

Northland Pioneer College

Springerville-Eagar Center – Community Outreach 2013

March 9th, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

The center manager, Melissa Webb, provided updates including the center move to the new location over the winter break. The new location has been great for students, faculty and staff. She also included updates regarding NPC employees. The new Apache County Coordinator, Tamara Martin has been in her role since May of 2012. Mike Colwell, the Advisor for both the Springerville-Eagar Center and the St. Johns Center has been continuing to do a great job. Tamara Osborne has recently been selected for the role of center assistant/monitor. Royce Kincanon has been working as the new BIT (Business and Industry Training) Coordinator and has implemented several trainings in Apache County already. In addition to these employee updates, Melissa informed everyone about some recent happenings at the center such as the introduction of a model classroom for the Spring 2013 semester as well as a luau for the Center's Grand re-opening with a great turn out from the community. She also included upcoming events for SPE center including Kids College the second week in June and a remodeling project for the science lab over the summer.

NPC's Vice President of Administrative Services, Blaine Hatch, provided a brief explanation of how NPC uses its strategic plan to drive the budget. He described the way in which any budget requests must adhere to the strategic plan.

NPC's Vice President of Learning and Student Services, Mark Vest, explained to the attendees the way Apache County is able to offer NPC courses through an Intergovernmental Agreement and what role the County Coordinator has. He discussed what upcoming changes NPC expects to see in the near future that will be applicable to Apache County students. One of these changes involves GED testing. The GED will be re-aligned to meet common core standards by January 2014. All GED testing will be done on the computer by January 2014, but NPC plans to begin testing with this new method by October 2013 in order to be prepared in the New Year. Pearson VUE testing will have the contract for all GED. Mr. Vest explained they anticipate prices for GED testing to double. Another change that may affect students is after December 31st, 2013 students who have started, but not completed their GED test will have to start over. NPC is proactively trying to contact all students this may affect and encourage them to complete the testing prior to the New Year. **Loretta McLaughlin with Head Start,** questioned how the GED changes might impact current services. To which, Vice President Vest explained, they have no intentions of scaling back in spite of any upcoming GED changes. He did mention that delivery will be different and this will have a larger impact on those not comfortable using computers. Vice President Vest also discussed the Title III Grant NPC used to implement the new Model Classroom for distance education. He mentioned that they plan to expand the courses offered at the centers to 15-20 courses and 5 tutoring sessions by the Fall 2013 semester. Another

update made by Vice President Vest explained the good news that the Department of Education recently approved off-site locations for Pell funding. Adult students who qualify for Pell Funding can now receive Pell funding if taking courses at the approved off-site locations where they previously were unable.

Eagar Town Manager, Shawn Nau, mentioned he appreciates NPC working to allow Apache County students to take courses locally as much as possible and would like to see more of this in the future. Vice President Vest reminded everyone that NPC is always looking for more adjunct instructors to be able to create more live classes, especially in Apache County.

Kaleb Brimhall, TEP Training manager, is excited to begin partnering with NPC more with a goal to create an apprenticeship program as well as potential on-site training program. There are several upcoming meetings between TEP's leadership and NPC to explore these options further. Mark Vest advised that the Department of Education and the Higher Learning Commission will need to approve the site for accreditation purposes and for students to be able to receive Pell funding, but the program itself is already approved as it is running at both SRP, Coronado Generating Station as well as APS, Cholla Power Plant.

Sgt. Mike Sweetser with the Eagar Police Department expressed gratitude that NPC has re-instated the local police academy in Snowflake. Students of this academy pay only course fees and with the way the program is being run, are eligible to be hired immediately after passing the Limited Liability Test.

Shawn Nau expressed interest in plans NPC might have to support other local industries such as the Pot Ash Mine that will be established in the area in the near future or the Helium Plant Kinder Morgan may potentially establish. Vice President Vest answered that any plans will depend on what the Apache County Higher Education Advisory Committee approves for NPC in Apache County as they determine how funds can be spent. A Mechatronics program will begin in the Fall of 2013 at NPC and it will be an option to also purchase equipment that allows this Mechatronics device to be portable with the option of transporting to various locations, including Apache County if needed. Mr. Nau stated he believes the company American West Pot Ash to be moving quickly and may be ready to begin in the near future. He believes this will include somewhere between 500 to 700 jobs openings. As for the Helium plant, Kinder Morgan, their progress depends on land leases and the Federal regulatory process. If they can move forward as planned, they may be ready to begin within 1 to 2 years.

The meeting was opened up for general discussion and feedback from the community for what they would like to see implemented and/or altered at the Springerville-Eagar Center. There was no feedback other than the items previously discussed and the community outreach meeting concluded.

