

**NORTHLAND PIONEER COLLEGE**  
**Community Outreach, Silver Creek Campus**  
**Meeting Minutes**

October 22, 2014

*Present:* Jeanne Swarthout, Blaine Hatch, Mark Vest, Susan Olsen, Kerry Ballard, Hollis Merrell, Dave Haws, Bonnie Adams, Doug Harris, Rich Upham, Loretta Whitlow, Rich Hoyt, Dave Godfrey, Sarah Maldonado, Cindy Johnson, Gus Lundberg

*Meeting Location* 1611 S. Main St., Snowflake AZ  
Learning Center Room 114

---

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

- Since last year we have added:
  - Two new smart boards, one in PAC 124 and one in LC 111.
    - Mark explained what Smart Boards are and how they help us to connect a geographically diverse population.
  - MDA classroom
  - Video and film editing
- Friends & Family is housed here
- We provide all services offered by the college
- NATC has added:
  - Law enforcement
  - Dirty classroom
  - Working on adding a shooting range, already have the town approval
- NATC has 11 academy students
- SCC slurry sealed our parking lot
- We are updating the PAC annex for better sets and storage
- NATC fog sealed their parking lot

**II. Summary of Current Strategic Plan, Jeanne Swarthout**

- Our Strategic Plan is a 3 year plan.
- We report it to the board each year, it is always rolling 3 years out.
- It is connected to the budget cycle.
  - Have to have valid reasons for budgeting for items to connect it to the strategic plan.
  - This keeps us constantly assessing accreditation needs.
- We're waiting to see what happens to the state budget.
- We have some legislative issues we're starting to work through.
- We have some new grants we've obtained.
- We're developing a stronger partnership with the counties.
  - We serve Apache county through intergovernmental agreement.
- Working on a grant for low-income sustainable housing.

**III. Budget and Facilities, Blaine Hatch**

- We have to connect the budget to follow the Strategic Plan and determine what resources are available to follow our goals.

- Revenue has been relatively flat the last 3 years while state funding has decreased and expenses have increased.
  - At some point this will be a problem for NPC.
- Anticipate expenditure limitations also causing problems.
  - Expenditure limitations are limits by the government on how much we can spend each year. This is not a crisis situation but it's something we're paying attention to.
- FACILITIES- We're improving our facilities.
- Rumored that NATC and NPC have an awkward relationship. NATC is a separate, non-profit entity currently being operated by NPC. We are in essence both the tenant and the landlord.

#### IV. Highlights in Instruction, Mark Vest

- Because of PELL regulations our denial rates have gone from about 17% to about 28%. Last spring we approached the Board with two new scholarship opportunities to help these students.
  - Beginning Fall 2014 we started the Finish Line scholarship. We put \$150,000 into an account. We'll pay for the last 12 credits for students to graduate. Funding will go to those who don't qualify for PELL first.
    - One thing that has really hit students is that there are a lot fewer students assisted by 3<sup>rd</sup> party payers. The number of adults being paid for by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party has decreased by about half. We're hoping the Finish line will help these students.
  - NPC Friends & Family is also trying to help bridge the gap for students in need.
  - The second scholarship is aimed at high school students. NAVIT used to be able to fund degree portions of their student's education not just the direct employment skills portion. They can no longer do that. Couple that with the fact that schools are having a hard time finding teachers and we came up with the College Bound Scholarship. In Spring 2015 any high school student in Navajo or Apache county has 28 free credits.
    - We changed the scholarship to include freshmen and sophomores in order to allow the students to spread the credits out because of sports and other extracurricular activities that make it difficult to do all of those credits in only their junior and senior years.
    - Students have to have a 3.0 or take the NPC placement test.
    - We offer 8 week classes which may help them with timing their classes.
    - We will cut off registration the day before the class for these courses because we know that students who sign up before the class begins are more likely to succeed.
    - Blaine will be informing the superintendents in a meeting tomorrow and will be making it a point of emphasis.

#### V. Recommendations and Comments from Community Members

- Rich Hoyt: Is the Fast Track scholarship still the same?
  - Mark: Yes. Money left over from the other scholarship programs is swept into Fast Track. Any high school graduate can get 12 credits for free.
  - Jeanne: One question people have is why do we move operational money into scholarships. The major reason is because we do not offer student loans. We did away with student loans in '95. Because of that decision we decided to offer more scholarships. It has proven to be a wise decision.
- Rich: Is there a GPA requirement for Fast Track?
  - Mark: No, just a diploma.

- Dave Godfrey: If a student has a scholarship to say ASU or BYU how would Fast Track affect that?
  - Mark: It depends on the school. At Arizona universities it was initially hurting our students by essentially making them sophomores and not getting any freshman funding. They've changed their definition of a transfer student but I would check with whatever school you're going to and see how they handle it.
- Dave: As far as PELL grants go, do they only have 4 years of eligibility?
  - Mark: There used to only be one limitation on PELL, now there are two.
    - One is that now students are limited to 12 semesters of eligibility.
    - The credit limit is the same that it's always been. You have PELL eligibility up to 150% of the number of credits in your degree. The key thing for students to remember is it's based on attempted credits, not only earned.
  - Jeanne: You can see the difficulty the 12 semester limit causes for some of our students because it doesn't matter if you take 3 credits or 15 credits it still counts as a semester.
  - Dave: That's good to know, something we should be telling our students.
  - Mark: We've had students that sign up for 6 classes, knowing they've overenrolled themselves, and then they drop down to the 4 they like. The problem with this is for your 12 credits you just earned you used up 18 credits of PELL eligibility.
  - Jeanne: It has a lot to do with the Feds because they don't really see students like ours who have real limitations.
- Mark: Last year we applied for a National Science Foundation Grant and we got it. We want to do something very different with it. We're partnering with Navajo and Apache county superintendents to expand the region science fair and do a series of math and science camps for 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
  - Jeanne: Part of the reason we did this was we were concerned because we received a grant a few years ago to help students interested in STEM fields and we couldn't generate any interest and had to give the money back. We're trying to build that interest in K-12.
- Dave: This shooting range, would it be open to the public or would it be only for the trainees?
  - Mark: Initially it will be exclusively for the academy and then we may revisit it.
  - Kerry: Can a non-profit like that charge for something like that?
  - Blaine: I'm hesitant to recommend opening it to the public.
- Hollis: Why didn't NPC make a cohort this year with your teacher program with NAU with the epidemic teacher shortage?
  - Mark: We don't really do a teacher program with NAU because they backed away from the way they used to run their program at the Show Low campus and it's almost all done online. They have stopped pulling people out of our Associate of Arts and Elementary Ed programs and they want to run their own cohort. What we did do is Ricky Jackson and I met with the dean of the College of Education and told them that our biggest concern from people is they want to stay local. We have a distance education network that isn't being used on weekends. Why don't we partner with you all and you run your Elementary Ed program over our distance education network at all of our locations on weekends. They were actually open to that, they haven't been in the past. They're a lot more open to it though because they see the cohort isn't working.
  - Jeanne: NAU basically pulled out over 3 years ago. We're trying to give the new NAU president a chance to catch her breath and then make an approach and bring several things to her attention. We need a 4-year presence here.

- Mark: We have Doug Small coming from NAU to our Instructional Council meeting Friday and he's going to make a presentation that will enhance our situation. We're hoping it's not the same old thing.
- Hollis: There are certainly a lot of positions in education open here.
  - Jeanne: It's always better to grow your own.
  - Mark: What made us optimistic nine months ago- they originally wanted to run out of Show Low with no local staff. They said they would offer local classes with local teachers.
  - Jeanne: There are a lot of unfilled positions in schools. Schools are short 10-18 teachers and that's after school has started. In excess of 550 teachers' positions open throughout our district.
- Kerry: I have three things I wanted to talk but before I do, we need to get the info on the twelve free college credits out because other colleges are offering it too and we'd just as soon keep them local. One way you could do that is the town has a Community Values Committee and all the churches and town people are on it. It would be nice to have somebody come there and talk about it because I think that's a good deal.
  - Mark: If you don't mind getting me information about the next meeting then I will come.
- The three things:
  - Does the college want a swimming pool? We have one and it needed a lot of repair before the school sold it to us. If we could partner to make it a benefit to college students and the community it would be a good PR thing for the college. We'd be glad to either give it to you, sell it to you or work together with you on it, whichever one you want.
    - Jeanne: I think it would be a work together thing.
  - The school has a library, the town has a library and the college has a library. Libraries now are becoming book free. Many libraries only have computers now. I think we're over doing it on the libraries. We should get together and combine all three to make one really nice library.
  - NPC has risen to the challenge with Nursing and Energy employees. The Town has a problem with jobs. Students don't have places to work after they graduate. We need to work together to create jobs. We talked to Google to create a call center here but they need people with an education. Here it is, right here. We need to let them know that we have a work pool here that would be glad to become educated. Not everything would need to be hands on, everything is becoming technological, why not get some here? This is becoming a retirement community. We want kids to stay here. We need to work together to create jobs.
    - Jeanne: This has been a challenge throughout the county. Moving the needle on this has been difficult. A lot of job ready programs require them to leave to get jobs. We're open to work together. We don't know how to move the needle on this.
    - Kerry: We raise them and educate them and then they all leave.
    - Jeanne: We can't be critical of them leaving because they have to. We're good at educating but not as good at creating jobs on the other side.
    - Mark: We graduate 35 cosmetologists a year. Are there 35 cosmetology jobs in Navajo county? But when we survey those students, 90% of them are working in cosmetology, just not up here.
    - Jeanne: The college is open to training but we're not sure how to create jobs.
    - Kerry: The college is a big asset to the community. Hopefully it can bring businesses here if we can say hey if you'll come here this is what we'll do.

- Mark: We need a lead time if we're trying to bring an industry in so we know what kind of training to provide.
    - Jeanne: We went through a kind of fire drill situation with potash. They kept saying they needed potash but they ended up not coming. It was getting that communication and knowing what skills they need so we can be prepared ahead of time.
    - Kerry: Kids leave and get an education and want to come back but they can't because there are no jobs here.
  - Rich: Mark something I saw in the first couple years I was here was the FAFSA night you'd do and you might get three parents to show up. If we could get together as a team and get tons of information out to the students. Have a deal where a representative of the college comes in and we get lots of parents and students to get them interested and snowball things. I would love to see one of you come. I would work hard to get people there.
    - Mark: I'm not the best person to talk to people about financial aid but everything else I could handle and I could bring a financial aid representative with me.
  - Bonnie: If they're going to start lowering the age for NAVIT and stuff you might want to start inviting sophomores.
    - Jeanne: The more you get early the better the planning. If they can get an AA for the cost of roughly 9 credit hours- even if they have to go to the valley at least they've got that training and they've not incurred massive student debt. We have to get the information out early.
- Doug: Item number seven of your strategic plan for 2014-2016 says, "Find opportunities for students and staff to have fun." I look at that, and I'm a volunteer; Sarah at the last meeting a year ago opened doors of communications for us. She created a program called Children's Health Program? For Navajo and Apache counties and as a result of her assistance and leadership we were able to get into the Headstart program. We were able to get two grants. The first grant, the chief's wife is our tooth fairy. Does college require volunteer hours to graduate?
  - Mark: No we don't.
  - Doug: You might want to require it. ASU does. I don't know about NAU. For your students to have fun we can keep them busy in the summer months. We have reading programs. These books are donated and in the summer time we go to the libraries and read these books. If your students will volunteer their time they will enjoy it more than they thought.
  - In June we got a \$10,000 piece of equipment. There's only one other one in the county. It will screen a child for sight and hearing in less than 2 minutes. Since June 15 we have screened 800 children. It's good for 6 months of age up to 99 years of age. We were asked to come into the Show Low government office and screen their 35 adults. 20% of them couldn't see. These are adults that worked for the county. This screening is something an optometrist can't do, you have to be an ophthalmologist in order to read it. And everything we do is free. We went to St. Anthony's yesterday we screened 113 kids in an hour. If NPC wants, you can have a couple hours, screen all of your students for free, compliments of the Lion's Club. It gives you a printout, if you pass you pass, if not you can take that printout to go to an ophthalmologist with details beyond my expertise. My point is, this is part of that item two in your strategic plan, "Strengthen relationship and partnerships with K-12, counties and communities through shared resources, projects and programs.
- Susan Olsen: Raffle prizes (bags): Loretta Whitlow, Hollis Merrell, Bonnie Adams, and Doug Harris