

Northland Pioneer College
4th Annual Community Outreach
Painted Desert Campus, Holbrook
April 02, 2014

Northland Pioneer College, Painted Desert Campus in Holbrook hosted the Campus's 4th annual community outreach meeting on April 02, 2014 at the Tiponi Community Center.

Attendees

Dr. Jeanne Swarthout – NPC President, Blaine Hatch – NPC Vice President for Administrative Services, Mark Vest – NPC Vice President of Instruction and Student Services, James Molesa – Chief Deputy for Navajo County Sheriff's Department, Captain Larry Parks – Arizona Department of Public Safety, Yvonne Larson – Holbrook Chamber of Commerce, Cindy Tafoya – Holbrook Chamber of Commerce and Holbrook Head Start, Tristina Foshee – Holbrook Head Start, Charles Haussman – Holbrook High School Assistant Principal and Councilman for City of Holbrook, Lance Phaturus – Holbrook High School Principal, Jody Harrelson – Holbrook Police Department, Wanda Warmuth – Bread of Life Mission, Jeremy Raisor – NPC Career Services Advisor, MiAnna Tyler – NPC Campus Manager at Painted Desert Campus and Kathy McPherson – NPC Assistant to the Campus Manager at Painted Desert Campus.

I. Welcome

MiAnna Tyler welcomed everyone to the community outreach meeting for Holbrook. She then turned the meeting over to President Swarthout who welcomed everyone and asked that everyone introduce themselves.

II. Strategic Plan

President Swarthout stated to the group that the purpose of getting together is to listen to the community members and to let them know about the college's three year strategic plan and to find out what is important to the members of the community. She stated that the college has limited resources; as does everyone. She stated that the most important thing about the plan is that it drives the budget; the college has to be very careful with our resources and figure out how we can best meet the community needs.

President Swarthout stated to the group that the Board had just passed some pretty dramatic tuition changes for students and we want people to be aware of them they are a bit unusual, and we don't know how they are going to work. They made projections in terms of what it might do for our revenue and what it might do for our costs. We don't have other colleges to compare to in

taking these steps. We think they are going to be significant in helping students in a bad economy in Navajo and Apache counties. Our communities need as much help as we can give them; so those tuition changes are directly related to how we think we can assist specific groups of our students. There have been many changes with the Federal Pell Grant including how students can use Pell Grants and for what length of time. It is going to be rough on part-time students; so we hope that the tuition changes will help fill that federal gap that has been created.

President Swarthout stated to the group that a board member had pointed out that if a student started taking college classes as a junior in high school, they could get a full associate's degree for less than \$1700.00. We need to get students thinking early. Mr. Phaturus stated that early is 6th grade. He stated that he and Mr. Haussman advise freshman students; and the skills need to be in place as they go into high school. President Swarthout stated that one of the initiatives in the strategic planning cycle is to have a stronger connection with K-12; and stronger connections with some of our community partners to share resources. We have a good win-win with the county; they hang on and towers; they help support our towers. Everybody does better and nobody is spending extra money. We need to support more ability to partner with our various partners and current partners and that does include K-12 as well.

Vice President Blaine Hatch spoke to the group about the new Skills Center at the Painted Desert Campus. He invited the group to contact MiAnna Tyler if they would like to tour the new facility. He stated that NPC is thrilled with the new building and the programs and future programs that it has to offer.

III. Budget and Facilities

Vice President Hatch spoke to the group about NPC's budget and stated that in terms of the budget; tuition only makes up about 15% of what are revenue stream is. He stated that our biggest piece of revenue is primary property tax and we have some limitations on that. President Swarthout asked him how we are doing with the state and he stated that we have what we call formula funding. He stated that it has been reduced significantly over the last several years; but that it is an important revenue stream for the college. He stated that the state is doing something new which would give us extra money for STEM funding; STEM funding is new. STEM is the acronym for Science; Technology; Engineering and Math. That money will be used to purchase different types of equipment. The state took away our capital funding that was used for equipment several years ago and this is the return of some of that money. He stated to the group that the college also does a three year capital improvement plan. The board made it clear that NPC would set aside money each year for future capital needs like constructing new buildings like the Skill Center. Mr. Phaturus asked Vice President Hatch how the Skill Center was funded. Vice President Hatch stated that it was constructed with money that the college had set aside from reserves. Mr. Haussman asked if any grant money was involved with the construction of the Skill Center. Vice President Hatch and President Swarthout stated that the only grant monies

that went into the Skill Center were for the purchase of the Mechatronics equipment. Vice President Hatch stated that NPC is in good shape financially.

IV. Instruction

Mr. Haussman asked where we were right now in terms of enrollment for the semester. Vice President Mark Vest stated that he believes that NPC is the only community college in the state that has an increase in enrollment this semester; and that is a big change for NPC as enrollment has been down for four straight years just like every other community college in the state. President Swarthout stated that it is actually a national trend right now for college enrollment to be down a lot of it is due to the economy. Cindy Tafoya asked if there have been specific departments affected more than others; for example, welding, or computer classes; is there a certain line of education that people have dropped because of the economy? President Swarthout and Vice President Vest said that yes the decline has been in general education; where we don't see it is in job ready programs. People need jobs and they need the training to get jobs. Job ready programs are holding steady enrollment.

Vice President Vest stated that the areas that were heavily reliant on third party payers have taken a hit. Third party payers could be anything from the Navajo Nation; WIA; Department of Corrections; or a private donor that donated money for scholarships, but is no longer doing that. NAVIT has also had their funding cut; it is a ripple effect from K-12 and for NPC. Vice President Vest spoke to the group about programs in Holbrook which include: Welding; Construction; Mechatronics; and CIS A+N+; which is computer repair and network installation and network repair. He stated that the college is part of a consortium that received an Arizona Sun Corridor Get into Energy Grant last year, and part of that grant is what purchased the equipment for the Mechatronics program. Mechatronics is computer assisted manufacturing that is applied across a lot of different fields. Yvonne Larson asked if the mechatronics program could apply to the railroad. Vice President Vest stated that NPC has not spoken to the railroad and perhaps we should. President Swarthout stated to the group that mechatronics program could benefit students across I-40 as we have an arrangement with Mohave, and Coconino Community Colleges to do manufacturing. President Swarthout stated that we would have to see what happens with Coconino Community college as they are in trouble financially.

Vice President Vest stated to the group about the changes in the GED process. He stated that Pearson is the new vendor in charge of GED testing nationwide. NPC can only offer the GED in a Pearson approved format; in a Pearson approved facility. The cost of the GED has now been doubled; it is now a computer based test. The NPC testing location has been approved by Pearson; however, the testing lab in Holbrook has not been approved by Pearson at this time. Vice President Vest informed the group that a student needs to have their high school diploma or a GED to qualify for a Federal Pell Grant.

Vice President Vest stated that some of NPC's enrollment decline is NPC's own fault. He said that the college now requires the Dean of a department to sign off on any registrations that occur after two weeks into the semester and in very few cases do we allow those to happen because when we look at our completion data; students that register after the first two weeks don't finish; so they throw their money away, they hurt themselves academically. NPC started charging a fee for late registration and as soon as we did that, we cut out late registration numbers in half the next semester. We also cut our enrollment by about three percent when we did that, but we know that the vast majority of students who registered late did not finish the semester. We didn't change the outcome in a negative way for those students; we changed it in a positive way. We have required students once they have 32.0 credits they have to have a degree plan on file; or they can't register for classes. Last year we had 173 students file for degrees at the end of the spring semester; right now we are at 275 and that is with enrollment being down some.

The group talked about community college completion rates. NPC has moved to an intent measure model that will have to be looked at over the years; we will be asking students what their goals are. There is a federal measure that NPC is now required to report for Career and Technical Education Programs that is called gainful employment reporting system. The definition is geared toward the CTE and Business Schools that are for profit; who they are after. They are after them primarily on student lending default rates. NPC does not offer student loans; therefore, we do not have default rates. Most of the columns are at zero; however, we still have to complete the reports. President Swarthout stated that what NPC has done instead is to put a lot of institutional dollars into scholarship programs to try to offset their inability to get loans through us. Vice President Vest stated that the Welding program at NPC is successful but there were no gainful employment completers last year by the federal measure.

Vice President Vest addressed the law enforcement members of the group about partnerships between the college and other agencies such as law enforcement. NPC is running a law enforcement academy now at the Northern Arizona Training Center in Taylor. He stated that NPC has had 20 students go through the academy so far and we already have 11 applicants for the program that we are going to do in the fall. We are able to run that program at minimal costs to the students that participate in it; and minimal costs to the college. We can only do that because local law enforcement is shouldering almost the entire instructional burden; and that is a credit to you all; so thank you. Chief Deputy Molesa stated that it was a win/win situation, the men and women we put through the academy are more than likely to stay in our community because they are from our community. They learn our community values in that academy. He stated that Captain Parks would agree with him because they couldn't do it without DPS. President Swarthout stated that it has been a benefit to everybody.

V. General Discussion

Jeremy Raisor spoke to the group about career fairs. He stated that on April 19th the college is having an educational fair which helps the local school districts fill their job openings; both

certified and non-certified positions. He stated that on April 21st, there will be a business mixer that is a networking opportunity for any business person who would like to get to know local community leaders; and it is also a business alumni reunion. Both of these will be held at the Performing Art Center in Snowflake. There will be community fair on April 24th in Winslow and April 25th in Show Low. Mr. Raisor informed the group they were all welcomed to participate in any of the career fairs.

Vice President Vest stated to the group that NPC Cosmetology had gotten a Facebook page about two years ago; and found that about 90% of graduates from that program were working in that field; although most of them were in the Phoenix area. Charlie Haussman stated that he had proposed to NAVIT about a one year barber program; he stated that he is convinced that if they did that they would open up Barber Shops. Yvonne Larson stated that her husband has cousins all over Southern Arizona that make over \$100,000 a year in their Barber Shops; she stated that Barber Shops are a huge trend and they are making them man cave like with pool tables and TV's. Vice President Vest stated that he would talk to the Dean of CTE about it.

Lance Phatorus spoke to the group about doing a GED prep course at the High School and then transitioning the students to the skill center upon completion of their GED. Mr. Phatorus stated that there are 18 and 19 year old students at the high school who need to be in an adult environment; not with 15 and 16 year olds, so a GED would be better for them. He also stated that transportation is a big issue. He thinks it would benefit the high school and NPC to partner together on this. NPC stated that they will check into it. President Swarhout stated that she would like the bus line to go from Holbrook to Winslow; but local entities are not supporting it anymore, so it makes it difficult to extend the line. Mr. Haussman stated that he is one of those local entities. President Swarhout stated that NPC has enough students and employees on that bus line that we need to help keep it going.

Wanda Warmuth stated that they have a client who has two young children and she would like to take welding classes but she doesn't have childcare and she has no family in Holbrook to take care of them while she takes classes. Cindy Tafoya spoke to the group about the Head Start Program. She stated that they serve families with children 0-5 and that if parents make it known to them that they want to pursue their education that Head Start needs to support that. She told the group that recently they lost some of the budget that helps them to pay for parents to go back to school; also some of the federal mandates require that the Head Start teachers now have to move up to a Bachelor's Degree. She also stated that transportation with the Head Start parents is also a big issue. Tristina Foshee stated that the parents have a fear about going back to school and money is also a big issue of returning to school.

The group got into a discussion about the FAFSA; which is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form. Mr. Phatorus stated that the high school sponsors a night where they teach parents how to fill out the form. President Swarhout stated that it is very important for students to know what the FAFSA. Mr. Haussman stated that several years ago a parent came in to talk to

him and she stated that she was going to pay a private entity \$1000.00 to fill out the FAFSA for her. There are people out there who prey upon the parents that don't know how to navigate that system. Vice President Vest stated that the first and most important word in FAFSA is free.

Wanda Warmuth stated that the clients at the mission can't afford to pay \$165.00 to take their GED test; she asked if there was any way that NPC could help with the money for the clients. Vice President Vest stated that Pearson has promised to implement something to help students who are identified as low income the problem with that is that the overwhelmingly majority of students who take the GED are low income. Vice President Vest stated that NPC gives everyone a 6.0 credit scholarship upon completion of their GED so that they can move forward with their education. There is nothing to set up to help students pay for the GED test. President Swarthout and Vice President Vest said they would talk about it and see if they could come up with something. Vice President Vest stated that everyone who takes a GED test at NPC has to take a GED Orientation class that is free; the students are informed in that class about how to apply for Pell Grants, and to meet with an academic advisor to start thinking about what they are going to do after they have their GED. He stated that in May, NPC's outstanding graduate will graduate with his Associate of Science Degree; which is easily NPC's most difficult degree was an entry level adult basic education student four years ago; and now he is a 4.0 in Chemistry, Biology, Calculus, and English.

James Molesa stated that he knows that NPC once offered an Administration of Justice Program, and he would like to see that come back to NPC. President Swarthout and Vice President Vest stated that it is already in the works. NPC wanted to make sure that the law enforcement academy was going to work at first and it clearly is; so now we need to add that next piece.

President Swarthout thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Kathy McPherson

Note taker