

The Learning Cornerstone
Community Advisory Committee Meeting
February 10, 2010

Attending:

Marlene Begay-NDWD-Greasewood
Helen Billy-TANF/PNSSR
Jason Cash-WIA Show Low
Clara Chicharello-NDWD Ft Defiance
Roxanne Dean- Job Corps Winslow
Claude Endfield- Early Childhood Development NPC
Eric Henderson-Dean of Arts & Sciences NPC
Rickey Jackson-Director of Development Services
Dawn Johnson-Special Sites Coordinator-Developmental Services NPC
Karalea Kowren- Apache County NPC
Holly Nelson-WIA Show Low
Zoe Payne-Special Sites Coordinator
Cheryl Plummer-Assistant to the Secretary-Developmental Services NPC
Pam Turley- Holbrook Head Start
Pres Winslow-Center for Career & College Advising

Minutes of November 4, 2009 were approved with changes.
Brief self introductions were made by all attending

NPC Reports

Rickey Jackson-Director of Development Services

Welcome! I know that everyone is stressed right now; we have a smaller staff and increased workloads. I just want to thank you all for being here and traveling the distance. I started looking at the Advisory Committee and I started thinking that I need your input on this. I also want to go over a few minor changes for this next year.

For fall 2010: We want to establish a G.E.D. preparation and also some developmental courses and some A.V. courses. We want to do this because the natures of the courses, as you all know, for your clients and our students; life gets in the way of these courses fairly quickly. For some over the course of a 17 week semester, many are not able to complete the courses. So, we're looking at using our orientations more efficiently and therefore creating these types of lab situations for students.

As for curriculum changes, just to let you all know, we are a distance learning provider, which Dawn will discuss more about this later, but with the curriculum with the distance learning right now, it will continue to come from the state but we can add to it. That is one of the things that we are looking at to help students improve. You will also see changes to our reading curriculum and there will be improvements in that area. Full time faculty are each in charge of a portion of the curriculum, what we are doing right now we are reassigning the areas of strength to the staff and giving some of the responsibilities to different people. So, you will see changes in the curriculum that we will be giving the students, but mainly on the reading because it is an issue with all of our students and it is an issue nationwide and so we want to look at how we can better equip students with vocabulary and also to improve students grades.

One of the big changes is that we will no longer have to worry about the coordinator running out of books. We can now purchase the books for the students through ecampus.com and you won't have to include that in the tuition anymore and you won't have to send out any paperwork. You can simply just purchase the book for the student. You simply go to ecampus.com and you can look for the books that you need. Just to give you an idea, I went in and looked up our most

popular book for fractions which is Number Power 2. This site gives you the option to buy the book new or used, and is a lower cost to the student. You can also rent the book from this website for the student, although that might be a little risky for you. Therefore if your agency helps support that student it will be a lower cost for you. However, there are a couple of books that are more expensive than the NPC bookstore, but for the most part it will be savings overall. This will begin in the summer; we will talk about the summer schedule later. This is how books will be purchased from now on and the books can be purchased with a credit card, money orders, at ecampus.com. There will be a mark up short page set up for NPC, that will go right into this site and there will be a list of the books needed for the classes, so that you won't have to know exactly what book the student needs, you can just go to this site and it will tell you what books the student needs. We are hoping that this will help us get students registered earlier, and then students can get their books sooner. As of right now it is harder for Zoe to get the books to the campuses especially in the snow, and the same thing goes for our courier. This way UPS will deliver the books right to your home and the website says that it will be delivered anywhere from 3-5 days but for typical Arizona mail it normally takes anywhere from 6-7 days. There is another concern that we have to consider and that is that on the reservation there are no residential addresses, so we were considering that the books would have to be delivered to the instructor. The college has to spend roughly a million dollars purchasing the books to be sold in the book store, which we normally make back when we sell the books, but what sometimes happens is that we have a huge book inventory and then what has happened in the past is that some of the third party agencies don't give us a payment for the book so then NPC is left holding onto the bill.

One way we can get this to work and speed it up is to have orientation before classes begin and get students registered early and get their paperwork taken care of early and that way they get the books before classes start. Therefore there will be early orientation implemented at every site. That is the only way that we will be able to do this. We will need your help with this and you being able to get the folks that you work with to come in early and to get students to show up early. We only have two locations that are not filled up. We have waiting list at almost all locations for many different topics, such as TLC and some for financial aid complications. We will discuss more in depth about this in May when the new semester approaches and at that time we will have a list of dates for orientation for each site.

In reference to the budget challenges for summer 2010, all centers will be closed. However, they will re-open in fall 2010. Only the campuses will be open during the summer 2010 semester. However, we will have summer school sites. There will be a 5 week summer school program in Pinon and Greasewood starting in May 2010. There will be a 4 week summer school program in Snowflake. There will also be a one summer school lab class during the day time only in Show Low, Holbrook, and Winslow which will be in June and July of 2010. There will only be 20 students at each one of these sites.

State aid was reduced for July and the college was able to receive its third quarter payments (fall) which helped, but with the Governor's new Budget proposal effective January 1, 2010, she decided to no longer fund Adult Education in this state. This means that there will be no G.E.D. testing in the state of Arizona. We get Federal funds and the state has to manage at least 25%. Right now it is about \$11.5 million that the state receives from the Federal government and the state puts up \$4.4 million.

ABE budget, if this cut does happen it will cut close to 45% of what the college would have to make and this would be a significant cut in the budget and it would cut how many students that we could serve and we will not be able to create new classes or new opportunities for our students. Fort Defiance, Pinon, Ganado, and Greasewood we want to continue to offer classes there but we will not be able to withstand in these areas. There is going to be a press conference on February 17, 2010 at the State Capital. Sylvia Allen is the representative for our district and she voted to cut Adult Education.

Adult Literacy Week, this is a state wide proclamation from the Governor to promote Adult Literacy. We will be having our 5th Annual Community Book Exchange and the locations are at Hopi Center, Snowflake, Holbrook, Show Low and Whiteriver. We get the Annual Community Book Exchange started in Winslow at 9 am on Saturday February 16, 2010. This is our way of promoting Adult Literacy and recycling book. We have the Friends of the Library and our college staff donates books for this and we try to make sure that there are no books left over. However, if there are any books left over they are returned to the local Friends of the Library.

G.E.D. Graduation will be on Saturday April 10, 2010 at 1 p.m. at the Tiponi Community Center in Holbrook, Arizona. We have two G.E.D. graduations this year and they will both be held at the Tiponi Community Center in Holbrook. In the past we used to have one graduation in the north and one graduation in the south, but this year we decided to have it in one central location. We realized that when we had one in Chinle we had people from the south driving up there to the graduation ceremony because they did not want to wait for the next one that would be near their district. Then when we held the graduation in Snowflake we had people driving from Fort Defiance to attend the graduation. Since we had people driving long distances in both directions to be a part of these graduations we thought that we would have it in one central location and hold it twice a year. The invitations for the graduations will go out at the first of March. We average approximately twenty to thirty students that graduate from the G.E.D. program at each graduation. We will have the career coordinator for NPC, Kelly Horn, at the graduation to help transition our students.

This semester's current enrollment is 948 students compared to last semester's enrollment of 1,214-1,400 students. We anticipate serving 100 more students this semester through orientations and registration. During the summer, we probably serve 140 to 180 students in the month of June.

Current budget cuts for this year in comparison to last year are \$102,000 less than last year. These funds are tied in with the state's budget in one aspect or another.

I believe that we will continue to have funding for Adult Education but from everything that I have heard it will be cut considerably. Distance Learning is a separate grant from the Federal Government. It's a Technology Grant and we are a provider of Distance Learning. However, right now due to the lack of infrastructure in Northeastern Arizona we do not have the number of students that we should have.

I put in an application for IGM, using our distance learning capacity to buy mini laptops and I wrote a grant through Dollar General for that. There is no guarantee that we will get that and it is only for \$1,000. We don't have consistent internet capability in some of our communities.

For the Workforce Investment Act the Federal Government would send money straight to the local board and the local board would send it where it needs to be used. These funds would be tied into technology and infrastructure that way. We are also looking into Title 3 Grants which would help finance students. We are doing more than just making sure that there is that connection between job skills and also basic skills (could not hear the rest of the comment that was made after this).

There is a program called Achieving the Dream that focuses mainly on first generation college students that graduated high school and are reading at a fifth and sixth grade reading level. This program tries to bring those students up to where they are college ready. There is a movement to help this and the only places that it is working at right now are: Illinois, Washington, Florida and Kentucky. For this program to be successful, it takes the kindergarten through twelfth grade schools, community colleges and other agencies coming together and looking at the students that are struggling and then they all need to try to develop a way to help that group of students before they become 30 years old and go to enroll in a community college and they find out that they do not have the appropriate skills and that they can only

read at a fifth grade level. In order to help this situation, community groups would have to come together and try to figure out a new approach to education.

We, at NPC, need to figure out a new approach for TLC because if we continue doing things like we are doing, we are only going to make things worse. The program we have now is that a student starts out in a TLC course and once they pass that course, they move up into the next TLC course and the pattern continues and once they student has finished with all of the TLC courses for that subject, the student has spent four or five years of their college education in TLC classes.

Member Reports:

Dawn Johnson-Special Sites Coordinator-Developmental Services NPC

The state is gathering different distance learning people from across the state to pull together a team to improve the distance learning curriculum. Zoe Payne has volunteered and if she succeeds we will be informed of what is going on and it will also give NPC a voice in the curriculum development. That is one of the new developments. In January, during our last advisory meeting, I said that part of our G.E.D. online was web based and the other part of it was a CD-ROM that had to be installed and they were saying that the second part of this program would be web based as well by January. Now, we no longer have to struggle with CD-ROMS because they are very problematic and our students can access the distance learning curriculum, both levels, online. I am the coordinator of our distance learning program for TLC and if a student wants to take distance learning, they must do an orientation first. When they do the orientation they will take an assessment, they must be an ABE 1 and ABE 2 in order for them to do distance learning in all three subject areas because they need to have a certain amount of academic skill to manipulate that curriculum and be successful.

Anyone who scores lower than that, their only option would be to take prep-courses through us in our labs and classes. The total amount of students that we had last year was 14, and we are currently close to that number and we are hoping that by the end summer we will surpass that number. We are working hard to surpass that number and every year we add students into that to where we have been constantly progressing and getting more students to do distance learning for G.E.D. It has been somewhat slow but consistent growth in our distant learning curriculum for G.E.D. This summer, I will be devoting much more of my time since the Whiteriver Center is closed, to distance learning. This way hopefully we will fill up the lab that we have for that and get a nice number of students to do distance learning. This is a good option for the students that you are sending to us who need to cover labs but they must do an orientation and they must be at least an ABE 3 or higher. We do have a budget set aside for this, the first 10 students, college wide, that sign up for distance learning will receive a fee waiver and since there are no books involved and it is only the online curriculum they do not have to worry about any extra expenses for books. We are going to enhance this program so that way more students will be successful. If you would like any further information of or if you would like to speak with me about distance learning you can contact me at 1-800-266-7845 ext 2126 or on my cell phone at 928-242-6891.

Also, three years ago, we participated in the ACAP Project, where we would be reporting to the federal government all of our statistics and all of our research that we were doing for this particular project. We studied the ABS 3 level of students. The federal government does recognize adult education and that population of students and potential students who need the help of adult education and that is why the funding was allocated. The funding is \$11 million. After the program was over and we submitted our data and statistics, NPC was recognized for having the top data and available statistics to study and since then they have studied the

information that we submitted vigorously. (Could not hear the rest of the information enough to draw a conclusion from, it was covered by background noise.)

Holly Nelson-WIA Show Low

I work for the dislocated worker program and soon to be adult and youth and Jason is going to go to Winslow. We still have some funds left so we are still enrolling people. We are going to start planning our summer youth program which is supposed to be in February but it will be in March. I think that we have been given more summer funding than we were given last year, so we will probably have larger numbers this year than we had last year. Summer Use Abuse is from ages 14-24 and we find them temporary jobs. We wouldn't mind having extra help in finding job sites where we could have more than one person working at a site, that way there isn't 30 different people with 30 different jobs.

Claude Endfield –Early Childhood Development -NPC

We have a lot happening with Early Childhood Development and a lot of things happening with the First Things First money, which the state is trying to take away but haven't been able to yet, they lost the lawsuit that would allow them to take the money and I think that they have to pay back the money that they took out of that program. Through the White Mountain Apache area we have an Apache Families First project which provides training to children and children providers which leads to college credits, which hopefully will encourage people to go back to school. We have an Apache tribal member there who is the coordinator. Her program is suppose to go through the summer but I haven't gotten a response yet as to whether or not they are going to make her leave the campus during the summer because her office is there at the Whiteriver center. Then they have a program coming up for mentoring for Directors of Programs because a lot of childcare programs are having trouble with the economy and staying afloat. We also have a Teach Arizona Scholarship and I believe that people have to be employed in the childcare or early childhood field but I do not believe that there are any restrictions on the type of courses that it will cover on early educators and developmental courses and this is the only one in Navajo and Apache county, which is disappointing to us. Again this is for money for early educators. I am working on submitting a project to the Navajo Nations First Thing's First to train 15 people at the Fort Defiance agency and 15 at the Chinle agency for their CDA (Child Development Associate) credentials. CDA is the minimal mandate for Teacher's Assistants and Head Start. Once a student can get into that program, they can get their CDA without having to take developmental courses since they have to complete so many early childhood development courses and hopefully once we get them started in that program they will become long term students of NPC. We are waiting for approval from our attorney on the grant that was signed off on through the Navajo Nation and the Department of Justice, it is being held until our attorney has had time to review it and signs it and then it will go back to the Navajo Nation for additional signatures. This is for over a \$300,000 grant that is taking 60 TANF or PSR customers and training them and helping them obtain a CDA so that they would funnel into tribal childcare, which includes family childcare at the center case and Head Start Programs adding to their workforce. We were hoping that this would start two years ago. They found out that they have to go through the bidding process and we're the only ones that responded and it caused a year and a half delay and we are just waiting for attorney reviews but we are recruiting for this right now. If the First Things First grant is approved we will go to where ever there are the most people. Our delivery system is that we go to the students at the work site with children and so the self alliance part of the program is where they would have to go into the program on a voluntary basis in order to do part of the work with the children.

Pam Turley- Holbrook Head Start

Head Start is expanding and we haven't lost any funds this year from all of the cuts that have been made. We have Early Head Start Programs going into effect in Winslow and St. Johns. We have the funds for this for at least a couple more years. We are really trying encouraging the parents of the children that we work with to enroll in the G.E.D. classes that are offered through NPC. We have a training coming up and we are going to have someone from Head Start come to Head Start to try to encourage them to continue their education.

Zoe Payne - Special Sites Coordinator

The way it works is that facts and figures tell, but stories sell and this is where we are at with our legislature. It is the personal stories that influence their decision making when they sit down to make decisions. We are going to send a van down to Phoenix with two staff members and eight students on Wednesday February 17, 2010.

Jason Cash- WIA Show Low

Things are going fairly smoothly right now. We are getting ready to gear up for summer youth. Workforce Investment Act is back under their focus. This act would help the local board get the money from the Federal Government send it to where it needs to be used.

Clara Chicharello- NDWD Ft. Defiance

We are spending money based on what was happening with our money and they made a decision to do an RFP in the newspaper and we had a lot of school response to our RFP so they approved 14 MOA with different schools and based on that they encumbered a lot of money for those schools and those schools will be offering vocational education for so many sets of students at all of the schools. We are able to fill all of the slots. Right now under a Fort Defiance Agency, we have close to 100 students in schools. A lot of the money that was there has been moved to the classroom training but our performance majors have dropped placement and that is where at as an agency we are going to be tracking that more. I am going to be hiring a job developer that will helping the staff follow the students once they are complete with their course and for four quarters we have to follow them and make sure that they get a job. This is mainly where our focus is going to be at for now. For the temporary work that they are talking about we filled 84 positions, 42 for the adults and 42 for the youth. The age restrictions for this program are 14-17 years of age in school and 18-21 years of age for adults who are out of school. We have over 80 job sites within the Nation and all over. Since they moved so much money into classroom training, I'm not sure how much money we have left for our summer youth program. As a result of this, our summer youth program is going to be very small, maybe 50 students, compared to last year when we had 200 students. On the site, we have money from the Obama Stimulus and we have been hiring students all year long, they hired 80 or more students. The program should be finished by June 30, 2010 according to the contract that they have. We have the G.E.D. centers all over and we are trying to start a center at Tohacchi Mexican Spring area around Gallup, NM so that they can have that center because Gallup is at capacity. They have two centers in Gallup and they are full. The weather is affecting enrollment at all of our locations, even at Fort Defiance, where we only have 8 or 9 students enrolled. As far as next year's money, I know that we will get it because we are spending our money. However, I have also heard that Obama is going to focus more on another jobs bill, which will focus more on getting jobs for our people. A couple of months ago the Department of Labor they were going to have a meeting with Obama's Administration and they requested that all of the grantees submit success stories and from Navajo Nation I submitted 5 success stories, one of which came from an NPC graduate. Our success stories became part of the packet that was submitted to Obama. In the future, Navajo Nation is going to need more people in law enforcement and public safety. Navajo Nation received a \$60 million grant from the Federal

Government and with that money they are going to be building multiple centers within the Navajo Nation. Due to this they are going to be hiring 8,000 workers.

We serve adults that cannot take 100 courses and we use the Plato Software and for the students who score at least a 6.0 and they keep using the Plato Software and we pay the centers to use that software and then upgrade and post tests after three months and the program goes up higher. If the student succeeds and moves up two grade levels we place them into the work experience program but on Fridays they still have to use the Plato Software. So, that way they can continue to succeed and once they complete their work experience they can either get a job or they can choose to further their education and we continue to follow them. (I could not hear the rest of the conversation.)

Pres Winslow-Center for Career and College Advising

I have a new office for the Center for Career and College Advising and it is in the Winslow Movie Theatre, with a separate entrance off the street. I do have a special entrance is the group of fourth, fifth and sixth year seniors who finally get their high school diploma. However, the people within this group barely got their high school diploma and they are not ready for 100 level courses. There are hundreds of people that fall into this category and they are only going for minimum wage jobs because that is all that they can qualify for. This is why developmental courses were created, because the people who are in this category cannot do 100 level or above college course work. This is a subject that we as adult educators and advocates need to be pushing this taboo topic because this is an underfunded area that helps adults become a more educated citizens and potential employee. There is no funding that is specifically set aside for this group of people and I think that this is an issue that we need to bring to the attention of our state and federal legislature that way this is not a forgotten group of people. I believe that the AIMS testing has too high of a bar and maybe if they state lowered the bar on the AIMS more people would be able to pass it. One-third of our high school graduates do not qualify for admission into any of our three public universities because they do not score high enough on the ACT. We need to increase the graduation rate, which is currently at approximately 70 percent. Currently, only one-third of high school graduates could pass the G.E.D. exam, which is at a ninth grade academic achievement level.

Helen Billy-TANF/PNSSR

I am disappointed that classes had to cancel in Chinle. (I could not hear the rest of her conversation, due to background noise.)

Next Meeting Date & Location:

Adjourn:

