

The Learning Cornerstone
Community Advisory Committee Meeting
August 9, 2006

Attending:

Elena Antonio, Whiteriver WMAT Education Adult Ed Program
Sonja Banyacya, NAU Ed. Opportunity Center
Willie Begay, NPC Special Sites Coordinator
Geneva Durkee, Navajo County Library District
Heidi Fulcher, NPC Developmental Services
Terilyn John, White Mtn Apache Tribe WIA
Ruth Key, White Mtn Apache Housing Authority
Ina Sommer, NPC student
Cassandra Truax, NPC Special Sites Coordinator
Heidi Wiessner, NPC student & Learning Assistant
Tomie Zamora, NPC Developmental Services

Minutes of May 17, 2006 meeting were approved.

NPC Report:

Heidi Fulcher – Dean, Division of Developmental Services, Winslow:

The **FY 07 ABE** budget is \$274,690. This includes a mixture of federal and a state funds. Most of the increase is used for the Learning Assistant positions.

We have enough money right now for each of our locations to sponsor 10 students this fall. Some of our locations are not official yet. Yesterday we signed the agreement for Cibecue. Greasewood, Shonto, Jeddito and Pinon are still pending. These are continuing sites so they will probably be approved

FY 06 540 students were counted in the adult education database. FY 05 we had 55 people get their GED, this year we had 32. This is a concern. We have more testing sites, but this year the state report that electronically matches up GED passes to ABE students is no longer available. We believe we are not getting credit for all the people who are passing the test. Unfortunately, the ADE has to evaluate us by our data, so we are working to improve those reports by collecting information from instructors anecdotally.

Educational gains are always a challenge as well. Our program is at about the 44% mark. We do not posttest enough of our students; they tend to disappear. This is an area we need to work as a whole team to figure out ways that we can get better gains. Per another state report, we know that of students who do posttest, 54% make gains. Educational gains are a gain of 2-3 grade levels in all areas a student studies. The more areas a student studies, the harder it is to get an educational gain. The program instructors have discussed excluding students who aren't willing to commit, but it's hard to measure commitment before we register students. We can also be more insistent that students address the area they need the most help in first. If a student has a phobia about 'math', we tend to let him or her work on reading and writing, even if those are the student's areas of strength. Our philosophy has been to let students with work in their comfort zones first, so they feel at ease and experience success right away. Perhaps we need to make them address their areas of least proficiency first.

Member Reports:

Elena Antonio – WMAT Education Dept. Adult Ed Program, Whiteriver:

Cibecue is offering a class this year. They have 15 students that are ready for class but need an instructor for the 638 program. The agencies are not working together. The program has a limit of students testing four times for the GED. LAMP is a labor and man power program for clients who are 18 years and up. There is also a REHAB program available for clients that need it. Elena would like to set up a meeting in September or October with Debra Norris, TANF, DES, Day Care, Housing, and NPC so all programs can work together.

Sonja Banyacya – NAU Ed. Opportunity Center, Holbrook:

Whiteriver does not have a “One Stop” but clients there do need help. Of the forty women that said they needed help, not one showed up. Most clients have records and transportation problems which makes it hard to get them into a program they want. Funds were approved for another four years. We have 250 clients per year and we are trying to get them help from other programs. It will pay for GED testing for clients who are 18 years and older. One program is Aces in High Schools (UNITY) hires students with a high GPA to mentor other high school students. A sponsor conference will be held in New York City. For more information log on to AIGC.org.

Willie Begay – NPC Coordinator Navajo/Apache Counties, Chinle:

I am looking for an instructor to teach classes at Jeddito. Rickey Jackson is coordinating Pinon classes at this time. Willie is trying to set up classes in Seba Dalkai; he will know more at the end of the month.

Geneva Durkee – Navajo County Library District, Holbrook:

Library has “learn-a-test” program that has GED practice test. Audio and visual for non-readers is also available. Books for adult and ESL clients are also available. Heber library is moving to a new building and will be closed till the August 22nd. The new building will have a meeting room for everyone’s use.

Terilyn John: White Mtn. Apache Tribe WIA:

Terilyn would like to meet with Elena. She has 49 GED students that will enroll for classes. WIA will pay for tuition and books, eye glasses, transportation. Common Measures is a building trades program starting July 1st.

Ruth Key – White Mtn. Apache Housing Authority:

One hundred homes are being planned and will be built in the McNary area with forty more at a later date. HUD has \$75,000 for child care and have been working with clients since last March. We might run out of time before the money is spent. With this new program we want clients to become self-sufficient. Our program will pick-up clients that do not qualify for other programs. Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency Program (ROSS) is a \$700,000 Federal Grant to develop two new resident programs. Housing authority will design and implement a resident services program and an Apache dawn homebuyer education program. Both programs will offer administrative and financial support to create new resident groups in housing subdivisions and administrative and financial support to create a homeowner association in Apache Dawn subdivisions. They will also help to create a neighborhood watch program with interested sub-divisions and partnership with all organizations and tribal programs to start a native Boys & Girls Club for the youth.

Ina Sommers – NPC student representative Winslow:

Ina had a thought about tribal elders as a motivation for female students. They could serve as a role model of somebody who has succeeded or somebody who is on their way to success. Tribal elders can act as mentors for students. Can they organize something through the chapter houses, to utilize these great men and women who live in their own communities? If they can mentor in the classrooms, this could be effective to retain students and maintain language through one-on-one exposure. Involve those elders.

Cassandra Truax – NPC Coordinator Whiteriver:

Whiteriver will have a GED Plus class this fall. Students need to be ABE 3, she is trying to get students to stay in the classes. Cassandra has started recruitment in McNary for fall classes, but they are not ready for GED program. The clients have a lot of social barriers.

Heidi Wiessner – NPC student representative Holbrook:

Working on classes at NAU and will start student teaching soon.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Next meeting:

**Wednesday, November 15, 2006
11:30-1:30 MST**

CEC Holbrook, Arizona