

NPC, Springerville/Eagar Center

Community Outreach

February 8, 2010

Present:

Dr. Jeanne Swarthout	VP Mark Vest	Karalea Kowren
Mayor Holoway, Eagar	Chief Nutall, Spr. Police	Molly Pitts, SBDC
Todd Bosen, Higher Ed.	Travis Udall, Higher Ed.	Margie Tapia, Spr. Head Start
Linda Martin, WMRMC	Becky Christensen, Spr. Eagar Chamber of Commerce	

Melissa Webb, Center Manager

Meeting began at 9:10am

Melissa opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions. Melissa read the year's accomplishments and challenges, which included higher enrollment, no classes canceled due to low enrollment and the addition of biology labs at the SPE Center.

Dr. Swarthout discussed the HLC visit. She said the outcome was extremely complimentary to the college and the document should be posted for the public in the next 3 weeks. Dr. Swarthout said the HLC stayed and celebrated with us and she is proud of the college's amazing work.

Dr. Swarthout discussed the current budget issues with the state. The state may pull out of funding Adult Basic Education and there was discussion regarding how that would affect the college and our communities. The state funding of CTE was also discussed. Carl Perkins grant funding was also discussed with how this cut will affect high schools and colleges. The outcome will be that economic development will not happen if these cuts are made. Mark added that if we do not partake of Carl Perkins funding, we are enhancing the ability of our competitors to provide CTE because they will get the money. Karalea added that without Carl Perkins funding we would not have cosmetology, welding and heavy equipment supplies. Dr. Swarthout stated that she was not sure how we could stop these cuts. Other board actions include closing the Heber Center, closing the DO and moving it to the Painted Desert Campus, and BIT and Community Education becoming self sustaining. Mark added that we will also be closing centers for the summer. Dr. Swarthout added that we will be having an Education Summit on March 18th with high schools and universities invited to discuss ways we can help each other through this difficult time.

Pg. 2 Community Outreach

Mayor Holoway asked how can we be less reliant on the state? Dr. Swarthout stated that Navajo County is restricted in property taxes and we do not want to increase tuition too much because this disenfranchises people. Perhaps private partnerships will be the key to success.

Mark explained equalization and the issues around state funding. Replacing 5.5 million is difficult. We have 3 options: be more efficient, change our nature of business, and seek revenue sources.

Mayor Holoway asked if Carl Perkins funding could be directly granted to the community college. Dr. Swarthout responded we may not be able to do that, but waiting on a reply about private matches.

FTSE was discussed and its value. Mark also commented that equalization funding may be frozen. It is 40% of our budget and allows poor, rural counties to be able to run a community college.

Karalea thanked Apache County Higher Education and the Apache County Board of Supervisors for their commitment for services in Apache County and that we have a little room in our property tax for growth.

Mark highlighted the CTE open house on February 17th and thanked Karalea and Melissa for their diligence in finding a biology instructor. Mark also discussed GED testing and the issues for students in Apache County to access the testing. Weather is an issue in the winter and the cost to travel is another issue. Mark then discussed the increased enrollment in audio/video and internet. He feels distance learning is essential and we have the capability of desk top conferencing, which will be piloted in the fall with student services and then move to instruction possibly in the spring of next year. Mark also discussed self sustaining BIT and Community Education.

Questions from the community were:

Chief Nutall asked if we could get continuing education courses that are AZ Post certified? Mark and Dr. Swarthout said they are waiting on curriculums from KC. The Chief will be at a meeting tomorrow regarding this issue and will forward that information on.

Margie Tapia asked about accessibility to bachelor's degrees for her staff, maybe through NAU? Dr. Swarthout said that NAU has pulled back services to Navajo County and other rural counties, except for Yuma, but ASU is close to an agreement with NPC. All 3 universities are attending the Education Summit. Mark also discussed the nursing-allied health direct to BSN program that they are working on with ASU and other AAS to BAS programs. Dr. Swarthout added that we want to do a 75-45 split on credits with the 45 credits offered locally. Margie added that a Head Start mandate is bachelors degrees by 2013. The value of cohorts was then discussed. Margie then said that by the time they get approval to take an NAU course, the class is full. Dr. Swarthout also indicated that NAU has pulled from serving the reservations, leaving students without resources.

Pg. 3 Community Outreach

Linda Martin asked how do the budget cuts affect the nursing programs? Dr. Swarthout said that the college may begin looking at charging the actual cost to run a class (program based costs), but added that nursing was essential to our core mission.

Travis Udall asked if the college will be publishing what the core mission is? Dr. Swarthout answered that yes, of course.

Margie asked why cosmetology is in St Johns and not in Round Valley? Karalea answered that question with several reasons.

Todd Bosen asked how we can identify students that area going on to a bachelors degree? The discussion was that perhaps looking through our deans and presidents list we could find those students. It was then discussed how we could support those students to finish and how Apache County Higher Ed could do that.

Online course offerings were discussed by Molly Pitts, Mark and Dr. Swarthout. The discussion was how we offer them and what is needed to proceed.

Travis thanked HQO students for the new bleacher padding behind the dome.

Melissa and Dr. Swarthout thanked everyone for coming and Dr. Swarthout asked participants for further comments if they think of something later to add.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40am. (just in time for the quilters to hostage the room for their class!)

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Webb, Center Manager

Northland Pioneer College

Springerville/Eagar Center