

**Northland Pioneer College (NPC)
Community Outreach Meeting
Kayenta Center
February 19, 2018**

Call to Order: Jeanne Swarthout 11:00 a.m.

Attendance: Larry Tuni, Darion Redhair, Vangie Wilkinson, Mark Vest, PJ Way, Jason Foutz, Maderia Ellison, Jeanne Swarthout, Diane Joe, Lorraine Benally, Lori Nuvayestewa, Myrtle Dayzie-Grey, Leonard Chee, Gwendolyn Bedoni, and Chantal Kescoli.

Introductions

NPC Staff & Community Members: L. Tuni-Dennehotso Chapter; L. Nuvayestewa-NAU/EOC; VWilkinson-KUSD#27; G. Bedonie-Parent; L. Benally-Navajo Workforce Development; L. Chee-Navajo Nation Office of Vice President.

Purpose of Meeting

Dr. Jeanne Swarthout (NPC President): The Community Outreach meeting happens on a yearly basis due to Strategic Planning for the college. This is a time to bring the community together and prepare for the years to come. For instance, speak about current/future programs and services NPC is offering. Community members are highly encouraged to share new ideas to the college as well.

Round Table

Mark Vest (NPC Vice President Learning & Student Services): Discussed the Talon Project, a Federal Title 3 Grant. The funds from the grant have made it possible for NPC faculty to teach college level courses at local high school classrooms with advanced technology (CISCO). CISCO allows a video conference with high definition and interaction amongst faculty and students from one to three schools. At the moment, CISCO is only installed inside the high schools, not in NPC classrooms. The completion rates from the Talon project are high, better than the completion rates of the college as a whole. The grant will eventually run out of funds, but NPC is working with school districts to continue this project.

Vangie Wilkinson: Monument Valley High School is looking to outside resources to help students succeed.

Dr. Swarthout: NPC also believes in utilizing outside resources to help students succeed. NPC would like to collaborate with high schools for dual enrollment courses during the daytime and adult education courses in the evening, with the possibility of using the high school facility during both times.

PJ Way: Stated, NPC is doing its best to sustain technology in ways for students to have an opportunity to learn.

Gwendolyn Bedoni: Is all for technology. However, would like her daughter to have a physical interaction with an instructor and or tutor rather than over the SmartBoard or television.

Mark Vest: Agreed with the parent, but mentions it is tough for the college to obtain instructors due to requirements set forth by the Board of Education. Instructors must now have a Master's degree or a

minimum of 18 graduate credits in the discipline in order to teach. The Vice president suggested if anyone knew of anyone with these qualifications and good teaching skills, please let NPC know.

PJ Way: NPC is doing its best with technology to give students a better interaction between them and the instructor.

Jeanne Swarthout: Admits it is difficult for rural areas to obtain someone to teach.

Vangie Wilkinson: Acknowledges NPC for staying in the community. Mentioned that other community colleges have come into the community, but none have stayed. Wilkinson also shared her children have attended NPC and believes it was a great starting point for them. The courses they completed were able to transfer to the University of their choosing.

Jeanne: NPC plans to stay forever and will continue to serve the community and make opportunities available. According to studies, the more students accomplish at the community college, the more successful they will be.

Maderia Ellison: Asked Gwendolyn, What are some other things NPC can do to help students be successful?

Gwendolyn Bedoni: Immediately addressed live tutoring services for the students. Mom also suggested a small cafeteria at the center. Mom is thankful that NPC offers a payment plan and scholarship opportunities to students.

PJ Way: Where are some good sources NPC can reach out to in the community?

Gwendolyn Bedoni: Parent Teacher Conference. NPC should set up there.

Lori N: Attends Parent Teacher conference and notices colleges there. Guidance counselors have too many other obligations. Therefore, it's best to see a college representative.

Larry Tuni: Commented, the first child to attend college is always the hardest. Colleges not only need to help the students but the parents as well. Also mentioned his oldest child attended NPC and all of her credits transferred to a four year college. She was recently appointed district court.

Jeanne: We speak education and that does create obstacles. NPC officials need to be careful how we talk to people, especially those who are brand new. For instance, the term FAFSA, would a new student know what FAFSA stands for?

Myrtle Dayzie-Grey: Shared information on student resources to help students succeed: tutoring, Starfish, and student organizations.

Maderia Ellison: Asked if NPC still participates with Vita, a free tax preparation service for individuals. She suggested that parents could file their taxes and at the same time, have their child complete their FAFSA application.

Lorraine Benally: NPC Alumni, former NPC Advisor, and retired Center Manager of the NPC Kayenta Center, believes she is a success story from NPC. She has nothing but good things to say about NPC and is always referring members of the community to go to NPC. Benally currently works for the Navajo Nation workforce and does not understand why the Navajo Nation continues to deny a partnership with local colleges (NPC, Dine College, and Navajo Technical University (NTU)). The Navajo Nation would rather send their applicant recipients to a college off of the reservation causing the Navajo Nation

to spend money on food, transportation, lodging and the training/classes itself. Rather, the Navajo Nation could send these recipients to NPC, Dine College and or Navajo Technical University for the exact same training and education but a lower cost. Lorraine asked Leonard Chee, assistant to the Navajo Nation Vice President, to take this information back to his boss and to please ask why the Navajo Nation prefers it be this way.

Mark Vest: Pointed out the majority of the colleges the Navajo Nation Workforce is sending their individuals to may lack regional accreditation. Meaning if the individual wanted to transfer their earned credit to another college, other college(s) may or may not accept it. Ultimately it is up to the individual and where they see themselves later in the future. However, these individuals should keep as many doors open as possible.

Lorraine Benally: States that she wants her clients to go further with their education and careers. But if they cannot take their earned credit anywhere they want, she feels like the Navajo Nation is setting up its own people for failure.

Larry Tuni: Asked if NPC could have an Adult Education program in his hometown of Dennehotso.

Jeanne and Mark: Dennehotso is in Apache County and NPC is a Navajo County Community College. There is no solution at this time. NPC must also take into consideration technology issues as well.

Mark Vest: shared statistics on changes in Educational Attainment Rates on Navajo and Apache County. For individuals ages 18-24 with some college or received an Associate's degree, in the United States, it increased by 3%. On the Navajo Nation, it increased by 8%. For individuals over 25 with some college or received an Associate's Degree, in the United States, it increased by 1%. On the Navajo Nation, it increased by 7%, which exceeds the National average. Therefore, despite all the obstacles students are facing on the Navajo Nation, a lot of progress is happening.

Lorraine Benally: Announced Recruitment for Summer Youth Workers begins March 1st. On a first come first serve basis.

Leonard Chee: representative on behalf of the Navajo Nation Vice President, Johnathan Nez, who is very supportive of the youth and NPC. Chee mentioned his wife used to teach for NPC's Early Childhood Program through a partnership with the Navajo Nation Headstart. The Navajo Nation is currently working with NAU, NTU, Dine College and CCC in regards to programs revolving around tourism. Also, looking for ways to help mine workers find another job after the mine closes. Thanks NPC for inviting him.

Adjournment: 12:40 p.m.