SPE Center Community Outreach - Meeting Minutes

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| NPC representatives in Attendance: | Community Members in Attendance: |
| Mark Vest- VP Learning & Student Services  Jason Foutz- Chief Operations Officer  Nicole Ulibarri- Apache County Coordinator  Tamara Osborne- Springerville/Eager Center Manager | Felipa Earl- Round Valley Library  Kelvin Walker- TEP  Winslow McNeill- White Mountain Chiropractic  Scott Poche- Little Colorado Behavioral Health  Barry William- Apache County Superintendent  Mike Sweetser- Eager Police Dept.  Terry Shove- Round Valley Boys and Girls Club  Jason Moore- Round Valley Boys and Girls Club  Greg Was- White Mountain Regional Medical  Loretta McLaughlin- NACOG Head Start  Shari Meador- Town of Springerville  Slade Morgan- Round Valley High School  Lisa Muth- Round Valley High School |

October 31, 2017 1:00 pm

NPC – Springerville/Eager Center

Date:

Location:

**M I N U T E S**

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| Meeting began 1:00 pm |  |
| Introductions-  The group introduced themselves, and each explained what their roles/positions are in the community, or with the college.  Purpose of Meeting  Mark Vest explained to the group that the purpose of the Community Outreach is to provide the college, the Apache County Higher Ed Committee, and the Apache County Coordinator with feedback on how we are doing. He asked the group to consider what NPC can do better, and what were the current needs of the community.  Discussion  Presidential Search  Mark Vest informed the group of the retirement of Dr. Jeanne Swarthout at the end of this year. Jason Foutz explained the process of hiring the next college president. The college is using a consulting group R.H. Perry to perform a nationwide search with hopes of attracting a larger candidate pool. Jason explained the timeline to the group and some tentative dates for interviews of semi-finalist and finalists. Mark and Jason both expressed the importance of community feedback in the interview process. All in attendance were encouraged to provide feedback at candidate forums, as this information is very valuable to the NPC District Governing Board when making decisions. The group was informed that the specific dates and times for these forums will be posted on the college website, and the R.H. Perry website when available.  Changes the May Affect Apache County  Mark discussed some future changes that are happening in Navajo County, and how they may indirectly affect services in Apache County. The Cholla Power Plant is expected to close sometime around 2025. This could widely affect both communities, and is expected to cause a 12-14% reduction in tax revenue for NPC. This will have an effect on the budget of the college. NPC is trying to be proactive and look for ways now to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and form more partnerships. One of the partnerships they are looking to expand is the Talon project. Mark provided a brief description of what the Talon Project is, which is a dual enrollment program at local high schools. Classrooms at various sites are connected using Cisco distance technology. This technology was purchased through a grant, and after the grant ends the college would like to continue to offer these services through some type of partnership. Mark discussed with the group the college’s planto phase out its current distance learning equipment, with new Cisco technology. The new equipment would provide students with better connections and better quality video while using less bandwidth. He also discussed that Apache County Higher Ed Committee would have to decide if they wanted to switch to this new technology, or lose connectivity with distance classrooms. Barry Williams commented that Apache County does not have more money than the current $600k from tax levies. He explained that the county is almost maxed out and needs to find ways to live within our means. Mark also added to the conversation that Apache County has ways to transfer current spending, such as the choice not to replace a recent retirement in the Business department; and that they can continue to look at current ways to better use funds to partner and cost share.  The group decided to take a tour of the Talon Classroom to see the new Cisco equipment in operation, and also looked in on a Video Class being offered across the hall. The group discussed the benefits of the new classroom’s features in comparison to the features of the current technology.    Community needs for Technology and Training  Mark asked the group what the community needs were and how the college can better serve the community.  Terry Shove commented that there needs to be a stronger effort to get High School aged students interested in college and that we need to make an effort to get Middle School aged children interested earlier. She mentioned the Boys and Girls club was working on a grant to provide mentors to young children; and that she would like to have more people with higher education interact with the kinds to gain interest in achieving and education. Young students within the community do not realize the opportunities provided with an education and they are not exposed to it often enough. We need more community involvement, and need to continue to reinforce the benefits of a college education to the youth in the community.  Felipa Earl commented that the library has online courses that can be used by anyone, including students, to build computer skills. They also proctor exams for other colleges. She would like to see the college offer more language classes, and something other than Spanish.  Lisa Muth commented that Mike Colwell the NPC adviser has been making an effort to meet with high school students and explain some of the scholarships and opportunities available to them. She expressed that this was helping to increase awareness and they were happy to have him.  Winslow McNeill brought up the community’s need for infrastructure for technology. The community needs better internet connectivity and reliability.  Barry Williams commented that the Apache County Schools just got approved for $11 million for 183 miles of fiber to support technology within the schools. They are currently searching for vendors in the area to get the project going. He agreed with the need to provide connectivity within our communities and let the group know that the county is working on initiatives to improve service  Mark asked the group what types of programs they felt the community needed.  Shari Meador from the Town of Springerville commented that they need more trainings that transition into public works such as Waste Water treatment.  Felipa Earl commented that some community enrichment courses that teach basic computer skills for senior citizens, or workshops on how to use Facebook, Skype, Word, or windows basics would be helpful.  Mike Sweetser commented that they are having a hard time filling vacancies at the police department because the amount of time it takes to go through the academy and the fact the recruits have to travel or leave the area to attend the academy. Mark commented that the college is working with the construction program to build some tiny homes that may be able to house people during training which would allow them to attend training on the mountain and stay closer to home.  Barry commented that the group could look at recruiting from current high school students by providing some type of job shadowing opportunities to gain interest. Mike stated they are looking at a program similar to the Explorer program to allow young people the chance to get involved.  Kelvin Walker stated to the group that TEP has recently done an assessment of their current workforce and has found that they are actually overstaffed by approximately 61 people. He let the group know that they will not be doing layoffs to address this, but they will probably not be replacing some positions as people retire or leave until the staffing numbers are back to where they need to be.  Meeting adjourned: 2:30 |  |
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