

The Learning Cornerstone
Community Advisory Committee Meeting
November 7, 2007

Attending:

Edith Anderson – TLC Student
Sarah Antonio – Resident Service Coordinator – White Mountain Housing Authority
Sonja Banyacya – NAU – Education Opportunity Center
Rhonda Becenti – Assistant to the Secretary – Developmental Services NPC
Willie Begay – Special Sites Coordinator – Developmental Services, NPC
Geneva Durkee – Navajo County Library District
Claude Enfield – Early Childhood Development, NPC
Heidi Fulcher – Dean – Developmental Services NPC
Eric Henderson – Vice President of Learning – Northland Pioneer College
Harold Hoover – Navajo County Library District
Terilyn John – White Mountain Apache Tribe WIA Program
Dawn Johnson – Special Sites Coordinator – Developmental Services NPC
Louella Nahsonhoya – Transition Specialist, Developmental Services NPC
Pat Natseway – Transition Specialist, Developmental Services NPC
Pam Turley – Holbrook Head Start
Debbie Thomas – Family Advocate-Head Start Snowflake Agency
Tomie Zamora – Secretary to the Dean of Developmental Services, NPC

NPC Report:

Heidi Fulcher – Dean, Division of Developmental Services, Winslow:

NPC is launching an orientation program. Anyone who wishes to take their GED test at Northland Pioneer College or Chinle High School, will have to complete a required GED orientation sequence beginning January 2008. Distance learning will also be available for students who wish to study outside the classroom. Students who take the GED orientation will take the GED Practice Test and they will be informed of additional opportunities that are available to them after they get their GED. 67% of those who attempt the GED at NPC pass; this is the state average. NPC hosted its first GED completion ceremony at Chinle June 2007. It included individuals who completed their GED test at NPC, Dine College, and the Chinle GED Testing Service. There will be two ceremonies a year, one held in Chinle for the Northern Campus/sites in June and the other in Snowflake for the southern campus/sites in January.

Another special grant project is the Allied Health Initiative. It supports participants in Nurse Assistant Training. The target population is students at ABE III level (6th, 7th and 8th grade levels of reading, writing and math skills.) There are two terms: term 1 focuses on improving reading and math skills; term 2: focuses on Nursing Assistant training skills and a study support class. The Department of Education provides funding for scrubs, supplies, and books.

Effective FY 08, the state ABE grant will not pay for tuition. Tuition is now funded as in-kind from the college. There are 182 students enrolled in fall 2007. This is a decrease in the number of students enrolled from fall 2006; the reduction is mostly in ELAA and most likely an effect of Proposition 300.

The new GED “orientation” will help manage open entry into TLC classes. This will benefit the learning environment for students by eliminating or reducing the interruption to classes by new students who enroll after classes have begun. Special sections will be set up to both orientate students to GED and to the TLC instructional program.

The ABE grant budget is now separated into different accounts all under ABE budget system. The state has also implemented a new database for student records. The Department of Education brought training to approximately 20 TLC staff member in Holbrook in late October. Only a portion of the database is operational, but the entire system is supposed to be up and running soon.

This is the 2nd year of NPC team participation in the Professional Development Leadership Academy. NPC’s team consists of 6 TLC staff members. One of the PDLA activities last year was to implement the Professional Learning Sessions. These sessions were an outcome of the AECAP project. It recommended regular mandatory sessions for all TLC staff. This year marks our 2nd year of offering these annual sessions. The same training is offered at three time/dates during the academic year. All instructional staff members must participate in one session to maintain their employment in the TLC. February 23, 2008 is the next/final fy 08 Professional Learning Session. The mentor and protégé system which pairs full time and part time teachers is being strengthened and enhanced by a new coaching relationship. We are also adding professional learning communities, In order to implement these professional learning innovations, we are “banking” instructor time by reducing the class meeting schedule from 4 hours per class session to 3 hours and 20 minutes. Over 17 weeks the 40 minutes per week adds up to 10 hours of time for teacher professional learning.

Summer 2008 schedules are due by Thanksgiving and will be finalized in January. Fall 2008 schedules are due in January and will be finalized in March.

NPC is a participant in the ASE Reframing pilot. ASE is Adult Secondary Education level. It refers to classes at 9th – 12th grade level of challenge. ASE is the term replacing “GED” in the adult education world. The Reframing concept views completion of the GED as the beginning to post-secondary education. This is seen as necessary to prepare the adult/student for college and the workforce. The Reframing pilots are exploring ways to help students become aware of secondary training and/or college programs available to them. The reframing project is a 15-month funding project given by the Department of Education as of April 2007. NPC used it’s Reframing pilot to hire the Transition Specialists and to bring NPC, Dine College and Chinle High School GED testing services together into a partnership. This partnership enabled the first regional GED graduation ceremony in June 2007 at Chinle. This pilot is responsible for developing the orientation sequences and developing the system of mandatory “check-in” with instruction for GED candidates.

Member Reports:

Geneva Durkee – Navajo County Library District:

Gave a presentation on the library database. A library card is needed to access the databases on the Navajo County Holbrook public library website. They also provide access to e-books. The web feet makes it possible to search for information simultaneously. For the fiscal year 2006, the statistics on The Learning Test Product showed that only 32 students took advantage of online practice tests. These tests include all programs available through NPC, not just the GED tests.

Dawn Johnson— Special Sites Coordinator – Developmental Services NPC

NPC is introducing distance learning for GED candidates. NPC's adult education distance learning pilot will utilize 4 full time instructors. There will be 2 levels of prep offered, Pre-GED and GED. This will be a hybrid distance learning course including some face-to-face instruction and some instruction via on-line software. The GED orientation is very important for finding out which students will be an appropriate candidate for the distance learning program. Useful for anyone who's an independent learner with access to a computer and internet, as well as possessing basic computer skills, self motivation, needs, and their situation at home. 67% of students are completing their GED's. TABE testing on hold but will test if students need scores for the agencies. Has a list of students to contact to start assessments in December to avoid interruption of students currently enrolled.

Willie Begay—Special Sites

Seven sites with a total of 17 labs. 4 labs in Ft. Defiance, 2 labs in Greasewood, 1 lab in Pinon, 6 labs in Kayenta, 2 labs in Chinle and 2 labs at the Chinle High School. There will be more students getting their GED's by the end of the year in Hopi.

Debbie Thomes—Family Advocate-Head Start Snowflake Agency:

Has a parent scheduled to take the GED test. There are currently 40 GED books checked out. The biggest issue with working parents is scheduling GED testing dates.

Louella Nahsonhoya—Transition Specialist, NPC:

From July 2006 to November 5, 2007, there were a total of 255 tested at Holbrook and Show Low who passed their GED tests. A GED graduation ceremony is scheduled to take place on January 25, 2008 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the Performing Arts Center at the SCC in Snowflake, AZ. Louella and Pat's focus, as Transition Specialists, is to encourage the GED students/graduates to further their education by attending college not only at NPC, but other institutions they wish to attend.

Tomie Zamora—Secretary to the Dean—Developmental Services, NPC:

Spring schedules will be out on Friday, November 10, 2007. The schedule of TLC classes for the spring semester is attached to the papers in the packet.

Sonja Banyacya—NAU-ED Opportunity Center:

Started a new grant year. The new grant will cover the cost of the GED tests. As coordinators, they're given their own purses. The funds left over from one county will be transferred to other counties that have used up all their funds. As a member of the Head Start Parent Committee, finding individuals through the Head Start Program is an essential plan. The GED orientation is a good model for adults to receive their GED's and to further their education.

Pam Turley—Holbrook Head Start:

Only one parent is currently working toward getting their GED. Several are taking classes to earn their GED. In the process of planning the Family Educational Social Fairs, which will give people the opportunity to get information on what's available to them and to encourage them as well.

Claude Enfield—Northland Pioneer College:

There are GED graduates who are interested in Early Childhood. Twenty scholarships are available with seven being reserved already. They will be awarded \$200 each, which includes: entry and course fees through 7 credits, tuition, and the rest will be used for books. In 2009, funds will be available for Early Childhood and systems in the communities, pertaining to children's health and early childhood services. \$5000.00 cut this semester for DES Scholarships for students who applied for more than 3 credit hours all of which are being used during the Fall semester.

Terilyn John – White Mountain Apache Tribe WIA Program:

One person from the program is currently attending classes at NPC. Looking forward to working with Dawn during the spring semester. There are a lot of people interested in enrolling into the GED program.

Sarah Antonio – Resident Service Coordinator – White Mountain Housing Authority:

ABCD is a new program for clients currently 100 students in 4 classrooms are in the program. Would like to try some type of computer skills workshop or job training for clients. That area has one of the highest unemployment rates.

Pat Natseway – Transition Specialist, Northland Pioneer College:

No report

Rhonda Becenti – Assistant to the Secretary – Developmental Services NPC:

No report

Edith Anderson – Northland Pioneer College Student:

Thanks for being invited to join the Community Advisory Committee.

Harold Hoover – Navajo County Library District:

Is willing to do some projects for the computer literacy program for the communities.

Next Meeting Date & Location:

February 13, 2008

11:30-2:30

CEC Holbrook