

Community Outreach Meeting
February 22, 2018
Northland Pioneer College - Winslow
MINUTES

In attendance from the Winslow community:

Linda Card	Gemini Gallery
Linda Dixson	NACOG – Head Start
Ed Jensen	Warden, DOC
Tess Kenna	Editor - Winslowaznews - Facebook
Lawrence Kenna	Kenna Enterprises
Victoria Maldonado	Relationships Banker - Bank of the West
Steve Pauken	City of Winslow
Sally Pete	CEO Winslow IHS
Galen Worthington	Director - Winslow Public Library

NPC Administrators in attendance:

Dr. Jeanne Swarthout	President
Mark Vest	Vice President
Maderia Ellison	Chief Business Officer
Jason Foutz	Chief Operating Officer
PJ Way	Chief Information Officer
Ina Sommers	LCC Campus Manager

Dr. Swarthout welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with introductions. She then explained that NPC strategic planning is developed three years in the future, so input from the NPC communities is a valuable part of the planning process.

Dr. Swarthout invited Mark Vest to tell the group about the TALON program which offers dual enrollment and college credit to local high school students. Mr. Vest explained that the program – Technology to Advance Learning Outcomes at Northland (TALON) - is a grant-funded, five-year project designed to offer college courses in Math, English, Economics, Spanish, and American Government. Classes are taught by NPC faculty to 10 high schools in Navajo and Apache counties via technology-connected classrooms between NPC and the high schools. It has been extremely successful and many other area high schools wish to participate in the program. The grant will expire in two and one half years; at that time NPC plans to continue and expand the program which will bring about cost-sharing partnerships with the college and participating high schools.

Dr. Swarthout asked the group how the college is doing in Winslow. Tess Kenna replied that the college doesn't have a great image in Winslow. There is no visible presence from NPC in the community such as participation in the Chamber of Commerce, annual Christmas Parade, and/or Standin' on the Corner celebration.

Linda Card added that she had never considered NPC as a resource during the process of establishing her business. Galen Worthington agreed with Linda's statement and said he needs to know how NPC can assist library patrons' technology and adult education needs. He would also like to know how the Library and the college can collaborate, share information, and better serve the Winslow community.

Mr. Vest told Galen about the college adult education program, Career and College Preparation (CCP) and offered to introduce him to CCP faculty. He also explained how Galen could refer library patrons to NPC. Mr. Worthington mentioned that the Library is getting five new staff computers through a partnership with Navajo County and that they are considering providing Wi-Fi outside the Library for after-hours Internet use.

Mr. Vest also told the group the NPC STEM van was in the Christmas Parade but it's so bright and colorful you might not see the NPC logo if you weren't looking for it.

Dr. Swarthout asked how present the NPC Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is in Winslow. Tess Kenna replied that to her knowledge there was no presence from SBDC but it is definitely something the college should promote as a service to the community. Maderia Ellison commented that she would advise the director of SBDC of the need in Winslow. Lawrence Kenna mentioned that it would be most effective to present information regarding SBDC to the City Council and Chamber of Commerce so local residents and business owners would be aware of the services available.

Warden Jensen told the group he has a great relationship with the college through the Construction Technology (CTE) division, which is part of GED training provided by NPC faculty at the prison. He commented that he would like to see continuing education programs for DOC staff. Mr. Vest asked if it would be easier to bring people to the college or for NPC to bring an advisor to DOC. Mr. Jensen replied that it would be easier to bring an advisor to the prison so they could be there to visit with staff from the different work shifts. He said continuing education is critical for DOC staff to advance in their field and he would like to have his staff attend NPC to support the college and the community. Dr. Swarthout asked Mr. Jensen what types of courses his staff needs. He replied it has to be classes that can be applied to Department of Correction curriculum but not just criminal justice.

Linda Dixon mentioned that her daughter wanted to enter the NPC nursing program. However, she was required to travel to Holbrook for a Science lab, which she couldn't manage. Mark Vest told Linda the college is trying to do a better job of scheduling and advertising Science labs so students can plan in advance for lab schedules.

Sally Pete commented that she employs several NPC graduates in the IHS nursing division. She has funds for training from nursing assistant to registered nurse and beyond. She, too, would like her staff to be able to attend NPC. When asked which program courses are most

needed at IHS, she responded x-ray technician, lab technician, and back office medical records. Dr. Swarthout asked Ms. Pete how important it is that IHS staff speak Navajo. She replied that very few of her staff speak Navajo but there is a great need. Right now they use interpreters for patient care and medical records. IHS encourages employees to continue their education and supports them in their efforts to do so. Dr. Swarthout informed the group that NPC offers several nursing scholarships through the NPC foundation and Mark Vest told Ms. Pete NPC may have a Navajo language instructor this fall if everything comes together as planned.

Steve Pauken said he promotes NPC as an asset to the community whenever he talks with prospective business owners interested in settling in Winslow. He agrees that more effort is needed to integrate the college and the community. He currently has two students in the Finance department enrolled in NPC classes. Steve also has staff who could benefit from continuing education and he would like them to attend NPC rather than taking online courses. City employees are reimbursed for successful completion of college classes.

Linda Dixon mentioned that 10 out of 18 of her staff are taking Early Childhood Development classes with NPC faculty. Her staff has been very successful and she is very grateful to have NPC in Winslow.

Mr. Pauken mentioned that the City of Winslow is building an observatory at Homolovi State Park. They have three telescopes with a 14”, 10”, and 6” lens plus a 6” table-mounted telescope. The City sponsors monthly Star parties that are popular with local residents and tourists. He said the college could assist by sponsoring adult enrichment tours and astrophotography classes. Maderia Ellison mentioned the possibility of combining a Star party at the observatory with participants of the NPC Pedal the Petrified bicycle ride coming up on September 15, 2018.

Victoria Maldonado is interested in internships and facilitating classes for high school students and others interested in business, finance, and banking. Bank of the West offers discounts for employees of business partners including NPC. Dr. Swarthout told her NPC would be very interested in getting discount and other benefit information to NPC employees.

Dr. Swarthout closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and bringing to the attention of NPC the possibilities for collaboration and partnerships. She told the group there is no way NPC administration can work out these partnerships without community input and that she was very pleased with the feedback received at the meeting.

Minutes prepared by Ina Sommers