

NORTHLAND PIONEER COLLEGE
Community Outreach, Silver Creek Campus
Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2013

Present:

Donna Harris, Doug Harris, Bill Carnes, Charlotte Hatch, Hollis Merrill, Bonnie Adams, Samuel Matyas, Sarah Maldonado, Myrtle Williams
Jeanne Swarthout, Blaine Hatch, Mark Vest, Pat Hancock, Jeremy Raisor,
John Spadaccini, Susan Olsen, Marcia Bennett

Meeting Location

1611 S. Main St., Snowflake AZ
Learning Center Room 111

I. Overview of Campus, Programs and Services, Susan Olsen

- Since our last Community Meeting we have added the Medical Assistant (MDA) program to the campus which came about through input gained at that meeting. Your input is valued by the administration at these meetings and it is used in our strategic planning.

II. Summary of Current Strategic Plan, Jeanne Swarthout

- These meeting are a part of our Strategic Plan so we can get input from the communities on what they need.
- We are revamping our whole strategic planning process. We are completing the Strategic plan before the budget and this will be our first full year that we are planning under this process.
- Relooking at how we think about our Strategic Plan now, trying to bring it back to what we know will be available resources for the next few years.
- Our Strategic Plan is always available on our Website. We also archive all of our old Strategic Plans so you can compare what we're doing.
- Doug Harris: Where does your funding come from?
 - Jeanne Swarthout: Three places that revenue comes from:
 - State funding for maintenance and operations.
 - Property tax.
 - Tuition Revenue.
 - NPC also gets equalization aid.
 - We do apply for grants but those are restricted funds.
- Doug Harris: What are the possibilities of aid to students?
 - Jeanne Swarthout: Arizona is one of few states that offers no state financial aid funding. We have federal funding. We take institutional or operational money and put it towards scholarships.
 - Mark Vest: We have three main financial aid sources.
 - Federal Pell funding. We don't provide student loans. About 1100 students this year are receiving Pell assistance. New changes in Pell caused restrictions on who is eligible and how much and how long they can receive it.
 - Institutional Financial Aid. Usually separate this into two funds. One for students that are close to finishing their degrees but for whatever reason they can't complete it because they run out of semesters and aren't Pell eligible anymore. We also have scholarship dollars that we give to specific programs, usually for ones we know have enrollment like Nursing.

- Outside Scholarships.
 - Jeanne Swarthout: Internally we are forming an emergency scholarship fund to help students who run into hurdles that might keep them from finishing a semester.
 - Mark Vest: Although it's not seen as a scholarship, Dual Enrollment and NAVIT is a great financial help to students.
- Doug Harris: Is this a good time to ask about the project in Heber. Three or four years ago we had some kind of satellite?
 - Jeanne Swarthout: Five years ago we had a center in Heber. Due to state funding we closed Heber. We were serving very few students there. We also closed our District Office at the same time. We still do Dual Enrollment and NAVIT through the High School; they are bussed to either WMC or SCC depending on their classes.
 - Mark Vest: We leased space at Mogollon High School so we were limited on space.
 - Most classes taken in Heber were Community Education. We can still do Community Ed classes without a center presence there. We are much more flexible with non-credit classes because we don't have to meet state regulations.

III. Budget and Facilities, Blaine Hatch

- Expenditure Cycle. About three quarters of our general operational budget is spent on staff. We have a very large investment in distance education. We get no separate funding for facilities or equipment. We have to budget for it.
- Jeanne Swarthout: We're currently building the Skills Center in Holbrook. We're the only community college that is building without bonding.
- We own and maintain 10 towers to keep our infrastructure running. We also own a snowcat to get to our tower on Green's Peak. We have a tower in Heber and the school uses it.

IV. Highlights in Instruction, Mark Vest

- Displayed SmartBoards and their uses.
 - Doug Harris: Could we put one of these in Heber?
 - Jeanne Swarthout: It's not simple. There are accreditation issues. It has to be a location that meets Higher Learning approval. A location can't receive approval for financial aid for the students until it meets Higher Learning approval and then Department of Education approval.
- Last year we ran a very successful Law Enforcement reserve training. We started with 25 and graduated 13 which is about average.
 - We are talking now with NAPA (Northeast AZ Police Association) about running a short-term academy in the Spring.
 - Jeanne Swarthout: We're also looking at eventually doing a short-term summer police academy.

V. Recommendations and Comments from Community Members

- Hollis Merrill: The role of community colleges is becoming greater because the cost at universities is so high. It will be a very critical role that NPC will play.
 - One of the problems we're having in this area in K12 is a lack of teachers. We've been very unsuccessful at recruiting teachers. Our accountability is increasing while our funding is decreasing. Arizona is number one in K12 budget cuts.
- Blaine Hatch: How can the college help in recruitment for teaching positions?

- Hollis Merrill: Let the students know that there are jobs available. It's a tough field with not-great pay. It's difficult to become better as an organization when we have to take anyone that applies sometimes.
- Mark Vest: We met with NAU last month and we told them that we needed NAU in Navajo County. Not just us but K12 needs them in Navajo County, that's where it needs to start. We don't know where they're going to go. We offered them use of our audio and video equipment.
- Hollis Merrill: With the paper mill closing we were surprised with people actually moving into town. The county started hiring and many of them decided to live here. We lost about 20 students and that equates to \$100,000. We're doing better than we thought we would though. Some of our declining enrollment is due to the Common Core scare; some of the parents took their kids out of school for that. Common Core has been changed to Arizona College and Career Ready Standards. Enrollment is fairly steady. Taxes will probably go up because our assessed value is low.
- Samuel Matyas: I understand that one of our competitors didn't pass their state inspection. You can send those students to Carriage House for their clinicals.
- Mark Vest: SCC got the Medical Assistant program because of requests for more healthcare workers from local facilities.
- Jeanne Swarthout: We participated in a grant application across five states with different community colleges to bring additional healthcare programs to the area.
- Doug Harris: Are you interfacing with First Things First at all?
 - Jeanne Swarthout: We work with First Things First quite closely. If kids don't start off well then it hurts K12 which then hurts us. It's important to get kids started off right. On Saturday we have an Early Childhood Fair in the Performing Arts Center.
- Hollis Merrill: There are concerns about Common Core but we have yet to find any parent that has a problem with what is happening in our school. They're scared by what they see and hear on the news.
- Jeanne Swarthout: From the college perspective, our biggest worries from the get go was making sure the expectation of college and career ready was actually there. We're glad for higher standards, less need for remediation.
- Pat Hancock: Snowflake and Taylor are looking at a merger of the fire departments. It would benefit the citizens. About 80% of EMT calls come from Snowflake. Adds about 10 minutes response time coming from Taylor. This will allow crews in both places.
- Mark Vest: Issue we didn't have before is job availability. We don't have as much interest today as we did five years ago in Fire Science because they're not hiring. Twelve of the first thirteen Police Academy graduates were hired locally. When students can't see a job at the end of their education they don't go.
 - Jeanne Swarthout: To meet the Governor's goal we need to attract students who have never gone before.
 - Biggest drop in enrollment is the 18-36 age group.
 - We need to look at what are internal barriers that keep students from coming. Summer enrollment dropped because Pell grants won't cover it anymore. Students want to get through with their classes so they can work.
- Pat Hancock: Another issue in our field is Paramedic classes not being offered at night. People won't quit jobs to take classes during the day.
 - Jeanne Swarthout: That may be something that may be helpful to the community. How many shift workers are in the area? Do we need to offer late night classes?

- Bonnie Adams: One thing I've been hearing from my grandkids is that they're receiving poor advising. They're told two weeks into the class that they shouldn't be in that class and they get dropped and only received a 50% refund.
 - Mark Vest: Short answer, that should not happen and if it is I need to know about it. If this is happening as a consistent issue then we have a problem. The first part shouldn't happen because they shouldn't have been enrolled in the course in the first place, but if it's institutional error then they're going to get all of their money back.
- Bonnie Adams: With the Law Enforcement, down in the valley they had 400 applicants and only 6 qualified. Many of them will want to come up here for the summer. Who would they contact?
 - Mark Vest: Talk with Stuart Bishop, he has two hats: fire and law enforcement.
- Charolotte Hatch: It's great that we have a community college. When people are moving here they always want to know about our schools. We are very lucky. We appreciate you for keeping all of your information in our office.
- Jeanne Swarthout: We had a very successful Pedal the Petrified and the Chamber helped us promote that.
 - Jeremy Raisor: We got some good support for Pedal the Petrified from the local businesses.
 - Jeanne Swarthout: Community colleges have to be advocates for the community.
- Discussed Student Focus Group
- Doug Harris: The Lion's Club is the largest volunteer organization in the world. Ponderosalionsclub.com We have created an educational program to meet the needs of communities in Navajo County called Children's Health Dental Awareness Program. Since March 1st we've already reached 600 children in oral care.
- Bill Carnes: If we had a Smart Board in Heber we could receive the transmissions from Snowflake, Show Low?
 - Mark Vest: The difference when we were in Heber High School was we had staff there. As Blaine pointed out, 75% of our budget is people.
- Sarah Maldonado: More people than normal have complained about the advisers this year. People were told to be on the wrong track taking wrong classes.
- Myrtle Williams: I don't have any questions, I've learned a lot. As a member of the board of directors of the Snowflake Senior Center. The Head Start came to us and asked the Senior Center to feed the Head Start and Nacog kids because Snowflake High School cannot do it adequately. The Senior Center is now feeding Head Start children. Hopefully these kids, when they reach high school, will make better grades and go to college. Preschool age children. We also have a donation site at the Senior Center for those who want to donate for these kids.
- Jeanne Swarthout: Thanks to everyone for coming.
- Susan Olsen: Raffle prizes: Myrtle Williams- water bottle, Patrick Hancock- T-shirt; Bill Carnes- hat.

Student Focus Group, Silver Creek Campus

Meeting Minutes

No students attended the Student Focus Group.