



*approved April 2013*

Community Outreach Meeting – Winslow Campus – March 6, 2013

Dr. Swarthout started the meeting with the introduction of all members present.

She asked, “Why do we have Community Outreach?” Her answer was NPC is working on Strategic Planning, which we review every three years. We are looking for the needs of the community; what is working well, and what is not. Are we meeting the needs of the communities in our service area? If not, why not, and what can we do to improve?

She also gave a short background report of what has been done in the past. The Strategic Plan and budget are directly linked. We’re following the recommendations from the Higher Learning Commission on a continual basis now instead of every ten years.

Ina Sommers, Campus Manager, gave a brief overview of the beginning of NPC in 1974, the degrees we offer, our campus and center locations, GED and Adult Basic Education Programs, and the high school programs Dual Enrollment and NAVIT. She also talked briefly about the NPC mission statement and gave everyone a mission statement bookmark.

Blaine Hatch talked about the budget, revenue statistics, State Aid, property tax, and tuition and fees. He explained that we’re always looking for ways to cut costs and talked about cuts to State Aid that have been challenging to overcome. He assured the group that NPC is sound financially and that the budget is balanced. A question was asked about the effects of the Sequester Plan on NPC and the students. Blaine said it will primarily impact federal Pell Grants, which many of our students rely on to pay educational costs. There are plans in place to track the effect of decreasing Pell Grant funding as it impacts registration of local students. He anticipates minimal impact to small businesses.

Mark Vest talked about technology and its role in distance learning at NPC. According to a recent survey, students learn more with technology in the classroom. He demonstrated the functions of a SmartBOARD and explained that it is a primary resource for distance learning, as information placed on the SmartBOARD can be seen at all campus and center locations. He presented an interesting demonstration using student enrollment statistics, such as: most NPC students are enrolled in 6.5 credits; only 21% take 12 credits or more. Those in attendance were interested in seeing this technology and seemed to enjoy the demonstration. Mark also mentioned the Skills Center under construction on the Holbrook campus, State changes to the GED process beginning in 2014, and the replacement of AIMS testing with Common Core testing.

Jeremy Raiser talked briefly about Career Services, job fairs, internship opportunities, job shadowing or training, and the need for students to have work experience. He asked the group if they would be willing to give students that opportunity and, if so, to call him.

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## Community Member Discussion

Greg Green asked why NPC has a class cap on Biology, Chemistry and the other Nursing pre-requisite courses. Mark Vest responded to his question.

Sally Pete and Melinda White from WIHCC had to leave early but mentioned to the group that NPC and WIHCC have an effective partnership and that NPC nursing students are well educated and trained.

Dr. Greg Hackler asked if we have programs for students interested in starting their own small business, including accounting, taxes, and creating a business plan. Dr. Swarthout responded that we have an excellent Small Business Development Center available to students and community members.

Mr. Green asked why NPC doesn't offer student loans. Blaine replied it is because of the extremely high default rate. We have to be very careful because if default rates get too high, we could lose Pell Grant funding.

Tess Kenna told the audience that she started NPC as an older student and worked her way up to earning her doctoral degree. She asked if NPC has plans to close campus locations like Coconino Community College has recently done. Blaine answered that no, that wouldn't happen because our voters have supported us through property taxes. He repeated that we are secure financially, and we have no plans to close any locations. He did mention that we closed the Heber Center in 2009 because of low enrollment, and that we had merged the former District Office with the Holbrook Campus.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30.

Minutes prepared by Ana Marquez.

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