Approved February 22, 2017

Northland Pioneer College

Community Outreach Meeting

Held at Winslow City Hall February 15, 2017 from 1 to 2:30 PM

MINUTES

Attending: Linda Dickson, Head Start, Andreas Harings, DES Workforce, Rickey Jackson

Dean of Arts and Sciences NPC, Tess Kenna and Lawrence Kenna, Kenna Enterprises, Berry Larsen, Warden ADOC, , Marshall Losey, Winslow Senior Center, Dr. Debra McGinty Dean of Nursing NPC, Steve Pauken, City of Winslow, Tabitha Spears, Wells Fargo Bank,

Ina Sommers LCC Campus Manager, NPC

Meeting Facilitators: Dr. Debra McGinty and Dean Rickey Jackson

Meeting Location: Winslow City Hall Conference Room

Dr. McGinty opened the meeting by introducing herself and Rickey Jackson and asking all in attendance to introduce themselves.

Tess Kenna thanked the facilitators for bringing the meeting to Winslow by meeting at City Hall rather than asking the community to meet at the college.

Berry Larsen asked if it’s possible to offer online degrees. She has funding available for education reimbursement for prison personnel but Rio Salado is the only option. She would like to see the money stay in Winslow.

Andrea Harings mentioned the difficulty of completing Science classes when the class is in Winslow and the lab is in Show Low. It makes completing a degree nearly impossible.

Tess Kenna encouraged NPC to become more pro-active in offering online degrees and offering classes in Winslow for degree completion. She agreed that driving to Show Low for a lab class is a real hardship for most students.

Lawrence Kenna pointed out that Winslow students who are forced to register at other campuses aren’t counted as Winslow students, which falsely reduces our enrollment numbers.

Mr. Kenna also mentioned how difficult it is to navigate the MyNPC website. As a student he had a hard time logging in, finding his schedule of classes, grades, etc. He asked that the website be revamped to be easier to use.

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Rickey Jackson talked about TALON, a grant-funded program that brings general education college courses through high-tech conferencing to students at 10 area high schools.

The program gives high school students a head start on their college careers. There is a real possibility that at the end of the grant the conferencing equipment will be utilized to offer week-end classes for students from local communities.

Mrs. Kenna asked if Science classes other than those offered for health care professions could be offered. Rickey answered that NPC is currently moving in that direction as well as for math courses. Currently 87% of students are non-STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Math. The college recognizes that a different pathway needs to be made available to these students. However, it’s a long, slow process to make these types of major curriculum changes.

Steve Pauken was interested in the Transportation Survey currently underway at NPC.

The Winslow City Council has approved a $20,000 grant to fund a study with NAU to look at limited public transportation between Winslow and Holbrook and Winslow and Flagstaff. He thinks this transportation would be very beneficial to NPC and NAU students. The study will be concluded in the spring of 2018. Mr. Pauken said he would take the NPC online survey to determine if our two plans inter-connect.

Mr. Pauken also informed the group that Bales Avenue won’t be extended from the campus to connect with the street in the Winslow Plaza neighborhood. Residents there are very opposed to connecting the two streets. Ina pointed out that future projects need to consider the safety of students and community members on campus which needs to include an alternate exit route from the Winslow campus.

Marshall Losey said he came to the meeting representing the Winslow Senior Center to gather information about classes and activities that might be of interest to the senior community. He said there is interest in technology and using computers and other electronics as well as basic geology, astronomy, and local history. Rickey Jackson mentioned that college staff is gathering information from local communities about creating a Senior College that would offer short term classes on these types of classes. This fall a class on dinosaurs will be offered for the first time.

Mr. Losey is an employee at the Little Colorado Medical Center. He mentioned that Winslow nursing students come to the hospital highly skilled and ready to work. He said he is very impressed with the level of training they receive at NPC.

Dr. McGinty and Mr. Jackson were asked by the group what they saw as concerns for the college that the community should be aware of. Mr. Jackson replied that he is concerned about the impact the closure of the Navajo Generating Station will have on the Cholla Power Plant and how it will affect the tax base.

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Another concern is declining equalization funding from the state that impacts NPC budgets including funding to hire qualified faculty which, in turn, affects the courses NPC can offer.

Dr. McGinty said one of her main concerns is that new nursing students are less qualified than in the past. She wants nursing students at NPC who have every chance to succeed. The goal is to increase the probability for success for every student entering the program. Another challenge is finding qualified instructors who not only teach the students but also transform them into skilled, successful nurses.

Tabitha Spears thanked the college for the invitation to the meeting. She mentioned that education in banking and money management is very important and needed by students and community members. Wells Fargo offers free, short term Hands-On Banking Workshops that are very informative and can be arranged at any time.

Dr. McGinty adjourned the meeting at 2:30 and thanked everyone for attending. Everyone in attendance indicated it had been a very informative and worthwhile meeting. We discussed briefly the idea of holding the meeting next year in the City Council chambers and inviting the community at large to attend. Those in attendance were enthusiastic about the idea and felt that it would be a good way to encourage more community awareness, interest, and involvement in the college.

Minutes prepared by Ina Sommers.

February 21, 2017