

WHITE MOUNTAIN CAMPUS COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING MINUTES
October 24, 2012

Attendees: Dr. Jeanne Swarthout, President of NPC; Blaine Hatch, Vice President of Learning and Administrative Services; Mark Vest, Vice President of Student Services; Candy Howard, Manager of White Mountain Campus; Don Call, Advisor/Recruiter; Everett Robinson, Marketing and Public Relations; Dara Vanesian, Frontier Communications; Jeffrey Smythe, Chief, Show Low Police Department; Steve North, Business Development Coordinator for City of Show Low; Joel Weeks, City of Show Low; Mel West, Channel City 4 TV; Eileen VanZelf, Assistant to Campus Manager, WMC.

Candy Howard welcomed the guests to White Mountain Campus and gave a brief summary of the Campus improvements during the past year such as parking lot expansion and the canopy around the Aspen Center. One third of NPC's total enrollment is actually located at this campus. In addition to the general studies programs, we also offer Vocational and Disability programs.

Dr. Swarthout stated that some of the programs from this campus are not located here but are located offsite. The plan is to bring them here to this campus.

We have a 3-year rolling strategic plan so that we are always in sync with the accreditation schedule. Budget meetings need to show us where on the strategic plan it falls. We have taken huge hits in funding from the State and we may approach the legislature to ask for some funding back.

We face two challenges: (1) The legislative budget response is unknown. The budget may change to a performance-based funding matrix; and (2) K-12 system in AZ is moving to new learning standards by raising the bar.

Grand Canyon Degrees - If high school students can test out early, they can go right into higher education.

Mark Vest stated that we need to look at how we do things. Our public safety training dollars from Apache and Navajo counties were being sent to Maricopa and Yavapai counties to train officers. Now, the NPC Law Enforcement Academy keeps those funds here. We are talking with the Sheriff's Department about Detention Officer and Dispatcher training.

Stuart Bishop is the head of our Fire Science Department. We have re-opened the Construction Program. Coordinating with high schools provides students with basic job training (heavy equipment, electrical, masonry, and plumbing) feeds entry-level jobs for future construction jobs. Power and Mining industry training is also available. There is also a grant in process for Mechatronics (robotics) out of Holbrook next Fall.

January 2014 there will be major GED changes. Nation-wide, GED will be computer-based and offered at a much higher cost. Students must be computer literate PLUS learn everything from high school. The White Mountain Apache Tribe has their GED class instruction 4 days per week and has been very successful.

Blaine Hatch said that the Strategic Plan has moved forward. We have completed the Master Plan for Facilities. With limited resources, we are prioritizing our needs. Operating Funds (O&M) are used for replacing computers, maintenance, etc.

Mel West mentioned that Show Low High School is going for dual enrollment college credits in Broadcast Journalism. Why doesn't NPC? Mark Vest responded saying that Snowflake campus offered a similar class and struggled with enrollment. Mel questioned, "Would dual enrollment with high schools increase NPC's enrollment?" Mark asked how much involvement would be needed to increase enrollment.

Dara Vanesian asked if the bandwidth is supported between schools.

Mark Vest said that Smartboards are set up to stream videos. These are less costly than video rooms. He also mentioned that Valley-Sanders High School wanted Allied Health dual enrollment classes using Smartboard technology to provide classes but for Nursing Assistant, they must have on-site, certifiable people for the clinicals.

Steve North is all for BOC classes – he thinks there could be 3,000 jobs in the next 3-4 years in health services, especially in research and Summit Health, and aviation-related businesses. He is especially interested in encouraging small business entrepreneurship by working with SBDC (NPC), making available small business needs packets to help new businesses get started and opening a resource center (an open office) for new business owners. This would be a conduit with SBDC (Tracy Mancuso).

Mark Vest wants to increase the Small Business Development Center.

Joel Weeks mentioned that he would like to see athletic coaching training start up at NPC.

Mark asked if he thought we could approach the Soccer officials to train at a NPC Camp.

Steve North asked about volunteerism. Does NPC have an interest in this? There is a SCORE Program getting started where retired professionals who are interested in helping small businesses can consult.

Dr. Swarthout said she would do some research on this.

Chief Smythe wanted to thank NPC for their support/partnership in training (NATC) and mentioned that SLPD is presently understaffed.

Dara Vanesian had some questions re programmers. There are no employers or infrastructure in areas like the White Mountains – students would love to live in a great place like this and be able to make a living.

Dr. Swarthout commented that kids need to be motivated in high school in order to be motivated in college.

Chief Smythe also commented on the subject. He was extremely happy with “Kid’s College” this summer. His daughter loved it. He felt it was very motivational for youngsters to look forward to going to college as full time students.

Don Call – He visits high schools all over Arizona to talk about NPC and what we offer.

Dr. Swarthout – The BOC program was actually started up 1.5 years out before it came to fruition. Planning and marketing has to be first.

Mark Vest – We can anchor programs by going to high schools. Each year an average of 70 students graduate from Cosmo and 90% of them have immediate jobs.

Dr. Swarthout – Welding and BOC students can go right into the workforce.

Steve North – Technology programs and data call centers will be coming back to the US (from overseas) – we need to create a technology labor force here.

Mark Vest – Springerville and Show Low are conducting an AT Program to train computer technicians.

Mel West - He does not feel that there is enough partnering between Show Low High School, NPC and the City of Show Low.

Everett Robinson – Directed to Mel: “You were willing to help NPC activities if at SLHS but not if generic events. If SLHS can partner with NPC, that would be great. Mark mentioned changes to GED. Can you help us get the word out? SLHS needs revenue from all the local TV ads – NPC would like to have partnered with SLHS on the sign at Burger King.”

Mel West – “Artspace” is always commenting on the great art instruction at NPC.

Everett - What’s the best way to market “Kid’s College” to avoid conflicts with City Parks & Rec offerings?

Barbara Bruce may be helping us with the GED ads.

Mark Vest - Explained that the new GED testing must be done in a dedicated testing center with fire-walled computers. Students question financial aid availability, programs desired at certain campuses, etc. Financial Aid has doubled and tripled in applications.

Dr. Swarthout – Entitlements are always questioned. Courses are regionally planned – “why can’t this Campus have . . .”. The Centers suffer the most. They have mostly video and model classroom classes. Technology failures are a problem at the Centers.

Mel West - What can the City do to help NPC? That’s what we need to come up with.

Dr. Swarthout - We need to partner with the City for classes to offer in Kid’s College summer program.

Mel West ended the meeting with suggesting that if you are interested in a great dinner, go to Sunrise Resort and have dinner at the “Chef’s Table” with Chef Craig.