

# Snowflake/Taylor Silver Creek Campus Community Outreach and Student Focus Group

NOTES

OCTOBER 13, 2011 1:00 – 2:30 & 2:45 – 3:45 PM

LC101/SYMPOSIUM

<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Jeanne Swarthout, President and Mark Vest, Vice President for Learning and Student Services
<b>TYPE OF MEETINGS</b>	Community Outreach Student Focus Group
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Marcia Bennett, Assistant to the Campus Manager
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	NPC Representatives: Jeanne Swarthout, Susan Olsen, Kristin Thomas, Emma Hillend, and Marcia Bennett Invited community members and interested students

## Discussion topics

### OVERVIEW OF CAMPUS, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

SUSAN OLSEN

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p><b>Facilities</b> – The first permanent buildings on campus were built in 1976 and the Multipurpose Building and Welding Shop were remodeled in 2005 as the Student Center and the Performance Annex. In 1995 the Learning Center was added followed by the Performing Arts Center in 2004. Our last project completed on site was a parking addition in 2008.</p> <p><b>Programs and services</b> – A quick overview of the programs and services that are available on-site was given with a call for support to be given to the future performance events.</p> <p><b>NPC’s Home Page</b> – A slide of our website’s Home Page was shown and highlights were pointed out.</p> <p><b>NPC’s Mission</b> – “Northland Pioneer College creates, supports and promotes lifelong learning” was stated.</p>
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### SUMMARY OF CURRENT BUDGET STATUS AND STRATEGIC PLAN

JEANNE SWARTHOUT

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p><b>Strategic Plan</b> – NPC uses a three year strategic plan that guides us in our budgeting process. The college is no longer funded on the basis of FTSE. Because of this we have been changing our orientation to ‘what can we do for our students?’ The college serves Navajo and Apache counties. Services to Apache County are provided on a fee-for-service basis. The strategic plan can be found on the NPC website under About NPC under Administration. Also, Arizona’s Community College Strategic Vision is posted in the same location. The state wants us to double the number of bachelor’s degrees issued.</p> <p><b>Budget</b> – We’ve been taking a big hit in the press for having too much money. We will be using a lot of this money to build skill centers at PDC and WMC. We will also be installing security cameras in all campus and center parking lots (except Apache County centers). This was planned before the assault happened at WMC.</p> <p><b>NPC’s current economy</b> – We are in better shape than most entities because of our planning efforts. We are working from a baseline funding until a permanent funding formula is created. In the meantime we have not received the baseline. We’re funded by three formulas- FTSE, capital and equalization. Four community colleges receive equalization—the only formula that has actually worked the last few years. The only formula that works, works against us and the other two have been eliminated.</p>
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### HIGHLIGHTS IN INSTRUCTION

JEANNE SWARTHOUT

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p><b>Programming</b> – We have eliminated many dormant or poorly attended programs. We are bringing back two programs; the construction trades and the law enforcement reserve academy. We are looking for a director for the construction trades now. The law enforcement reserve academy will be held at NATC. It will run for one cycle and then we will evaluate how it’s working. We are also looking at the possibility of doing a 16-week academy during the summer.</p> <p><b>Condition of the NATC location</b> – The facility does not look good. NPC is working with the Town of Taylor and the county to make it a better training facility. Possible improvements include: Relocate sheriff’s dispatch to NATC (who may take over landscaping, which is needed), track resurfacing, FD and PD thinking of a stucco building for training and physical fitness, more facilities, better training facilities, more parking, better utilization.</p>
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### RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY AND STUDENTS

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Throughout the meeting the following issues were discussed between the attendees:</p> <p><b>What is the possibility of NPC Faculty teaching advanced languages at the high school</b> – What is the possibility of NPC partnering with the high school to send a teacher to teach their advanced language classes and then the high school students can receive college credit? The high school is having a hard time finding instructors so if the college could provide the instructors then they would provide the students. <b>Follow-up</b> – Who is the contact to discuss this further – Mark Vest.</p>
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**Is our enrollment up or down?** – Our enrollment is a combination of regular enrollment, NAVIT, and Dual Enrollment. Our enrollment is going down because of NAVIT and other decisions that we have made due to budgetary concerns. We have offered fewer courses and have utilized adjunct faculty less. Until this semester Dual enrollment has been down. Our regular enrollment has been fairly steady.

**Are we interested in practical, hands on teaching?** – We are what we call a comprehensive community college. Most colleges can't be as comprehensive anymore but NPC hasn't changed much yet. We do academic transfer. We have a heavy emphasis on Career and Technical Education. We do Developmental Education which is controversial right now and very expensive but we want our students to be successful. We also do Community Education courses that are for fun but are not credited. We also do Business and Industry Training where businesses use NPC for trainings.

**Do we ever use real business as examples for our business classes, like setting up business plans?** – Our Small Business Development Center (SBDC) may be able to do something like that. Or you could talk to the Dean of Career and Technical Education, Peggy Belknap.

**The state wants you to double Bachelor's degrees, but they had a panel that showed that people with Bachelor's are still struggling to find jobs. How does that fit into your plans?** – Realistically we don't think we can meet that goal. We need to look more realistically at what the students want. We are working with ASU for a track from AAS to BAS hoping this will assist CTE students.

**People want solar, demand is great. Can we set up a program for that?** – We don't want to set up a program until we have somewhere for the students to follow through to employment. The technology is too expensive and it is not feasible for businesses even with the grants available at the federal level.

**Carriage House- They have heard that the CNA program may be coming here? If it is true, they question the times classes are offered because they have seven people to train but they work different shifts. They want to see the CNA program doubled. There is a concern that the classes fill so quickly on the first day of registration.** Mark Vest has confirmed that we do have a classroom identified that could be used to house the CNA program if it were determined that it should be offered here. Having CNA offered at SCC would take pressure off WMC. Snowflake Medical would like to see the Medical Assistant program offered at NPC because that is the program that helps doctor's offices. The college is aware that we have serious student, especially in the Nursing and science areas, that register the first day of registration and fill classes.

**With high schools reducing electives, if they continue on this path, soon they'll be only teaching basic education. If that continues to happen the community colleges will be playing a bigger role. –**

**What do you think about the state and Move on When Ready?** – Rich Crandell thought it was a brilliant idea but didn't think about the details. It seems impossible for rural schools. We're not sure how things are going to work out. We're also wondering if a Grand Canyon Diploma will qualify students for Pell grants. If kids leave high school at 10<sup>th</sup> grade, they won't be able to get into Universities. If we lose a few kids it's not worth it. We'd rather try an early college pilot. Although, like NAVIT, that creates ADM issues. It might benefit the students but it hurts the high schools in funding. Financially NPC is in better shape than any AZ community college and area high schools. We need to reach out to our high schools. Our staffs' efforts have helped through budget cuts.

**How can NPC help the community? Like we need a web site or we need computer help. How can NPC help me?** – Yes, we should be able to help with that. This could be provided through student projects contact Dean or Career and Technical Education Peggy Belknap.

**Do we do student internships?** – Yes, and we can also take projects from businesses into the classrooms to work on.

**How do we link those together?** – Connecting students in need of projects to projects that the community needs could be linked through Peggy Belknap's division, CTE.

## STUDENT ISSUES

**It is hard on students that have to commute to take classes where they are located because they are not offered at LCC.** – This difficulty is understood by the college

**Is there housing available?** – Not at this time.

**Do we have anybody in line for an adviser? No one is ever here and its half way through the semester, getting close to Spring registration and the students have no help.** We are interviewing Monday and Tuesday. We need to have someone here a couple of days a week. We will talk to the Dean of Students Jake Hinton about it. With Spring registration coming up we need someone here. We are acutely aware of the problem; we'll do something by next week. Maybe we can get someone from another campus one or two days a week at least for a few hours.

**What safety precautions have been taken since what happened at WMC?**

There will be a meeting with SLPD at WMC on campus safety. Maybe we should record the meeting for those who will not be able to attend. We're going to try to push security cameras in parking lots through an emergency board meeting. We have a high police presence right now at WMC. Safety is first and we're working closely with SLPD for safety. In the meantime, we have an alert system in place to let our students know what's going on. *There is a link on the NPC Home Page at [www.npc.edu](http://www.npc.edu) pertaining to the safety meeting at WMC under the title of SLPD Offers Safety Tips.*

### DISCUSSION

**Scholarships take too long to be processed. What is being done?** – We know about the problems in Financial Aid and we are taking steps to fix them. We have hired additional staff and have recently moved Jake Hinton to oversee the Financial Aid Office. He has a lot of experience to fix the processes. We are working to make it better.

**Why can't I get PELL from NPC when I could at NAU just because my parents claimed me on their taxes?** Contact John McCain because there is a movement to reduce PELL awards because of the for-profit institutions. Need is determined by the cost of attendance and since it is less expensive to attend NPC that could be one of the reasons.

**Financial Aid is taking a long time and they are not even taking out the correct payments out of my checking account while I am waiting for a decision. Why is it taking so long?** – We are working on fixing the processing in the Financial Aid office. There are several problems being addressed at this time.

**Why don't they answer the phone in Financial Aid or call people back after they leave a message?** – With the number of applications increasing two and a half percent over the last year it has caused a delay in completing the packaging process. We understand the need for better customer service and have hired three new employees to answer the phones. It will get better.

**What day of the week is Spirit Day?** – Wednesday – Students were asked this and were given an NPC item so they can show their spirit on Wednesday's.