

**Northland Pioneer College  
Kayenta Center**

**Community Outreach and Student Focus Group**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 18, 2006 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**I. Call to order**

Dr. Swarthout, VP of Learning Services, started the meeting at 9:00 am in the Kayenta Town Hall. Dr. Swarthout explained the dual purposes of the meeting- community outreach and the student focus group. Lorraine Benally, Kayenta Center Manager, welcomed all attendees, asked for feedback on how to better serve the students, and mentioned that letters had been sent out previously about the meeting to allow time for brainstorming.

**II. Attendees**

*See attached list.*

**III. Discussion**

a.) Lorraine Benally noted how NPC, Dine College, and NAU share students and summarized the achievements and events within the past two years. She noted that the center has a student count of 120 but according to the State FTSE report the center had 52 full-time students. This is due to the fact that; a majority of students are part-time students because they have other obligations such as families and jobs. Also pointed out was the tuition "plateau" which has a flat rate for students that are taking, 3-7 credits at NPC, which they can afford. She noted the affects of the closure of one of the Peabody mine and the shut down of NN Head-start programs cause loss of incomes, which subsequently decreased student enrollment.

Most students are business or education major students, with others in criminal justice or computer science. The decreased enrollment in the early childhood program is due to the recent Head Start situation. Therefore, interest in the nursing/medical fields has increased, such as medical transcription in preparation for the new hospital that is to be built in Kayenta soon. Most of the students, who are enrolled, are young adults who have accomplished a lot towards their horizons.

She noted the process that students go through beginning with their placement testing, going onto remedial courses (TLC classes), which helps them establish their goals, if they decide to move onto college level classes. Lorraine noted the services available to students such as tutoring, writing assistance, and starting the financial aid process. There are also visits by Lori Nuvayestewa from NAU's TRIO program to also assist students with

career services or financial aid. There are many scholarships available through NPC along with Federal Work Study. Currently, the FWS students are working with teachers at the Kayenta Primary and Intermediate schools as part of a reading program as a hands-on training program for the students.

b.) Luci Tree, a FWS student, noted the possibility for nursing students to do the same type of hands-on work with the local Public Health Services and students of American/Criminal Justice to work with the local courts possibly as internships.

c.) Betty Lee who works with the Red Mesa and Kayenta medical facilities noted that a medical facility was also opening in Pinon, AZ and the need for healthcare provider programs will increase. Stated also that Kayenta is a gateway area to Monument Valley and Page-Lake Powell and the need for facilities that are permanent and beautiful, not modular, which is a “quick-fix”. She noted how the College of Eastern Utah has a partnership with Monument Valley High school and is now offering nursing assistant program at the school to interested students. She noted there is also a need for a four-year program and not limited to only two years. Dr. Swarthout pointed out how the four-year programs are more expensive. Donna Luna responded that perhaps there should be more training agreements with closer medical facilities so that the nursing students do not have to travel so far to do their nursing labs, i.e. Winslow.

d.) Other programs in different fields that could be expanded were among the discussed as well. The only computer training programs that students are taking are the Computer Information System (CIS) courses that deal with software and their usage. It was stated; that the Computer Technology programs should be expanded to train students in hardware. Attendees also noted the lack of a welding program for our local adult students with families and not having the opportunity to train near their home, but instead have to relocate to other states, such as Kansas for their training. Fortunately, the High school does have a program for its students. Walter Begay, of Peabody Coal Co., noted the “baby-boomer” retirees have the knowledge from their work experience at the mine and the need for the younger generation to fulfill the open positions in the office building as mechanical tradesmen. He also noted the changes in mine planning, which relies more on technology such as laptops, therefore, the mining industry needs a local institution to train its people.

Matthew Austin, of the Kayenta Chapter, noted an upcoming housing development in Kayenta and the need for people trained in the construction trades. He also mentioned that the Kayenta Chapter was working on its Local Governance Act (LGA) certification with the Navajo Tribe. He mentioned how the Kayenta Center had lost its building previously due to a conflict between the County and the Navajo Nation government with the funding lost and used to build the Hopi site instead. He stated that NPC could obtain a business site lease with the Kayenta Township this time. James Nez, of Dine College/Kayenta Center, noted that the Kayenta Township does not want modular units and added that DC was now working on getting a site and building using Arizona Compact monies which must be used within the next four years.

**Kristina Jensen, an NPC student, noted the need for career help such as career development and assistance so that “college students do not end up just working at McDonald’s.”**

**e.) Gillian Vormittag, MVHS Principal, mentioned dual enrollment as an opportunity for Juniors and Seniors who have passed their AIMS to earn an Associates degree or earn credits using online or flexi schedules. Mark Vest, VP of Student Services, noted the NAVIT and dual enrollment students NPC works with make up one-third (1/3) of all students with a majority of them in vocational and occupational programs. He pointed out that dual enrollment students do not pay tuition.**

At this point the attendees were separated into two groups – community and student needs. The Student Focus group went into another room to meet with Mark Vest to discuss student needs more specifically. He met with about ten (10) Kayenta Center students. The community needs group continued with the discussion.

**f.) Willie Begay noted that they, for example, with the Navajo EPA must resort to certified and small business programs outside the Navajo reservation to train their people.**

**g.) Gloria Phillips noted the need for engineering programs such as electrical engineering and other construction trades. The township officials added that with the airport that is planned for the town, there is a need for people with mechanical skills such as diesel mechanics to provide shop services.**

**h.) Daniel Peaches stated that the NPC board members had told him that the Kayenta Center does not have the student enrollment numbers to justify building facilities. He also clarified that the loss of funding for Kayenta Center’s building had been lost due to a Navajo Nation law that he had written in reaction to a fraudulent incident with a company off the reservation that had been hired to train employees. The law stated that Dine College would have the authority to screen all trainers, colleges, etc.**

**i.) Rose Etsitty, MVHS counselor, mentioned that the Kayenta area is a tourist area and maybe there should be courses relating to lodging and other tourism related services.**

**j.) Dr. Swarthout reminded the attendees and the people coming in later that the purpose of the community outreach was to “here to listen” as a thought process and comments would be taken back to the college to help NPC with its New Strategic Plan which is done every two years.**

**k.) Pamela Harvey, an NPC student, stated that there is a need for a new center/campus. Currently, there is only one (1) audio room, one (1) video room and one (1) lab, which is shared between the TLC classes and the college students causing conflicts in schedules. She also noted the lack of a classroom and lab for the Biology courses. She stated that equipment such as slides and beakers have to be carried around because the classroom really belongs to the High School. She noted the problem of classes having to be scheduled within the local school district’s rooms. Pamela also noted the time schedule conflicts**

between the school and NPC classes and how students get locked out of building and end up missing classes. She also mentioned the crisis drill exercises the school district, such as lockdowns, which disrupt ongoing classes. She stated that some NPC instructors do not understand why students have to miss or leave because of the drills. She said that the drills are disruptive to her learning because she is an auditory and visual learner who has to be in an actual classroom to learn best. She said the current library system – online- is good but difficult when you need books fast.

l.) Kristina Jensen, an NPC student, stated that the community needs resources such as a community library to help students and more online courses.

m.) There was a comment that there is a need for more instructors willing to teach and willing to make the commitment to teach.

n.) Donna Luna stated that perhaps there could be more short-term workshop classes offered that would increase the enrollment numbers.

o.) Lena Clitso, of the Kayenta Chapter, stated that NPC should perhaps start out at least with modular buildings on a site since it is a start rather than not having a site.

#### IV. Adjournment

The Community Outreach and Student Focus meeting ended at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Donna Luna

**List of Attendees**

- 1. Lillian R. Smith – Kayenta Community**
- 2. Kathleen Stemmler – Northern Arizona University**
- 3. Lori Nuvayestewa – Northern Arizona University**
- 4. Betty A. Lee – Kayenta Health Center**
- 5. James Nez – Dine College Kayenta Center**
- 6. Donna Luna – Community/NPC & NAU student**
- 7. Jessica Smallcanyon – NPC & Community**
- 8. Harry Sombrero – Navajo Public Safety & Criminal Investigation**
- 9. Gloria Phillips – ONNSFA Financial Aid Counselor, Tuba City**
- 10. Sonija Jones – NAU, Distance – Tuba, Kayenta, Page**
- 11. Elsie Benally – KUSD**
- 12. Gillian Vormittag – KUSD, MVHS**
- 13. Pamela Harvey – NPC Student**
- 14. Kristina Jensen – NPC Student**
- 15. Walter Begay, Jr. – Peabody Western Coal Co.**
- 16. Matthew Austin – Kayenta Chapter**
- 17. Carol McCurtain – Rough Rock chapter, NPC Student**
- 18. Marie Clitso – NPC student**
- 19. Steven Arizana – Navajo Department of Workforce Development**

- 20. Rose Etsitty – MVHS Counselor**
- 21. Alena Sayitsey – NPC Student**
- 22. Pamela Harvey – NPC Student**
- 23. Brandon Begay – NPC Student**
- 24. Jessica Smallcanyon – NPC Student**
- 25. Chris Cly – NPC Student**
- 26. Lena Clitso – Kayenta Chapter Secretary/ Treasurer**
- 27. Miriam Begay – NPC Student**
- 28. Jessy Chief – NPC Student**
- 29. Chee BiNali – NPC Student**
- 30. Marion Taylor – NPC Student**
- 31. Daniel Peaches – Kayenta Township**
- 32. Dorothea Denetsosie – Prevention Specialist**
- 33. Bill Cly – Public Works Director, Kayenta Township**