

Community Outreach Meeting  
Northland Pioneer College  
Wednesday, April 15, 2015 1-3PM  
MINUTES

Attendees: Dr. Jeanne Swarthout, Blaine Hatch, Mark Vest, Prescott Winslow, Marie Lamar, Tess Kenna, Pat Ceballos, Thomas Chacon, Sarah O'Connell, Greg Hackler, Phil Stago, Kelli Sartain, and Ina Sommers.

LCC Campus Manager, Ina Sommers, welcomed the group and started the meeting by having everyone introduce themselves.

During introductions Phil Stago talked about the asset NPC is to the Winslow community. He commented on how great our Nursing program is. He related that during a recent hospital stay he was cared for by people who completed the Nursing program in Winslow. He feels that the Winslow campus has one of the best Nursing programs in Northern Arizona. He also said that we need to get away from traditional curriculum and focus more on career development. He wants to help NPC become the best community college in Arizona. He suggested that the college bring in programs that would help get the community interested and involved.

Dr. Swarthout explained that it is important to ask the community what is going on and listen to people's comments. NPC wants to know what communities need and how the college can help with these goals. NPC needs to think about the future and where we should spend our time and attention as we work on our new strategic plan.

Prescott Winslow talked about saving money instead of buying right away. He said the best way to be conservative whether in the home or a business is saving money rather than haphazardly spending it. He said that is what the college does so we don't have to borrow money to fund our maintenance and building projects. NPC's financial philosophy is save then build.

Blaine Hatch talked about three main points.

1. NPC is well managed resulting in having the resources we need when we need them. We're healthy financially.
2. We try to communicate fiscal health to the community. We want to be completely transparent and offer a way to be understandable. We work hard to share our message.
3. We do plan. Right now we have no new capitol building plans. We use our resources to maintain what we have to ensure they last for many years.

Mark Vest said that in 2006-2007 everyone had more money. When the housing market crashed enrollment began to decline. He says that LCC enrollment is down but one of the most stable

throughout the college. He also mentioned that our Nursing program is very popular and well known throughout the region. He mentioned our non-traditional summer classes have improved because of re-modeled instructor contracts and pay. There is already good enrollment for the summer classes. NPC is working on obtaining a FIPSY Grant. Under the grant, higher education and K-12 partner together to expand educational opportunities while keeping costs low. It will offer college courses throughout the county at the high schools during school hours at no cost to the students. Rickey Jackson, Director of Education, will be presenting a FIPSY proposal to the school district governing boards tomorrow April 16, 2015. Mr. Vest also mentioned the public transportation problem, and that having a transit system would be very helpful for students going to and from Winslow to Holbrook.

Greg Hackler replied that a Winslow community committee is working on the transportation issue with county and city administrators. They are making slow progress. He is very hopeful that a transit system between Winslow and Holbrook will eventually be created.

Marie Lamar asked if we can partner with the non-medical transport vehicles that are suddenly so prevalent in the Winslow area.

Dr. Hackler answered Marie's question, saying that those vehicles are funded by AHCCCS for AHCCCS recipients; they aren't public transportation.

Prescott Winslow then asked Mark Vest about the quality initiative.

Mark Vest answered that the quality initiative is designed to help students be successful college students. The Higher Learning Commission requires us to identify something we should be doing better and something we're not doing that we should. Doing so would have an immense impact on students. We have decided to adopt the PASS program - Proactive Advising for Student Success which will:

1. Identify what students want to accomplish.
2. Offer support along the way.
3. Stick with students until the end of their community college career.

Pat Ceballos commented that the PASS model is a good tool to help students be successful. She mentioned that she reads scholarship applications for the Friends and Family Foundation. She has observed that students have extremely poor language and writing skills. She mentioned that many students lack these basic skills and can benefit from NPC basic education classes. Students need that background to function in our complex society.

Thomas Chacon thanked us for being in Winslow. He agreed that young adults are not prepared for life after high school. He is concerned that students graduate high school without basic college skills. He would like to see a program to prepare students for college while still in high school. He feels we need to develop more relationships with other organizations. He suggested

we bring in training for the railroad. NPC should have a representative at the City Council meetings. Everyone needs to be more politically informed and vote for candidates who support education. He said education provides the basics and without it we can't compete. He then asked Mark Vest what Education classes we offer.

Mark answered that we offer all courses we're allowed as a community college but not the upper level courses.

Mr. Chacon suggested that we work with Twin Arrows Casino on the transportation issue. He said he is trying to work with the casinos and see what they can do to help, but the process is slow and cumbersome. He asked Dr. Swarthout what the college sees as assets and weaknesses when planning for Winslow.

She replied that Winslow has:

- A passionate population
- Limited commitment to education-some individuals but not many
- A lot of interest in the arts, both city businesses and Native arts
- The community comes together to support a good cause
- Community not aware the college is here; low appreciation factor

Prescott Winslow said that partnerships are very important. He suggested recruiting volunteers to assist students K-12 and college-age with writing, math, and other tutoring.

Phil Stago suggested we sponsor a teacher certification program at NPC. He feels many teachers who go to other colleges for certification would stay in local communities if NPC offered these classes.

Mark Vest mentioned that Rickey Jackson is working with NAU to bring upper division Education courses to NPC communities through our distance learning system.

Marie Lamar asked why we don't partner with La Posada to offer Hotel and Restaurant Management courses.

Dr. Swarthout replied that NAU is currently partnering with La Posada to provide long term maintenance and preservation. She is working with Allen Affeldt to see where NPC can be involved.

Prescott Winslow asked Sarah O'Connell, Director of the Winslow Council on Aging, if she had ever surveyed senior citizens to learn what type of community education courses they'd like.

Sarah replied that they haven't but it's a really good idea. She says the Council on Aging has a great relationship with NPC and has had for many years.

Dr. Swarthout mentioned that she had heard that Winslow might be getting a fine arts museum on the La Posada campus and asked if anyone knew the details.

Prescott Winslow replied that it's true; the museum will be housed in the old Amtrak terminal, will have a Route 66 theme, and will feature the world's largest woven Navajo rug. He said it will be a museum and an arts and culture center. Construction should begin this fall and it is expected to open next spring.

Tess Kenna suggested that we should sponsor cultural events at LCC to make people aware that we're here.

Thomas Chacon agreed with Ms. Kenna that NPC is in a bubble. We need to pop the bubble and let people know NPC is in our Community.

Dr. Swarthout commented that Winslow isn't the only community whose citizens drive by the college every day and don't know that it's there.

It was a worthwhile meeting. Good ideas and suggestions were shared and discussed and those in attendance seemed comfortable talking about their ideas. Several people agreed we need to make people aware that NPC is here. It was a positive and productive event.

Minutes prepared by:  
Kelli Sartain  
April 21, 2015  
Little Colorado Campus