

Northland Pioneer College
Heber Center Outreach Meeting
10-22-07

In attendance: Donna Krieser, Paula Grigsby, Bev Carlyon, Paul Rehman, Jesse horn, Dick Heimann, David Hansen, Kathleen Shea, Nadine Ludwig, Loyelin Aceves, Pam Rodriguez, Renell Heister, Rick Honsinger, Matt Weber, Janet Gibson, Eric Henderson and Mary Lou Costales

Mary Lou welcomed everyone to Pine Meadows Country Club, invited them to help themselves to refreshments and then introductions took place.

After introductions Dr. Henderson explained about the purpose of an outreach meeting – it is to gather information in the local areas of NPC Centers and ask for feedback from local community members. He briefly talked about the status of NPC and the changes in the past year. He also talked about NPC’s new mission statement and everyone was given a copy. He noted three added programs to NPC: medical assistant, computer technician, and heavy equipment operator. NPC has received a grant for 24-\$4,000 scholarships in the areas of science and math. NPC is being reaccredited in October of 2009 and everyone at the college is already getting ready for that process. They are also developing a new strategic plan and focusing heavily on distance learning. Within the next year NPC hopes to have a master of facilities plan.

Mary Lou updated everyone on some of the issues and concerns brought up at last year’s outreach meeting. NPC has added more online courses; there have been a number of scheduled meetings with Mogollon High School students and the representatives from the NPC admissions and financial aid offices; Heber Center computers have been updated with Microsoft Office and Quickbooks for students’ usage; and there has been advising meetings with seniors to help with their senior presentation paperwork for MHS.

Community Members Speak Out

Rick Honsinger asked if NPC was viable. He welcomed a NPC representative to be present at report card night in the spring. He estimates that one third of MHS graduates go on to higher education. Mr. Honsinger asked “What type of students does NPC target?” He would like to see NPC focus on education degrees. This would provide the mountain area with qualified teachers, especially secondary education teachers. He suggested that NPC needs an “identity” and mentioned other junior colleges as examples. He would like to see NPC focus on being an “educational school”.

Renell Heister would like different course flyers for students that she could hand out to high school students.

Paul Rehman feels that limited employment and housing in the Heber-Overgaard area affects enrollment at NPC. He also mentioned a need for classes in the proper way to interview for a job. Matt Weber mentioned that NPC offered a course - Bus 103, Success

on Your Job, and that course covered interviewing for a job. Paul has also noticed that most local jobs go to non-local people, especially at the USFS and H-O Fire Department because local people are not qualified. He has recently hired two NPC students who are also MHS graduates and took NAVIT classes. We were all happy to hear this news. He suggested that we might want to check with the USFS regarding job requirements and what programs at NPC can be utilized. The new fire department building will have training facilities and meeting rooms that NPC might be able to use for future classes.

Dr. Henderson asked the group their opinions about having printed catalogs as well as having the catalog online. It was unanimous that a printed catalog would be preferred by the public because not everyone has internet access and it is encouraging to have something in front of you that you can refer back to as often as needed.

Dick Heimann, NPC's chair of the education department, was asked his opinion about working with NAU on local students obtaining a secondary education degree from the Show Low NAY satellite site. He said this is an issue that has been part of many discussions between NPC and NAU. He informed the group that the difference between elementary education and secondary education is just a few credits or classes. NAVIT is doing well with enrolling high school students in NPC's elementary education AA degree. Mr. Heimann also mentioned that SEI classes will be offered for teachers that need certification.

Bev Carlyon asked if parents are aware of the options at NPC for high school students and continued education. She suggested that NPC get more education information out to the local schools as well as the public.

Dr. Henderson told the group that the internet is considered a shifting network with changes all the time. He also addressed why the Heber Center and other centers were closed in the summer. He said they were scheduled to be closed for financial reasons. The fact that NPC's FTSE is going to be affected by offering non-credit classes in place of credit classes was brought up. Dr. Henderson explained that there is no state funding for non-credit classes, and how classes are listed are "of interest" to the legislature. Some of the current Learning Adventure classes will be changed to non-credit to meet state requirements.

Other issues discussed was the lack of space during the day at the Heber Center for classrooms; the public would like to see an increase in "variety" or "fun" classes such as Astronomy, the history of the Heber-Overgaard area, hiking, and archeology .

David Hansen was asked to talk a little about what his department had to offer this community. David is the coordinator for business and industry training. He explained to the group that NPC can offer small or large classes and specific to the needs of whatever organization they might be from.

Dr. Henderson thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting.