

Northland Pioneer College
Hopi Community Outreach Meeting

March 17, 2011

Present: Dr. Swarthout (NPC President), Mark Vest (NPC Vice-President of Learning & Student Services), Elizabeth Nasewytewa, Barbara Poley, A.J. Siquah, Alma Siquah, Louella Nahsonhoya (NPC Board member), Marcella Silas, LuAnn Leonard.

Dr. Swarthout spoke about the Budget process. There is a \$4.00 increase in tuition beginning in the Fall 2011 semester. That is the lowest tuition increase in the state. A significant amount of funding comes from state aid and property taxes; it looks like we will be getting a \$2 million cut. NPC has been preparing for this for 3 yrs so we are prepared for it. We don't see any significant changes in 2011-2012 school on how we deliver services.

Barbara Poley asked how the reservations contribute as far as state aid. Is NPC asking for leverage and could the tribes develop a partnership to help fund the centers? Dr. Swarthout stated NPC is not asking for aid at this time.

The State Adult Programs have also been cut and NPC will not cut The Learning Cornerstone (TLC) classes.

Dr. Swarthout indicated there is a bill (Guns on Campus) going to the Governor's office to be decided on, she does not like that. We could probably use the Tribal Sovereignty to keep guns off the campus.

We are looking at a new data system which will move us forward. We do have to provide a lot of training for the staff.

Mr. Vest informed the group University of Utah in conjunction with NPC will be offering a Bachelor of Social Work. They received a Title III grant of \$5.3 million over the next 3 years to be used for Technology. For Hopi it would mean an increase of band width by 10 times. Eric Bishop will be working with Hopi Telecommunications Inc. Dr. Wei Ma faculty in Education Technology will provide a series of tutorials for students beginning Sp 2012. The students will be mandated to take a test before they can take an online class. If they do not pass the test, they must take the tutorial class.

Customer service challenges- We were one of the last colleges in the state running our own bookstore and once we went to an online bookstore and financial aid disbursements. There were a lot of hiccups based on the survey. We expected that because it is new to us. We will work on getting the students ready not only in the online bookstore but financial aid as well.

Enrollment is down college wide, but seeing more students enrolling in online courses.

Louella Nahsonhoya recommends getting more Biology courses. She saw a low rate of completion of online classes while she was at Apache County.

LouAnn Leonard asked if the center will be closed this summer. Mr. Vest stated it has been closed due to low enrollment. She then asked if there was a threshold to close the center permanently or are we healthy? He replied there are no plans to close this site; in fact there is room for improvement.

Marcella stated NPC has always accommodated the WIA Pg on their needs even in the summer. She stated she still would like to see a vocational training center on Hopi. It is very expensive sending the students off reservation. The team has been working on that for many years but she still does not see their needs met. We need partners to make this dream a reality.

Barbara Poley asked what degree programs are needed and stated we need to have the students match the local community needs so they can come home and actually find jobs. LouAnn Leonard stated the Hopi Higher Education department has never had a concentrated effort to find the true needs of the community.

Mr. Vest stated there is a nationwide crisis of remedial issues among students. There just isn't that connection between the high schools and colleges, they don't talk with one another. We see a lot of high schools coming to school yet they are testing in remedial courses. LouElla Nahsonhoya recommended the college really needs a TLC advisor, that person would work closely with the student on their goals/plans.

Barbara Poley asked if we could offer computer courses to the work places because everyone needs to get up to par with technology. Her work involves a lot of webinars and she could use a few computer trainings. Mr. Vest informed her Elizabeth Flake from the Business & Industry Coordinator can offer a wide array of trainings. Vermetta then handed out her flyers.

Barbara Poley also asked if NPC has rooms for the community to utilize. Dr. Swarthout stated we do and welcome that. Barbara informed everyone that would be a great way to get the community interested in what the college has to offer. There were several members in the group who were interested in utilizing a room so Vermetta passed out the Facility Use Request form. Barbara Poley closed with offering us any assistance in whatever we may need for Northland Pioneer College.