BENTONVILLE, Ark. (January 11, 2013) – Mauricio Herrera of Rogers and Geovanny Sarmiento of Bentonville are joining the NorthWest Arkansas Community College Board of Trustees, following their recent appointment by Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe.

Herrera is a partner at the law firm of Matthews, Campbell, Rhoads, McClure and Thompson in Rogers. His work with the firm entails general practice law with an emphasis in criminal, immigration and family law. He was born in Texistepeque, Santa Ana, El Salvador, and immigrated to Los Angeles in 1984. He became a resident of Northwest Arkansas in January 1996 when he relocated from Los Angeles with his wife, Virginia, and three children. He holds a Bachelor of Science from John Brown University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas School of Law. He also is involved in such nonprofit activities as the CARE and Endeavor Foundations and Credit Counseling of Arkansas, and he serves on the board of directors for Main Street Rogers. He is also involved at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Community and is a member of the Northwest Arkansas Emerging Leaders.

Sarmiento is vice president for minority business development at the Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. Before his current role with the chamber, Sarmiento worked in the retail banking industry, where he held various management roles and also led community development and outreach efforts. He was born in Cuenca, Ecuador. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Azuay in Cuenca, Ecuador, and is the first in his family to graduate from college. He moved to the United States in 1998 and lives in Bentonville with his wife Lisa and their two daughters. His accomplishments and activities in Northwest Arkansas include creating the Minority Leadership Council while working with the Rogers Police Department and Rogers Public Schools and serving on the Northwest Arkansas Council’s Higher Education and Diversity Strategy task forces.

Herrera, representing District 8, and Sarmiento, representing District 5, will join three returning board members and four new trustees who were elected during the November general election.
Trustees are qualified electors of the College’s taxing district, the Bentonville and Rogers school districts. All nine of the trustees will be sworn in at 3:45 p.m. Monday, Nov. 14, by Benton County Circuit Judge R. Doug Schrantz. The installation ceremony will be in the Board of Trustees meeting room on the third floor of Burns Hall in Bentonville. Board members will draw lots for the terms they will serve on the board. Three will serve for two years, three for four years and three for six years.

New trustees elected to the board in November were:

- Amy Forrest of Rogers, representing District 7. Forrest is a native of Tennessee and graduated magna cum laude in nursing from Middle Tennessee State University. A registered nurse, she is vice president of compliance and privacy for Northwest Health System. She has served in that capacity since the position’s inception in 1997 and is a certified healthcare compliance officer. She has more than 30 years of hospital experience, primarily in management. She serves on several local and state boards, including Northwest Medical Center’s Institutional Review Board for Clinical Trials and the foundation board for the Adult Development Center. She serves in Rogers with her husband Michael and has five children.

- Scott Grigsby of Bella Vista, representing District 1. Grigsby was born in Neosho, Mo., and he earned a bachelor’s degree in banking and finance from the University of Arkansas. In later years he completed the School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Upon completion of his degree from Arkansas, he took a job with the Federal Reserve Bank in St. Louis as a bank examiner. From there he moved to Tulsa, Okla., where he took on the role of registered representative at Smith Barney Harris Upham. He then moved back to his hometown to work at First National Bank of Neosho. Following the sale of that bank, he joined Union National Bank in Streator, Ill., and became president of the bank at age 32. During his tenure there, he served on the Illinois Valley Community College Board of Trustees, including a stint as chairman. He has been married to his wife Shawn since 1975, and the couple has two children and two grandchildren. The Grigsby family moved back to Northwest Arkansas in 2000, where Grigsby works as executive vice president and regional manager as well as a board member of Arvest Bank.

- Todd Schwartz of Bentonville, representing District 4. Schwartz earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Iowa in 1990 and a Master of Science in Management Technology from the University of Wisconsin – Stout in 1994. In 1989, he accepted a commission through Army ROTC. He served eight years in various logistics positions in the Army Reserve. While serving during Operations Desert Storm and Shield, he earned the Meritorious Service Medal. He joined Walmart in 1994 and transferred to the Walmart Home Office in 1996. He joined Misco Enterprises in 2002 and is vice president of the Walmart sales team. He and his wife Tammy reside in Bentonville and have one son.

- Daniel Shewmaker, who lives in an unincorporated area just north of Bentonville, representing District 2. Shewmaker graduated from Bentonville High School in 1978 after moving here in 1970. He received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 1982. After earning his pilot wings at Vance Air Force Base, Lieutenant Shewmaker flew fighters during two tours at Moody Air Force Base. In 1989 he moved home to Bentonville and joined the Arkansas Air National Guard. He has served as the Operations Group Commander with the 188th in Fort Smith and Vice Wing Commander with the 189th at Little Rock Air Force Base.
He retired from the military as a colonel in June 2012. Shewmaker is the manager and limited partner of JAC’s Ranch and has worked there since 1989. JAC’s Ranch is a pure breed Black Angus cattle operation located between Bentonville and Pea Ridge. He also serves on the Enactus USA executive board and the Westark Area Council, Boy Scouts of America executive board. He and his wife Dayle have two children.

Trustees who will continue to serve on the board are:

- Ric Clifford of Rogers, representing District 6. Clifford became a resident of Rogers when he joined Del Monte Foods in 2002 as vice president of sales, Walmart team leader. He has more than 25 years’ experience in the consumer packaged goods industry. His decision to serve on the board is a continuation of his engagement with and involvement in the local community. He currently serves on the Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Executive Committee as chairman-elect. He is a member of the Business Advisory Board for the NWACC chapter of Enactus (formerly Students in Free Enterprise) and is an active volunteer with the Northwest Arkansas Children’s Shelter. He and his wife Beverly have two sons.

- Mike Shupe of Rogers, representing District 3. Shupe is a native of Stuttgart and retired in 2012 as chairman of CEI Engineering Associates Inc. After graduating from the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering in 1966, and a Master of Business Administration in 1970, Shupe co-founded CEI as a civil engineering and surveying firm with a staff of five. It grew into a full service professional firm with a work force of more than 240 associates and nine offices coast to coast. Shupe has been instrumental in the growth of Northwest Arkansas, having overseen more than 50 projects at the Rogers Municipal Airport and major work at the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport. He is a commissioner and past chairman of the Rogers Planning Commission, a past member of the Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, a past member of the NWACC Foundation Board, and co-founder of the Ozark Natural Science Center. He and his wife Mary have two children, both of whom reside in Rogers.

- Joe Spivey of Rogers, representing District 9. Spivey is a native of Rogers and earned a Bachelor of Science in Business from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro and a Master of Science in Education from the University of Arkansas. Spivey served as Director of Student Life and Academic Support and as an Academic Counselor for the Athletic Department at the University of Arkansas, and also as Director of Cooperative Education at UA. Spivey currently is the community president with Liberty Bank of Arkansas, serving the Rogers and Bentonville markets. He has served on the boards of directors of the NWACC Foundation, Carroll Electric Cooperative, St. Mary's Hospital Foundation, Rogers Baseball Association, Friends of Hobbs State Park, Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, Rogers Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, and the Benton County United Way and he also has served on the Subiaco Academy Board of Trustees. He and his wife Suzanne have two children. Spivey is active with the United States Naval Academy, where he serves as a Blue and Gold Officer.

Clifford has been chosen to serve as board chairman in 2013, and Spivey has been selected as vice chairman. Spivey also serves as chairman of the College’s Land Use and Facilities Committee.

NorthWest Arkansas Community College is a smart choice for students wanting to pursue quality higher education. As an accredited institution through The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, NWACC is a public two-year institution that serves and strengthens its surrounding communities in Benton and Washington counties by helping our students maximize
their potential and exceed expectations. With state-of-the-art facilities, NWACC provides excellent academic instruction and workforce training needed to succeed, offering personalized attention from highly respected faculty, staff, and administrators. For more information, visit www.nwacc.edu.