

Shewmaker family donating \$2 million to NWACC Foundation

ROGERS (Friday, May 11, 2007) – The Jack Shewmaker family of Bentonville will donate \$2 million to the NorthWest Arkansas Community College Foundation to be used toward the construction of an entrepreneurial center and the nursing program.

NWACC President Dr. Becky Paneitz announced the gift during the 17th annual NWACC Commencement ceremony Friday night, May 11, at the John Q. Hammons Center.

The NWACC Board of Trustees voted at a specially called 6 p.m. Friday meeting prior to Commencement to name the entrepreneurial center after the family.

The Entrepreneurial Center will be constructed next to the Shewmaker Center for Workforce Technologies (SCWT), which opened in fall 2003.

“Shewmaker Center” will reference both the current SCWT and the Entrepreneurial Center. WD&D Architects, which designed the Shewmaker Center for Workforce Technologies, is working on a schematic rendering of appropriate signage. WD&D is the architect designing the Entrepreneurial Center.

The NWACC Foundation announced on April 26, 2007, a gift of \$4 million from the Walton Family Foundation toward the Entrepreneurial Center. That gift is contingent on the NWACC Foundation matching it over a two year period.

Of the Shewmaker family’s \$2 million gift, \$1.8 million will be applied toward the \$4 million Walton Family Foundation match for the Entrepreneurial Center and \$200,000 will be for NWACC’s nursing program.

The Shewmaker family donated \$1 million toward the Shewmaker Center for Workforce Technologies and challenged associates of Wal-Mart Stores and SAM’S CLUB to match it, which they did in 2002-2003.

“Shortly after I arrived at the College I had the pleasure of meeting Jack and his family,” Dr. Paneitz said. “Over the years we have developed a deep and lasting relationship, based on a mutual vision of serving students and trust.

“The family has become great friends and supporters of the College and its mission of strengthening and serving our community.

“Jack is a true servant leader who has played a major role in changing students’ lives for the better. I am proud to have him as a mentor and to count him as a friend of the College.”

Mr. Shewmaker is the honorary chairman of the \$16 million NWACC Capital Campaign, which to date has raised \$13.6 million.

“Jack was involved in the conceptualization of the campaign,” Dr. Paneitz said. “We’re this far along because of Jack’s direct, hands-on involvement and now because of the generosity of his family.”

Dr. Paneitz and NWACC’s Outstanding Graduate, Audie Weatherford, presented the family with a scrapbook of photographs of the family at NWACC activities and letters from students. The letters expressed students’ appreciation for the Shewmakers’ generosity and for their friendship and support.

“Our family members are proud residents of Northwest Arkansas,” Jack Shewmaker said. “We very much want to see residents of the community have opportunities to improve their lives, so that as many residents as possible have the chance to participate and benefit from the opportunities being created in the Northwest Arkansas economy.

“We believe we have a responsibility to make Northwest Arkansas a good place to live for everyone.”

Mr. Shewmaker added: “In our opinion NorthWest Arkansas Community College provides affordable, accessible and quality education programs that fulfill education and training needs for many residents.

The Shewmaker Family believes our \$2 million gift, matching part of the Walton Family Foundation gift, will support NWACC as it provides residents additional educational opportunities.

“NWACC deserves our support.”

Jack Shewmaker is an executive consultant recognized internationally for his retailing expertise. He retired as an officer of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. in 1988, after serving in numerous capacities including President and Chief Operating Officer, and Vice Chairman and Chief Financial Officer. He continues as a member of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Shewmaker also serves as an Advisory Board Member for Henkel, North America and on both the Executive and Finance Committees of the Board of Trustees of The Cleveland Clinic.

He is involved in several organizations that promote higher education. For several years he was Chairman of Students in Free Enterprise, Inc. (SIFE) in Springfield, Missouri and continues to serve that group as an executive board member.

He and his family own and operate JAC's Ranch, one of the largest cattle operations in Northwest Arkansas, breeding and showing registered Black Angus. The JAC's Ranch program has produced national champions and sells product to national and international customers.

Jack and his wife, Melba, reside in Bentonville, Arkansas. Their family includes one son, Daniel Shewmaker, his wife Dayle, and children Amy and Mark; daughter Shari Steiger, her husband Lamar, and children Emily, Eli, and Olivia; and daughter Emily Bremer, her husband Keith, and children Danielle, Holly and Lisa Lloyd, and Brady and Ashley Bremer.

Several members of the Shewmaker family attended the Commencement ceremony. A reception was held after Commencement to toast the Shewmaker family.

Mr. Shewmaker is expected to attend Saturday's 2 p.m. Nursing Pinning Ceremony, which honors the 51 graduates with the Associate Degree in Nursing.