

Present:

Jeanne Swarthout – NPC President, John Brown-TEP, Jeff LeFevre-TEP, Winslow McNeill-WMRMC, Steve West-Town of Springerville, Mike Sweetser-Eagar Police Department, Sammie Finch-WMRMC, Mary Nedrow-Springerville Mayor, Mark Vest-NPC VP, Blaine Hatch-NPC VP, Becki Christensen-Springerville-Eagar Chamber of Commerce, Andrew Hogan-AZ Youth Partnership, Barry Williams – Apache County Superintendent of Schools, Tamara Osborne-NPC, Mike Colwell- NPC, Tamara Martin- NPC.

Meeting Location:

Springerville-Eagar Center:
940 E. Maricopa
Springerville, AZ 85938

1. Overview of Center, Programs and Services – Center Manager, Tamara Osborne

Tamara discussed her focus on attracting potential students to the center by working on many new non-credit courses. She also informed the group of plans for Kids College over the summer. Tamara explained some of the other plans for the center which she hopes will include adding Biology lab for the fall semester and increasing enrollment.

2. Summary of current Strategic Plan – President Swarthout

President Swarthout discussed the 3 year rolling Strategic plan the college uses and explained how they are now using the strategic plan to budget. The college is working on planning so that students are also able to plan better. She went on to give information about 4 tuition proposals to go before the NPC board this month including:

1. The last 12 credits in a student's degree plan would be free. They would have to be approved and be used towards the completion of their degree.
2. 7 credits free per semester for High School juniors and seniors. Must have 3.0 or better GPA and be recommended by their counselor.
3. 50% reduction in tuition price for TLC (adult basic education) courses.
4. 50% reduction in tuition price for summer courses.

All of these scholarships/tuition proposals must still be approved by the board, but if they are further details will be provided. President Swarthout explained that the college has been looking at possibly transitioning to year-round college and how that might work. Currently, there is no Pell grant funding set aside for the summer semester, so if students use all their Pell funding during the Fall and Spring semesters, they have none left for summer. NPC plans to offer more summer offerings.

3. Budget and facilities – Vice President Hatch

Vice President Hatch gave an overview of the college's current fiscal standing. He explained that revenues are staying flat while expenses are rising. The college is in good standing currently, but is aware of some expenditure limitations that they will need to continue to assess. He described the way NPC receives funding. State Aid has decreased amongst all

community colleges by nearly 50% and is now only a small portion of the revenue stream. The largest sources of revenue are received from a property tax levy and tuition. He mentioned the recent move into the new facility is leased from the School District.

4. Highlights in Instruction- Vice President Vest

Vice President Vest reminded everyone about changes made to the GED testing as of January 2014. The GED testing has been purchased nationally by a for-profit company called Pearson View Testing. They now require students to take GED tests at approved testing sites. NPC will soon have 2 approved testing sites (Show Low, White Mountain Campus and Holbrook, Painted Desert Campus). He discussed the disadvantages of this new GED testing, such as increased cost. He also discussed the advantages which include more time slots available for testing. The first tests will be proctored shortly.

VP Vest explained plans to increase afternoon and evening classes with more general education courses.

He explained ways NPC (like most all community colleges) have kept costs down is by not providing as many services, but they are working on increasing services that make students more successful. One of the ways they are doing that is by making all students enroll in an orientation course and meet an advisor by the time have 32 credits. This is helping with student completion; NPC has seen a large increase in the number of graduates from last year to this year with this new orientation in place. They are also looking at making mandatory advising meetings for other educational benchmarks as well. The overall success rate of students who complete their associate's degree was also discussed.

5. Recommendations and comments from members of the community

Winslow McNeill - asked about plans for more signage at the center. He recalled discussion about a sign on Main Street and thinks it would help. VP Vest shared with the group about a 20% drop in enrollment at another location when they moved from a main street location to a residential location and agrees that more signage will likely increase enrollment.

Steve West – asked about how NPC teaches soft skills. He said in his experience on the RV School Board, many bright young students do not understand how to write a resume or interview well. He would like to see these skills emphasized at NPC. Mike Colwell and VP Vest also let Mr. West know that NPC has a Career Coach, Jeremy Raisor, available to help students with these issues as well and may be able to meet with students.

Andrew Hogan – Expressed his appreciation for the relationship NPC has with Arizona Youth Partnership and the services provided to the community.

Officer Sweetser- Mentioned his gratitude for the Academy in Snowflake and mentioned that housing is an issue he hopes is resolved.

Barry Williams – Spoke about his recent radio interview discussion regarding common core (in his role as the Apache County Superintendent of Schools). He explained he sits on the Apache County Higher Educational Advisory Committee for NPC who reports the Apache County Board of Supervisors. He solicited everyone's feedback regarding how well they feel the committee and the college are meeting their needs. He read a portion of the Intergovernmental Agreement between NPC and Apache County and asked if everyone felt the needs of the students are being met or if there are any areas they would like to see improvement on. Currently, Apache County students are unable to take science course they need locally and must travel out of the area to fulfill those course requirements. Tamara

Martin noted she is working with the Dean of Arts and Sciences to provide a Biology Lab by the Fall semester with the lecture offered through distance learning.

Becki Christensen- informed the group about plans for a museum based on the work and findings of Paleontologist, Doug Wolfe. She explained that this region is plentiful with fossils and could be a wonderful center for children, schools, individuals and the community.

Jeff Lefevre – Mentioned that TEP uses a testing system called MASS POSS, to identify potential employee aptitude. An applicant will not be considered for an interview without doing well on these tests. Jeff talked about plans to create a training facility on site similar to what SRP uses with NPC and hopes to be able to strengthen TEP's relationship with NPC as well.

Minutes taken by Tamara Martin