NWACC Foundation Hosts Annual Gala

Guests Invited to ‘Plant A Seed’ for Future Students

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (February 27, 2013) – Northwest Arkansas Community College Foundation is hosting its 10th annual Scholarship Gala, Thursday evening, April 4, at the John Q. Hammons Center in Rogers.

In addition to celebrating the important role higher education plays in creating better lives for community residents, attendees also will be celebrating a decade of service by NWACC President Dr. Becky Paneitz who will retire from the College on June 30.

The general reception will begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. The evening will feature a variety of entertainment from Symphony of Northwest Arkansas, Washington Regional Medical Center’s Mark Bever, as well as the Thursday Night Band. NWACC students will once again serve as celebrity waiters. Event proceeds will benefit scholarships for NWACC students for the coming academic year.

Each year the NWACC Foundation honors individuals and organizations with a prestigious Quality of Life Award. The awards recognize those who have helped build and sustain the exceptional quality of life we all enjoy in Northwest Arkansas. This year, the Foundation Board of Directors is honoring David Thrasher, Northwest Arkansas Council, and Susan Chambers for their vision and leadership in our community.

David Thrasher is being honored with a Quality of Life Award for his dedication of time, talents, and financial contributions to NorthWest Arkansas Community College. A true servant leader, David has been an active member of the NWACC Foundation Board of Directors, serving as Board Chair for eight years. Under his leadership, the Foundation successfully completed a $16 million capital campaign, as well as provided innovative funding solutions for other College projects that have received national recognition. David and his wife, Linda, are founding members of the Foundation’s newly formed Post Oak Society, which recognizes those who have left a legacy gift to benefit future generations of NWACC students.

A fifth generation Rogers resident, David has spent more than 30 years helping to create a more prosperous future for his fellow community members. In addition to owning and
operating his own business, Thrasher & Chambers, David also devotes his time and resources to numerous local nonprofit organizations. His fingerprint can be seen throughout the community as he has positively impacted countless organizations with his selfless volunteerism.

Northwest Arkansas Council has been selected to receive a Quality of Life Award for its commitment to making Northwest Arkansas a better place to live and work. The private, nonprofit organization serves as a catalyst and collaborator for finding solutions to the opportunities and challenges facing this thriving region by developing and implementing strategy for improving Northwest Arkansas in four focus areas: regional economic development, community vitality, educational excellence, and infrastructure. Through continued focus in these key areas, Northwest Arkansas will remain great for business, great for life and globally competitive.

Actively supported and empowered by high-level executive leaders at homegrown, world-class corporations such as Walmart, Sam’s Club, Tyson Foods and J.B. Hunt Transport Services, Northwest Arkansas Council is in a unique position to connect companies or families with key stakeholders and influencers. The active leadership behind the success story of this region continues to be a key differentiator.

Susan Chambers is being recognized with a Quality of Life Award for her outstanding commitment to workforce development and education, as well as her personal connection with NorthWest Arkansas Community College. Serving as Executive Vice President of the People Division at Walmart, Susan is responsible for managing, attracting, and retaining the nation’s largest private workforce and reports directly to Walmart President and CEO Mike Duke. She has been named as one of the “50 Most Powerful Women” by Fortune Magazine.

Susan and her husband, Chip, truly believe in the mission of NorthWest Arkansas Community College and are members of the President’s Circle, a giving society that helps to provide student hardship assistance, as well as addresses other student-related priorities.


Tickets to the NWACC Foundation’s Plant A Seed Gala are $100 per person. Table sponsorships and program ads are also available; interested individuals and organizations may contact the NWACC Foundation office at 479-619-4184 for additional details.

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.