

Community Outreach Meeting Minutes *November 15, 2016 - SPE Center*

NPC Attendees

Rickey Jackson - Dean of Arts and Sciences
Josh Rogers - Director of Student Services
Ann Hess - Director of Marketing & Public Relations
Mike Colwell - Academic Adviser - Apache County
Tamara L. Osborne –SPE Center Manager

Community Attendees

Felipa Earl –Round Valley Library
Diane Arnold – Round Valley Head Start
Mike Nutall – Springerville Chief of Police
Mike Sweetser – Eagar Chief of Police
W. Jeffery Udall – Chief Deputy of Apache County School District

Ann Hess started the meeting at 1:03 pm with each person introducing themselves. After the introductions, Mrs. Hess stated that NPC enrollments are down, and it is attributed to personnel changes. There is no decline in student interest but in faculty availability. NPC has been hit hard by retirements in both NPC faculty and dual enrollment faculty at the area high schools. Rickey Jackson stated he is using other means of finding qualified personnel to meet our current student course needs.

Mrs. Hess stated that NPC President Dr. Jeanne Swarthout will be retiring at the end of June 2018. Reduced revenue for property taxes has impacted NPC's budget, but we are still going strong. One of the positives is that NPC has partnered with area high schools to provide classes via video technology. Rickey Jackson explained about the Talon Grant and a list of high schools that utilize the system to the community members. Mr. Jackson says that this fills a void in high schools who cannot participate in NPC dual enrollment with core college classes like math, and English. In some cases, tutoring help is even embedded in the class. Studies have shown that high school students who complete at least six college credit hours while in high school have a 20 percent higher chance of later completing a college degree. Mr. Udall stated how important core classes in Math, English, and Spanish are for high school students especially in areas like Cibecue. Chief Nutall asked if there was any cost to the student, which Mr. Jackson stated no. Mrs. Hess added how positive the program is. At the end of the grant (we are in the second year in a five year cycle), funding will need to be addressed on how to keep this program going. Hopefully the school districts will help.

Mrs. Hess explained our new PASS Project and how we can follow student progress from beginning to end. It is a system that interacts between students, faculty, advising and other individuals to help students be successful in their college endeavor. Mrs. Hess introduced Josh Rogers, Director of Students Services, to explain in more detail how this program works. Mr. Rogers described that PASS , Proactive Advising for Student Success, is a quality initiative project for the HLC Persistence and Completion Academy. NPC uses a student tracking software system called Starfish to help identify at risk students and provide them the help they need to be successful as quickly as possible. The program is in the pilot stage at this point and will go college wide in the spring. Mrs. Hess wrapped up this discussion stating that our goal is retention of students until they complete their objective of attending NPC.

At this point in the meeting, Mrs. Hess asked if there were any questions or topics of discussion from the audience. Felipa Earl, Round Valley Library Manager, indicated that she would like foreign language classes other than Spanish offered in the future. Mr. Jackson stated that we do offer Navajo along with Spanish, and that finding qualified faculty is a challenge. Once we can identify a community member that has 18 credits in the graduate area of study, we can offer the course via video so the whole college district can take advantage of the course. The group at this point strategized the many ways to find the qualified faculty to fill necessary and future job positions within the college.

Chief Sweetser and Chief Nutall asked about the police academy and acquiring housing for the police academy cadets. Housing is a big hurdle for them in recruiting for the academy. Without proper housing, it is often difficult for the cadets to do proper studying at night with the travel times involved if their housing is not located near the police academy. Police departments are bearing the cost of housing the cadets, and it impacts where they send a cadet for training, Chief Sweetser stated that it might be an AZPOST battle instead of an NPC one. Another hurdle for the police departments is the scheduling of the academy. It doesn't always fit with their schedules, but they are very pleased with the facilities.

Mr. Jeffery Udall, Chief Deputy of Apache County School District, brought up how expensive it is for the students to drive to other campuses and centers to attend classes not offered locally. Distance has been an ongoing issue for the local students. Ann Hess brought to the attention of the group that NPC Friends and Family has scholarships and grants available for students in need, including travel and housing expenses. She sighted an example of how a student's books were stolen and NPC Friends and Family provided funding to replace the books. Mr. Udall discussed his new appointment with his church on helping flagging young adults to get back into school and/or work force, and how he and NPC could work together to provide resources for these individuals. Mr. Udall stated his task is finding these students and then connecting them with the resources and guidance they need to be successful. Mr. Rogers brought to the group how we can change the local culture in valuing education and motivating them to take advantage of NPC opportunities. There was an avid brainstorming session on how to help these students. Mrs. Earl discussed how Round Valley Library has helped NPC students and potential students with books through the Gutenberg Project, the Gale databases for research and online certificate classes, ESL instruction, laptops and providing online test proctoring for other colleges.

Mrs. Arnold from HeadStart stated that she refers a lot of her student's parents to NPC for GEDs and FASFA help. Mrs. Hess asked how NPC could help her. She requested that we offer more time slots for Opportunities through Education. Her clients have a hard time trying to attend the 3 or 4 times we offer the class at the NPC SPE Center, either because of getting time off at work, daycare, or transportation difficulties. ECD modules were discussed, that some of the parents are taking them and that Headstart pays for them. Mr. Jackson stated that the GED test is more rigorous now and there has been a drop off in the enrollment for GED program. High School students are being counseled to stay in school because of the new rigorous changes to the GED test. Mrs. Arnold also stated that Headstart helps their young parents with GED fees and study material. Mr. Jackson stated that next year, the Board of Education is coming up with an alternate pathway for young adults beyond 22 years old to attain their GED. It consists of college courses that can be substituted for high school classes to earn a high school diploma. NPC is also looking at stackable programs that will help students be employable and earn their GED. Mr. Jackson brought up the Integrated Basic Education Skills Training (IBEST) course, where students learn college level construction skills and GED prep skills simultaneously while helping to building houses. It's an application based program, this semester students are helping to building a tiny house. It was brought up by the group that tiny houses being built by this program could help solve the housing issues of police academy cadets. Mrs. Hess brought up how the Business department is partnering with three local businesses for their employees to earn Management and Leadership Certificates and how these positive partnerships help local businesses and communities. Mr. Udall said there is a need for training for prospective employees to learn how to be a successful in their job. The community members felt there is a lack of ambition, stick-to-it-ness, and social skills in our younger generation, and they need help. It was brought up that John Spadaccini, the Manager of NPC Career Services, and Starfish can help in this area.

Chief Sweetser raised his concern on the cost of books and how the college is addressing this issue. It was stated that we encourage our students to find cheaper avenues to buy their books other than the NPC online bookstore. There is encouragement within the college for faculty to design their own texts and to use online sources for their classes. Mr. Jackson let the committee members know that we are changing our placement testing for incoming students. NPC is

looking at a new placement model that is based on GPA for High School students and a GRIT test, a non-cognitive assessment. The last topic discussed was how community colleges help young students transfer from high school to becoming successful adults in colleges/universities and work environments. Meeting ended at 2:35 pm.

No students attended the follow-up student discussion group.