



**Northland Pioneer College**

*Quality education you can afford.*

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Outreach

Painted Desert Campus, Holbrook

March 13, 2012

Northland Pioneer College/Painted Desert Campus, Holbrook hosted the Campus's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual community outreach meeting on March 13, 2012 at the Tiponi Community Center. Those in attendance were:

Dr. Jeanne Swarthout – NPC President, Mark Vest – NPC Vice President of Learning & Student Services, J.R. DeSpain-Navajo County District 3 Supervisor, Brad Traver-Superintendent of the Petrified Forest National Park, Cher Reyes – City of Holbrook, Matthew Barger – Holbrook Tribune News, Blaine Hatch – NPC Vice President for Administrative Services, Dean Chase – Arizona Department of Public Safety, Emily Wheeler – Holbrook Chamber of Commerce, Charles Haussman – Holbrook High School Vice Principal, Eric Henderson – NPC Dean of Arts & Sciences, Loyelin Aceves – NPC, Randy Weems, Navajo County Sheriff's Office, Robbie Koerperich – Holbrook School District Superintendent, MiAnna Tyler – NPC Campus Manager at Painted Desert Campus and Kathy McPherson – NPC Assistant to the Campus Manager at Painted Desert Campus.

MiAnna welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that we go around the table for everyone to introduce themselves. She stated that the new skill center would be built at Painted Desert Campus with construction possibly starting this summer.

Dr. Swarthout spoke to the group about the status of the budget. She stated that she doesn't anticipate that any community colleges will take additional hits, the budget should be stable. She informed the group that a new ten million dollar scholarship fund has been set up for CTE at community colleges. Dr. Swarthout also stated that community colleges have take huge hits in the past; due to careful work of the college employees we are in a solid state here at NPC, we are fortunate to be where we are, right on target. The President explained that the college now does a 3-year strategic plan instead of the 5-year that used to be used, she stated that the strategic plan lets everyone know where the college is at in the planning process, the budget is linked to the strategic plan; there is a lot of deferred maintenance to do, parking lots etc. The president stated

that we should have the new skill center ready to go by the fall of 2013; we have a successful welding program here that is currently being housed on City of Holbrook property.

Mark Vest stated that the skill center in Holbrook is being overbuilt on purpose so that additional programs can be added; with the opportunity for future expansion. He also stated that Northland Pioneer College obtained a Title III grant to expand the megabit per second; he also explained that each campus now has a model classroom to expand distance learning; as the video classrooms are currently using 1990's technology. The subject of 4-year degrees came up and Vice President Vest stated that having access to 4-year degrees here is hard, NPC is working with several colleges to be able to offer a couple of 4-year degrees, he stated to the group that some of the Nursing program graduates are going into an online program at ASU to obtain their BA degree. He also informed the group that since NPC implemented a \$25.00 late fee we have seen a significant impact on the number of late registrations. He stated that the college has had a 20% increase in the number of credits our students completed, and that the college has recently hired a Director of Institutional Effectiveness.

Dr. Swarthout stated that student success is very important and that we will have plenty of students if we do the right thing, we want to measure student success and move forward. We are monitored by the state and the feds, we have to be much more mindful of what student intent is; some community college only come to complete one class that they might need for their job.

Vice President Hatch stated that a key component in strategic planning is the master facility plan. He showed everyone the concept plan for the new skill center that will be built at Painted Desert Campus here in Holbrook. He stated that it will be 27,000 square feet – it will incorporate welding and building construction for now, they would like to double the size of the skill center in the future. Vice President Hatch said that everyone was excited and stated that we are fortunate that we have the capability to build a skill center in Holbrook, and that he would love to hear input from the community. J.R. DeSpain asked if the skill center was being built for construction skills. Dr. Swarthout stated that welding would be in there first; and then in 2013 the new construction trade program. She informed the group that the college had eliminated the construction program 4 years ago because they didn't have a place to house it. She stated that the college hired a construction trade instructor in January and they want to get the program up and running. She stated that the college may possibly add classes for potash and IMO at the skill center in Holbrook in the future.

J.R. DeSpain stated to Dr. Swarthout that it appears ideas and changes start at the top with the legislator and he wondered if there was anything they could do to help Northland Pioneer College with the ability to obtain 4 year degrees. Dr. Swarthout stated that ASU has met with Eastern Arizona College about offering 4 year degrees; and that she believes that ASU has done the best job of coming to the table with community colleges. She said that the K12 level is being pushed hard by the legislature, and that K12 needs the support; lobby support is needed. Dr. Swarthout stated that when she became the president of the college, she did not anticipate

spending so much time at the legislature; she informed the group that there is no Board of Regents for community colleges and that they (community colleges) have all had to learn to work together, she also stated that NPC is an equalization school – it was put in place to equalize us with counties that can tax everybody. She said that 83% of land here cannot be taxed because it is reservation land.

Robby Koerperich stated that a lot of stuff is hitting K12 right now. He wants students to take college courses when they are in high school; and he is excited that Northland Pioneer College is willing to work with high school students – giving them the opportunity to be ready for college through the NAVIT program. He stated that we need to be patient to get where we need to go, what can we do to build a bridge from K12 to higher education? Dr. Swarthout stated that it is going to be a long haul – the earlier we start instilling it, the better.

Charles Haussman stated that post-secondary is the buzz word. Mr. Koerperich said that K12 needs to start tracking curriculum to see what students are interested in so they can start taking the classes that will benefit them; we need to help prepare our kids for universities – maybe by having a focus group of kids from here when they come back from a university. Dr. Swarthout stated that she would love to be on a student focus group about their experiences. Matthew Barger and Mr. Koerperich both stated that they both have kids attending universities and how they were surprised at the large class sizes. Mr. Koerperich suggested possibly working with Northland Pioneer College to put an informational booklet together for students and parents. Dr. Swarthout asked what other things do we need to look at. Charles Hausmann stated serving the needs in the county, there needs to be an increasingly close relationship between K12 and Northland Pioneer College. He stated that NPC has so much potential and wondered if NPC was appropriately named to market – marketing is critical to this organization. Dr. Swarthout stated that a name change for NPC has come up before.

Dr. Swarthout spoke to the group about online classes. She stated that the feds are determined that you cannot deliver online courses to any other state; she said we will have to see where it goes. Most states have rules about other states delivering online classes; like if you pay their state money you can come in; or other states require a lot of paperwork – it has to be done every year.

The group had a discussion about programs the college could offer and Charles Hausmann stated that robotics have a competitive edge. Dr. Swarthout said that we should put money into robotics and we could share the resources with K12. The subject of the heavy equipment program came up; Dr. Swarthout stated that 70% of the equipment is from the 1970's – and that makes her nervous. Heavy equipment is a costly program; Charles Hausmann stated that diesel repair may go well here. Emily Wheeler stated that students from the NAVIT program have been hired at Preferred Sands because they have welding and heavy equipment experience. Dr. Swarthout stated that the NAVIT welding program is wonderful; the instructors do an outstanding job. She mentioned that they will soon be traveling to Phoenix for the annual Skills,

USA competition; she has attended previously and it is so cool. She stated that employers are lined up to talk to the NAVIT students at the competition. The students come out of the program as first class welders and have good interview skills as well.

Brad Trevar informed the group that the Petrified Forest is a small employer of about 40 people who live in the community – they look for local folks as often as they can. He stated that he would like to make the offer to NPC to use the park as an outdoor classroom for archeology, paleontology classes, etc. Dr. Swarthout said there could be a possibility of doing a field school with high school students. Randy Weems stated that maybe NPC could partner with Caterpillar for the heavy equipment program.

The subject came up about NPC offering athletics or housing in the future. Dr. Swarthout informed the group that athletics are very expensive – that is one of the reasons NPC eliminated them; and we do not have the space to build dorms. Mark Vest stated that the college was originally built to offer classes in several communities; we do not have a main campus, it is difficult when the college is spread out like NPC is. Dr. Swarthout stated that it is hard to know where to put things; different locations wonder why certain campuses have different programs. Dr. Swarthout informed the group after Eastern Arizona College was mentioned, that Eastern's funding is different than the rest of us – so they can do more.

Mark Vest stated that there is a group of students who are coming through NPC for the second time around – he said that a fast growing segment here are recent high school graduates. Some of our students come to only take fun classes like quilting.

Dr. Swarthout stated that community colleges are looking hard at their mission statements. She stated that the state deliberately made a decision two years ago to not match adult basic education. Mark Vest explained to the group what The Learning Cornerstone (TLC) was for NPC. Charles Hausmann stated that he had taught in the TLC and language skills were tough. Dr. Swarthout stated that the answer is finding the solutions to helping people with their adult basic education skills. Randy Weems asked if a new school could take over adult basic education. Dr. Swarthout stated that there is no money in it – the feds won't fund it. Mark Vest explained that students who do not have a GED or basic skills are not eligible for funding through Federal Pell Grants.

J.R. DeSpain stated that we want to be ready for the Potash mine. He also said he wanted to thank NPC for stepping up to the plate with the bus line that runs between Holbrook, Snowflake and Show Low; and that we need to get one to run between Holbrook and Winslow.

Robby Koerperich asked what NPC's role was so that students don't take classes they don't need. Mark Vest stated that that NPC has advisory committees; and they discuss what critical skills students need so that they understand their lifetime of work, not just the job they have now – to start thinking critical.

J. R. DeSpain asked if the law enforcement academy program is going forward. Mark Vest stated that yes it is and the college recently hired a Director of Public Safety and will soon be moving on getting faculty hired.

Dr. Swarthout told the group that NPC is now the proud owners of the NATC training center in Taylor; she stated that we will figure out how to integrate the training center into our lives. Dr. Swarthout asked the group if there were any thoughts or comments. Matthew Barger stated that the library at the campus in Winslow is not a good place to study – you can't think, there are offices and classes. Mark Vest stated that the Holbrook campus is built with a different design plan than the other campuses.

Mark Vest stated to the group that Arizona community colleges have the lowest tuition and that Arizona universities have the highest tuition.

The meeting adjourned and everyone was thanked for attending.

Kathy McPherson

Assistant to the Campus Manager/Holbrook

Notetaker