higher and adult education from the University of Missouri and a master’s degree in higher and adult education from the same institution. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Columbia College in Columbia, Mo., and an Associate of Arts from State Fair Community College in Sedalia, Mo.
NWACC Receives Gift from Washington Regional Medical Center

Officials from Washington Regional Medical Center announced a $250,000 gift Sept. 27 to benefit NWACC’s Center for Health Professions. The announcement was made during a gathering of board members, benefactors, community leaders, and friends on campus. In honor of this contribution, the Nursing Simulation Lab located on the first floor of the new center will bear the hospital’s name. The flexible lab space will feature high-tech simulators to encourage interactive patient care and engage NWACC nursing students in more than 100 scenarios, providing better exposure for practical training. The Center for Health Professions will open in January.

“We are thrilled to have Washington Regional’s generous support,” said NWACC President Becky Paneitz. “As a strong community partner, their involvement in our efforts provides invaluable opportunities for our students. We look forward to the continued collaboration between our two organizations, as well as the additional health care education that will result from this new facility.”

“We are proud of our longtime association with NWACC,” said Washington Regional CEO Bill Bradley. “We believe that our partnership is an investment in our community that will have a lasting impact throughout Northwest Arkansas.”

Bradley said Washington Regional considers the support of NWACC’s program to be an investment in training future health care professionals.

Mary Ross, Dean of Health Professions at NWACC, said state-of-the-art simulation training and collaboration among students in the health disciplines will be key components of the education provided in the new center. “The simulation experiences will better prepare students to provide patient care in the clinical environment,” Ross said. “In addition, the collaboration among the students from the disciplines of nursing, Respiratory Therapy, and EMT/Paramedic will mirror the working environment and ensure that our graduates enter the region’s health care workforce able to deliver the best in quality care.”

NWACC Adds Funeral Science Program

Arkansas State University-Mountain Home has accepted an invitation to expand its funeral science program to the campus of NorthWest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville beginning in January 2013.

Dr. Ted Phillips, Vice President for Learning at NWACC, said the College is pleased to be a part of the initiative. “This partnership will enable ASU-Mountain Home and NWACC to work together to provide our students with the education and expertise they need to be successful in this career field.”

ASU-Mountain Home’s Associate of Applied Science in Funeral Science is a 60-credit hour program offering the theoretical and practical application of funeral service education. Students are prepared for entry into the profession after graduation. The National Board Examination must be completed prior to graduation.

Through the partnership, the two campuses will combine their course offerings for students to complete the degree. Students may complete 32 credit hours offered from NWACC, with ASU-Mountain Home providing the remaining 28 credit hours through interactive distance delivery equipment.

In addition to combining the course offerings required for the funeral science degree, the two higher education institutions are pooling their grant funds made available from the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act to purchase the distance delivery equipment. Dr. Bailey noted, “While the Perkins Act allows for the pooling of funding between higher education institutions for an activity, officials with the Arkansas Department of Higher Education advise this is believed to be a first for the state of Arkansas.”
The NorthWest Arkansas Community College Foundation announced on Oct. 22 the awarding of a $1.3 million gift from Melba Shewmaker toward the renovation and furnishing of the Southern Region National Child Protection Training Center. Other financial support announced included:

- A $100,000 grant from the Walton Family Foundation.
- An additional gift of $25,000 from Mel and Vicki Redman that joins a $25,000 donation announced Feb. 24. The Redmans' contributions, totaling $50,000, will support a study lounge within the center.
- A $30,000 gift from the Bogle family, on behalf of Bob and Marilyn Bogle.
- A $25,000 gift from John and Emily Douglas that will support one of the center’s forensic interview rooms.
- A $25,000 gift from Johnelle Hunt that will support one of the center’s video playback rooms.
- A check for $401.61 presented by members of the First Lutheran School of Fort Smith’s Student Council. The sum was collected in a student-led fundraising initiative.

The donations will go toward the $3 million capital campaign needed to transform a former oncology building, now owned by the NWACC Foundation, into a state-of-the-art training facility that features a two-story mock home, mock courtrooms, child forensic interview rooms, a practice medical room and interactive video capabilities.

Victor Vieth, director of the NCPTC, was on hand for the Oct. 22 announcement. Stephanie Smith, a former prosecuting attorney, serves as director of the Southern Region NCPTC. Dr. Steve Gates, the college’s senior vice president for learning and provost, serves on the National Child Protection Training Center Board of Directors.

NWACC Culinary Projects Benefit From Van

NWACC’s culinary work is reaping the benefits of a new catering van. The purchase and outfitting of the vehicle, a 2012 Chevy Express van, was supported by the Walton Family Foundation.

NWACC Executive Chef Lou Rice said the van is a tremendous help to the college’s catering initiatives. The addition of the van, with features such as a tie bar system and special floor covering, makes catering simpler and more cost-effective for the college.

Previously, NWACC employees used their private vehicles for transporting food, and major events could require multiple trips. Having a designated van also lends an image of increased professionalism, Rice said. That’s important, both for the catering initiatives and for those student workers also studying in the college’s culinary program, he said. “We’ve always done a great product,” Rice said, “but now, this completes the package. It’s like the ‘icing on the top.’”

New Donations, Grant Top $1.5 Million

Major Gifts Announced for Southern Region National Child Protection Training Center at NWACC

The NorthWest Arkansas Community College Foundation announced on Oct. 22 the awarding of a $1.3 million gift from Melba Shewmaker toward the renovation and furnishing of the Southern Region National Child Protection Training Center. Other financial support announced included:

- A $100,000 grant from the Walton Family Foundation.
- An additional gift of $25,000 from Mel and Vicki Redman that joins a $25,000 donation announced Feb. 24. The Redmans’ contributions, totaling $50,000, will support a study lounge within the center.
- A $30,000 gift from the Bogle family, on behalf of Bob and Marilyn Bogle.
- A $25,000 gift from John and Emily Douglas that will support one of the center’s forensic interview rooms.
- A $25,000 gift from Johnelle Hunt that will support one of the center’s video playback rooms.
- A check for $401.61 presented by members of the First Lutheran School of Fort Smith’s Student Council. The sum was collected in a student-led fundraising initiative.

The donations will go toward the $3 million capital campaign needed to transform a former oncology building, now owned by the NWACC Foundation, into a state-of-the-art training facility that features a two-story mock home, mock courtrooms, child forensic interview rooms, a practice medical room and interactive video capabilities.

Major Gifts Announced for Southern Region National Child Protection Training Center at NWACC

The NorthWest Arkansas Community College Foundation announced on Oct. 22 the awarding of a $1.3 million gift from Melba Shewmaker toward the renovation and furnishing of the Southern Region National Child Protection Training Center. Other financial support announced included:

- A $100,000 grant from the Walton Family Foundation.
- An additional gift of $25,000 from Mel and Vicki Redman that joins a $25,000 donation announced Feb. 24. The Redmans’ contributions, totaling $50,000, will support a study lounge within the center.
- A $30,000 gift from the Bogle family, on behalf of Bob and Marilyn Bogle.
- A $25,000 gift from John and Emily Douglas that will support one of the center’s forensic interview rooms.
- A $25,000 gift from Johnelle Hunt that will support one of the center’s video playback rooms.
- A check for $401.61 presented by members of the First Lutheran School of Fort Smith’s Student Council. The sum was collected in a student-led fundraising initiative.

The donations will go toward the $3 million capital campaign needed to transform a former oncology building, now owned by the NWACC Foundation, into a state-of-the-art training facility that features a two-story mock home, mock courtrooms, child forensic interview rooms, a practice medical room and interactive video capabilities.

Victor Vieth, director of the NCPTC, was on hand for the Oct. 22 announcement. Stephanie Smith, a former prosecuting attorney, serves as director of the Southern Region NCPTC. Dr. Steve Gates, the college’s senior vice president for learning and provost, serves on the National Child Protection Training Center Board of Directors.

NWACC Culinary Projects Benefit From Van

NWACC’s culinary work is reaping the benefits of a new catering van. The purchase and outfitting of the vehicle, a 2012 Chevy Express van, was supported by the Walton Family Foundation.

NWACC Executive Chef Lou Rice said the van is a tremendous help to the college’s catering initiatives. The addition of the van, with features such as a tie bar system and special floor covering, makes catering simpler and more cost-effective for the college.

Previously, NWACC employees used their private vehicles for transporting food, and major events could require multiple trips. Having a designated van also lends an image of increased professionalism, Rice said. That’s important, both for the catering initiatives and for those student workers also studying in the college’s culinary program, he said. “We’ve always done a great product,” Rice said, “but now, this completes the package. It’s like the ‘icing on the top.’”

iGive

The spirit of giving was evident during the annual internal fundraising campaign this year, appropriately called, iGive. Over the course of a few short weeks, faculty, staff, and students donated $12,000 toward student scholarships and college initiatives. Overall donations increased 72 percent or $5,000 from 2011. Jasmine Pope, development coordinator, who was responsible for this campaign, said, “We are extremely pleased with the outcome and are thankful to have such generous members of our NWACC family!”
AATYC Honors 4 From NWACC

Hall, Sprott, Stephens-Mason, Yocky Recognized

Several representatives from NWACC were honored during the 24th annual Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges conference in Hot Springs Oct. 14-16.

Jeff Sprott was honored as NWACC’s Outstanding Faculty member. He is the Fire Science Program Director at NWACC, overseeing four-fold student growth in the program and serving on various committees. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Western Illinois University. During the past two years, he has been instrumental in helping the Fire Science Program attain accreditation through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress and in April was elected by his peers to serve a five-year term on IFSAc’s Degree Assembly Board of Governors. He has recently developed, in conjunction with Pea Ridge National Military Park, a Wildland Firefighter course.

Jim Hall was honored as NWACC’s Outstanding Staff member. Hall is the Executive Director for Community and Governmental Relations at NWACC. He has served the College as an employee for 21 years but actually began his deep commitment to the College in 1989 as a member of the College’s first Board of Trustees. He has been a successful advocate for students, their need for affordable access to quality education, their access to scholarships to ease their financial burden, and support for their persistence to achieve their goals.

D’Etta Stephens-Mason was recognized as an Academic All-Star. Stephens-Mason is a wife, mother, and student working toward completing her associate of arts degree. She reports that her most meaningful educational experience centers on Service Learning, where she has been a student leader for the Native American Advocacy Project. Stephens-Mason has served at the Cherokee Heritage Center, helping to clean up the grounds, repairing buildings, and giving presentations during the organization’s Indian Territory Days. Stephens-Mason plans to continue her education toward advanced degrees in history and Native American studies.

Catherine Lynn Yocky was recognized as NWACC’s Outstanding Alumni. She was employed full-time at a fast food restaurant while working to complete her associate of science degree from NWACC. After she obtained her degree in business in 1992, Yocky went to work for Wal-Mart Stores Inc. in the Accounting Division. She completed a bachelor’s degree and was then promoted to buyer’s assistant at the Sam’s Club Home Office. Yocky now works as a title commit of the Walmart Foundation in Rogers. She is responsible for obtaining construction permits and resolving any issues with the permitting process.

Chris Huggard Receives Howard Bryan Western History Honor

Chris Huggard, NWACC history professor, recently received the 2012 Howard Bryan Western History Award for his book, *Santa Rita Del Cobre: A Copper Mining Community* in New Mexico. In 2008 Dr. Huggard was awarded a sabbatical that allowed him to complete *Santa Rita Del Cobre*. The work tells the compelling story of a mining town that no longer exists because the open-pit mine nearby grew so large it swallowed up the town. The book has more than 120 illustrations and was published in 2012 by the University Press of Colorado.

The Howard Bryan honor, one of the New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards, was announced Nov. 16. Bryan, for whom the honor is named, was a journalist and historian who authored seven books, including a 1994 title that won the Spur Award from the Western Writers of America.

Public Relations & Marketing Team Honored at NCMPR

The Public Relations and Marketing team received three honors in the Medallion Awards presented by District 4 of the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations. Chris Holtman, the college’s public relations and social media specialist, received a Gold award in the social media campaign category for posts on Facebook and Twitter pertaining to the rollout of the college’s new logo and tagline.

Chris Holtman, Steven Hinds, Rob Hanlon, Tara Berry, Debbie Miller, and Wyley Elliott received a Silver award in the category of communications success story. The entry looked at publicity and promotion efforts pertaining to the announcement of a gift of $500,000 from the Walmart Foundation in the capital campaign for the renovation and furnishing of the Southern Region National Child Protection Training Center.

That same team, and Micah Milligan, Brian Clark and Gloria Garrison-Spalter, received a Bronze award in the category of printed newsletter. The honor was in recognition of the college’s internal newsletter, the NWACC Insight. Honors were presented Oct. 2 at the annual district conference at The Peabody in Little Rock.
Jim Hall Named Communicator of the Year

Jim Hall, executive director of community and government relations at NorthWest Arkansas Community College, was presented the 2012 Communicator of the Year award on Oct. 2 at the annual District 4 conference for the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations, held at The Peabody in Little Rock.

The award recognizes a marketing, public relations or communications professional at a two-year community or technical college who has demonstrated special leadership or ability in the area of college communications. District 4 of the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations includes Arkansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming. The National Council is divided into seven districts. As the District 4 honoree, Hall will now be nominated for the organization’s national Communicator of the Year award to be presented in March in Chicago.

Hill served on the founding Board of Trustees for the institution from 1989 to 1991. He joined the College staff in 1991 as a media specialist, becoming one of NWACC’s first employees.

Mary Moore Recognized as Tim and Jeff in the Morning’s ‘Teacher of the Week’

Mary Moore, Communication & Arts faculty member, was recognized as “Teacher of the Week” by Power 105.7’s “Tim and Jeff in the Morning” in October.

Daniel Yeager, one of Moore’s former students, wrote a letter into the top-rated morning show after the popular hosts put out a call for students to nominate a teacher who had made a significant impact on their lives.

Daniel wrote, “I would like to nominate Mary Moore, a faculty member here at NWACC, for Teacher of the Week. Mary Moore surpasses any other teacher I’ve EVER had. She teaches a lot of the social arts classes and has such a fun personality. She doesn’t speak to her students as if she has authority over them; instead she speaks to her students like they’re some of her closest friends. The fact that Mary does this, in such a genuine way, makes her students respect her more and honestly care about the discussions that are brought up during class. The atmosphere she creates in the classroom can’t even be compared to any other classroom experience I’ve had, in a good way. Not only did she help me grow in academic knowledge, she helped me apply what I learned in her class to everyday life experiences.”

With the help of Dr. Anita Jones, Dean of Communication and Arts, Tim, Jeff, and Daniel surprised Mary with her recognition. Mary received a number of prizes, and the department was treated to a pizza lunch.

NWACC IT Ranks Among Top-Rated in United States

NWACC’s information technology services were recently rated among the nation’s Top 10 community colleges, according to Converge Online and eRepublic’s Center for Digital Education. NWACC ranked second nationally among community colleges in the “Large Colleges” category, which have 10,000 or more students on campus. Last year, NWACC ranked sixth among “Mid-Sized Colleges”.

The College was recognized for its outstanding use and implementation of technology services across campus. This year alone, NWACC IT launched its mobile-themed technologies, upgraded its Blackboard distance learning platform, and added a mobile charging station to its campus resources. Additionally, student, faculty, and staff surveys were utilized to get feedback on the tools and technology resources used and needed across campus.

The recent Educause student survey looked at technology involvement in college curriculum and campus life, specifically documenting use of technology in online admissions processes, distance education, technology training for students and faculty, campus security alerts, use of Web 2.0 social and collaborative capabilities, and online tutoring and advisory services.

Life Sciences Faculty Publishes Articles in Scientific Journals

Jacques Hill, Life Sciences faculty member, recently published two articles on snake ecology in international, peer-reviewed scientific journals. The first article discussed the dietary and behavioral notes on the Rednecked Keelback (Rhabdophis subminiatus) from northeast Thailand, while the second highlighted a non-invasive method for sampling gastrointestinal tract bacteria in snakes.

Hill has been conducting research on snakes in the United States and Thailand for about 20 years.
NorthWest Arkansas Community College faculty and staff recently celebrated the official notification that the institution has received continued accreditation. A reception was held Monday, Dec. 3, in the College’s Student Center that allowed faculty and staff to learn more about the recent accreditation actions and the continuous quality improvement process. The College uses the Commission’s Academic Quality Improvement Program as its system for accreditation.

NWACC was notified by an Oct. 26 letter that the Institutional Actions Council of the Higher Learning Commission voted to continue the accreditation of NWACC with the next reaffirmation of accreditation in the 2019-20 academic year. The Higher Learning Commission is a commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. "We are extremely pleased about the Higher Learning Commission’s action, and we look forward to continuing the process of improving our ability to serve our students effectively,” said Dr. Becky Paneitz, NWACC President. Dr. Steven Gates, Senior Vice President for Learning and Provost, said “This celebration is really a tribute to our faculty and staff for their commitment to providing our learners with a quality college experience. I want to thank our Quality Council and all of the individuals involved in the successful completion of our AQIP action projects. I also commend the Effectiveness Committee’s preparation for the site visit this summer. The team was very impressed and even asked our staff to consider presenting at Higher Learning Commission meetings.”

NWACC hosted a Quality Checkup team from the Higher Learning Commission this summer as part of the review process. The team of Dave Overbye, dean of Academic Affairs at Realtor University, and Jill Wright, dean of English, Social Sciences, and Language Studies at Illinois Central College, met with various groups from NWACC July 16-18 to talk through topics such as leadership, planning and institutional performance evaluation. A report based on the team’s visit noted that the College uses principles of quality and process-focus to guide its daily and overall actions. “The AQIP principles are evident among its business, academic, and support services,” the team wrote. “Collectively, all groups work toward the goal of quality, and this drives its ability to understand process design, data collection (both qualitative and quantitative), measurement, data analysis, and improvement.”
Reflections On Eventful Fall, Spring

We are entering the holiday season and the closing out of another semester, and I continue to be inspired and amazed by all the accomplishments of our College’s faculty, staff and students. Elsewhere in this edition of the Insight you will read about achievements by so many in our college community. We hope that if you have an extra moment in the hustle and bustle of this season that you will take the time to congratulate these accomplished individuals.

You also will have the opportunity to read that the campaign for the National Child Protection Training Center is progressing well, with this initiative now at more than 80 percent of goal. We appreciate the donations of a very generous community in making the Southern Region center a reality. In October, we announced a $1.3 million gift from Melba Shewmaker toward the renovation and furnishing of this important learning laboratory for those on the front lines of the battle against child abuse. The Board of Trustees recently accepted a recommendation, and the building will now be known as the Melba Shewmaker Southern Region National Child Protection Training Center. We are hoping to meet our fundraising goal soon and to begin construction in 2013.

So far, it doesn’t appear that the new year will be any slower or less eventful. We would ask that you mark Jan. 18 on your calendars as the date of the anticipated grand opening for our new Center for Health Professions. Mary Ross, her instructional team, and our students are so excited about the opportunities this new center will provide in preparing individuals in many fields to deliver top quality care in clinics, hospitals and other patient care centers throughout our region.

While we are updating our 2013 calendars, I also would suggest that you please put on your calendar our Plant A Seed Scholarship Gala, scheduled for April 4 at the John Q. Hammons Center in Rogers.

The next six months will be eventful for me and for NWACC, too, as I close out my tenure at this wonderful community institution. I continue to feel honored to serve as your president, and I appreciate the support that I have enjoyed from faculty, staff and the Board of Trustees during the past 9 ½ years. Like all of you, I remain passionate about the work of the college and committed to the success of our students.

In the coming weeks, I look forward to working with Dr. Evelyn Jorgenson during the transition process. Evelyn will be visiting our campus a few times during the spring semester to become better acquainted with our College and with you, and I hope you will take those opportunities to meet her and to welcome her to our community college.

In the meantime, I wish each of you a bright holiday season and a joyous new year.

Faculty News >>>

Sean Fitzgibbon Lends Talent to Local Documentary

Sean Fitzgibbon, adjunct faculty member in the art department, recently lent his artistic talents to the local documentary, Up Among the Hills. Written and directed by Larry Foley, Emmy award-winning filmmaker and University of Arkansas journalism professor, and narrated by President Bill Clinton, the film details the history of Fayetteville and Mr. John Lewis, who was known as “Mr. Fayetteville”.

Fitzgibbon was contacted by Foley in May 2012 about putting together two time-lapse sequences of the Fayetteville square as it is today and as it was in the 1920s. An overhead mounted camera recorded Fitzgibbon’s renderings using stop motion image capture software. The end result is a sequence in which the Fayetteville downtown square appears to be quickly drawn and painted by unseen hands. The painting then comes to life while merging seamlessly with the film of the square during farmers market in the spring.

“I really enjoyed working with director Larry Foley and director of photography Hayot Tuychiev. I was very happy with the results,” Fitzgibbon said. “I really learned a great deal from the experience and I look forward to working with them again in the future. If you haven’t seen the film, I recommend checking it out.”
The NWACC Foundation and President Paneitz hosted a joint Holiday Reception on Dec. 6 at the Center for Nonprofits in Rogers. The 250+ guests enjoyed hors d’oeuvres by the NWACC Culinary and Hospitality students, as well as musical entertainment by the NWACC Jazz Band and Guitar Ensemble.

The event combined two annual activities and allowed the College and Foundation to recognize and honor its supporters. Dr. Paneitz specifically recognized those who had served on the Board of Trustees and the Foundation Board during her tenure. Jim Hall, executive director of community and government relations, and Dr. Paneitz recognized several legislators who have advocated for the College.

State Senator-elect Jon Woods, who attended NWACC and then went on to the University of Arkansas to receive his business degree, was presented with Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees, representing the first to be presented under the new reverse transfer agreement between NWACC and the UofA.