NWACC officials receive Lideres de Corazon awards

Paneitz, Aldama honored by ALPFA

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (Sept. 20, 2011) – NorthWest Arkansas Community College President Dr. Becky Paneitz was recently honored by a national Latino organization for her service to the Hispanic community, and Ben Aldama, the college’s Dean of Adult Education, received the organization’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

ALPFA, the largest Latino association in the nation for business professionals and students, honored Paneitz with the Lideres de Corazon Award for Higher Education. NWACC currently has a 13 percent Latino population on its campus, up from 11 percent a year ago. NWACC also has an ALPFA chapter on its campus.

Aldama leads the college’s English as a Second Language program, which provides free English language classes to hundreds of non-English-speaking residents of Northwest Arkansas.

The award ceremony coincided with an event announcing the formation of the ALPFA Institute in Northwest Arkansas. Eight-term Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, D-Calif., was also a special guest at the event.

Northwest Arkansas has become a destination for the next generation of Latino leaders. It has a thriving business community with headquarters for more than 1,200 businesses and 60 Fortune 500 firms, including Walmart, Proctor and Gamble, J.B. Hunt and Tyson Foods. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that Arkansas is one of eight states where the Latino population has more than doubled over the past decade.

NorthWest Arkansas Community College is a comprehensive, public two-year college that serves and strengthens the community through learning for living. NWACC’s service area is defined by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education as Benton and Washington counties in extreme northwest Arkansas. The commitment of NWACC to life-long learning can be seen in the quality of instruction it offers, and the variety of programs it has designed to move students into the job market in a minimum amount of time, enrich people's lives, and prepare them to further their education. For more information, visit www.nwacc.edu.