

Northland Pioneer College  
Community Outreach Meeting  
Little Colorado Campus  
8 March 2012

Rene Chase Begay, Campus Manager, opened the meeting by giving a brief overview of the campus, programs, and services offered at LCC.

Dr. Jeanne Swarthout, College president, gave a brief summary of the current budget status and Strategic Plan. She informed the group that State funding revenues have steadily decreased and that trend will continue in the coming fiscal year.

NPC has three primary sources of revenue: Navajo County personal property tax, State Aid, and tuition. Each one dollar increase in tuition yields revenue of approximately \$50,000.

The legislature and the governor haven't yet agreed on a budget for fiscal year 2012-2013. It has been announced, however, that approximately \$1.4 million will be cut from State equalization funding.

Dr. Swarthout noted that the State may award \$10 million in scholarship money to be distributed between the Arizona community colleges. Even though that amount is relatively small considering there are approximately 550,000 students enrolled in Arizona community colleges, it is encouraging that the State recognizes the need for these scholarships.

At this point Fiscal year 2012 - 2013 appears to be fiscally stable, certainly more so than half or more of the other Arizona community colleges. Fiscal year 2013 – 2014 looks less stable because of the loss of sales tax revenue and large capital expenditures.

Dr. Swarthout explained that the NPC Strategic Plan, which is on a three-year rolling schedule, is tightly linked to the budget. Expenditures must be justified by the Strategic Plan and must clearly demonstrate how the Strategic Plan will be impacted. For this reason NPC wants to gather information from the Winslow community to learn their perceived needs; to learn what the community sees NPC as doing well, and where we need to improve.

Dr. Swarthout announced that a Skills Center will be built on the Holbrook Painted Desert Campus to move the large welding program from the old Hermosa campus and to accommodate new programs in the construction trades scheduled to roll out in the fall of 2013. Another Skills Center will be built on the Show Low White Mountain Campus primarily to accommodate the NAVIT Construction Technology program. Additionally, NPC is working on developing a Megatronics (robotics manufacturing) program primarily geared toward the potash mines and Cholla power plant. In 2014 NPC is hoping to team with Mojave and Pima community colleges to offer a three-step, two-year joint training program for students involved in these industries.

Jim Ferguson, City of Winslow, asked if NPC outreach is focusing on developing curriculum and, if so, if a schedule of meetings has been created. Dr. Swarthout replied that a schedule is being developed by Ken Wilkes.

Thomas Chacon, Winslow City Council, asked if NPC receives tribal funding. Dr. Swarthout advised him that we do not qualify for tribal funding because NPC is classified as a non tribal native-serving institution. Occasionally NPC does receive grants, such as a current Title III grant, based on the number of Native American students served.

Dr. Swarthout remarked that this summer NPC will be working with the Navajo Nation Educational Summit to have open conversations regarding how to work together to better serve the people of the Navajo Nation. Mr. Al Hale will be leading this effort.

Mr. Chacon asked what NPC is doing to prepare a potential workforce for new industry coming to the Holbrook and Winslow communities. Dr. Swarthout responded that NPC is gathering work force data from the potash mining and OSB forestry industry and the private prison.

Mr. Ferguson commented that these new industries will be here within two years and the training programs are needed now. Dr. Swarthout reiterated that programs can't be developed until data is gathered from the industries to learn what programs are needed. NPC can't develop programs without conversations with the industry groups and it doesn't happen overnight; extensive research and planning are required for quality programs to be developed.

Mr. Chacon asked how we can get the conversation started. Mr. Ferguson interjected that city work force leaders need to work with NPC to initiate meetings with the potash mining, forestry products, and private prison work force development groups. Dr. Swarthout suggested trying for an initial meeting with these groups in May. Dr. Swarthout agreed to contact Mr. Chacon and Mr. Ferguson to help plan the initial meeting.

Mark Vest, Vice President for Student Services, talked about the changing emphasis from FTSE as the primary method of judging student success to completion (output). NPC initiated a \$25 late fee to encourage students to register early. Data shows that the later a student registers the lower the chance of success.

Mr. Vest posed the question: How do we help students complete successfully? He then suggested three solutions:

- Identify why the student has chosen NPC
- Identify the student's intent (what he wishes to accomplish)
- Help the student accomplish that intent

Mr. Vest talked about the importance of the adult basic education program (The Learning Cornerstone: TLC) based at the Little Colorado Campus. Many community colleges no longer offer these basic courses but NPC has had great success with them and feels they are a very important factor in student success. At NPC 40 percent of new students need TLC classes in reading and writing and 50 percent need basic classes in math.

He indicated that NPC is trying to get a clear sense of what high school students need to be successful at a community college or university. As part of that focus, NPC is starting pilot programs at two high schools to identify gaps in high school curriculum that deter students from being college ready.

Mr. Chacon asked if NPC has ever met with high school students to explain to them what is needed to prepare for college. Dr. Swarthout replied that NPC had not met with high school students for that purpose and that it was a good idea to consider.

Dr. Swarthout stated that AIMS testing will end in 2014 to be replaced by another form of assessment that is more geared toward college readiness. The challenge with this new testing for Navajo County is that the assessment can only be accessed by computer. There seems to be no recognition from the Arizona Department of Education that rural areas don't have access to technology and training needed for this delivery method.

Thomas Drumm, Northern Arizona Academy, asked if the assessment being referred to is the Common Core Standards program. Dr. Swarthout answered in the affirmative and added that she is on the steering committee for the program but she has no sense of how it will be implemented. For this reason NPC is starting the pilot programs in high schools.

Dr. Swarthout mentioned the following information:

- Guns on campus legislation has been defeated for this year
- The Cosmetology program is growing and we're trying to get more full-time faculty
- The Nursing Assistant program is growing and NPC has plans to expand this program
- NPC has partnered with ASU, NAU, and Prescott College to create 15 transfer programs to help our students get 4-year degrees.
- Beginning in August 2012 Law Enforcement Reserve Academy training will begin
- NPC will shortly assume ownership of the NATC (Northern Arizona Training Center) for fire science training.

Blaine Hatch, Vice President for Administrative Services, reported on recent Facility Master Plan meetings. The goal of those meetings was to assess current facilities and to determine how to improve NPC facilities. The College is very interested in obtaining community input and feedback for future planning. Mr. Hatch explained that the goal is to remove all modular buildings from campus locations and to replace them with permanent, attractive, and functional buildings. Community meetings will be held to address future facility planning.

Dr. Swarthout asked what NPC needs to be doing. Jeanne O'Haco, Director of Nursing at Little Colorado Medical Center, expressed appreciation to NPC for using LCMC for nursing clinicals. She said it had kept the hospital open. Ms. O'Haco said that NPC nursing students and phlebotomists come to clinicals and into the work force better prepared than students from other colleges. She encouraged NPC to consider offering at LCC an EMT program, short-term classes (6 to 8 weeks) on diabetes and dialysis and other community health care issues designed to educate the public about prevention and treatment of these diseases. She also mentioned that the newly re-modeled Emergency Room facility at LCMC will open April 17<sup>th</sup>.

In conjunction with Ms. O'Haco's comments, James Hernandez, Winslow Fire Chief, suggested that NPC offer classes on children's nutrition, noting that Chartwell's, the suppliers of Winslow school lunches, is very concerned about the poor diets of most local children.

Valerie Kelley, Director of Nursing at the Winslow Indian Health Care Centers (WIHCC), said they offer programs on exercise for kids and families; they're trying to create a culture of family fitness. She indicated that they, too, appreciate NPC nursing students, who come to WIHCC well prepared and ready to work. She thinks the good thing about the NPC Nursing program is the hands-on approach, which better prepares students for one-on-one patient care. The focus of WIHCC is to get Reservation students into higher education, especially in the medical fields.

Mr. Chacon said that NPC has a very positive impact on Winslow so why are so many of our programs going to Show Low? How can we keep the programs here? Dr. Swarthout replied that dwindling resources and NAVIT budget reductions force NPC to focus on specific locations and specific programs convenient to the most students. NPC measures where students travel and place the programs there. Mr. Chacon commented that we feel like NPC step children. Dr. Swarthout answered that she understood how he felt but she doesn't have specific solutions to resolve the issue. She did mention that LCC has the strongest Nursing program in the area and one of only two Cosmetology programs in Navajo County. Mr. Chacon responded that the Winslow community does notice what goes on with the College and wants to be involved. Dr. Swarthout replied that the College welcomes community involvement and wants to work together.

Mr. Ferguson commented that he is very pleased that the police academy is being re-instated especially because of the prospect of between 250 and 400 law enforcement jobs coming to Winslow with the private prison. He mentioned that Winslow High School has a small Law Enforcement program, and he'd like to see those students move into the NPC program. He said a decision if the private prison is coming to Winslow will be made July 1st and if so it will be approximately 18-months before it opens.

Kay Bassani, WIHCC, asked why NPC has eliminated Saturday classes. Mr. Vest replied that Internet classes now fill the need and that Saturday classes no longer have adequate enrollment. Dr. Swarthout commented that campuses other than WMC and all Centers are totally dependent on distance learning.

Mr. Ferguson invited Dr. Swarthout and her staff to meet with the Winslow City Council for their Strategic Planning meeting March 19<sup>th</sup> to present information similar to that discussed at this meeting. She agreed to make every effort to attend that meeting.

Dr. Swarthout concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for coming. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a. m.

Minutes prepared by Ina Sommers/LCC

Student Response  
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Mark Vest, Vice President for Student Services welcomed two students: Sterling West, and Kristin Jacobs.

Sterling asked if NPC had any type of organized voter registration program. Mr. Vest responded that NPC does have a program that is administered through the library on a totally non-partisan basis.

Sterling commented that he felt NPC was tremendously beneficial to local communities and that all students should attend a community college for their Associate Degree. He told us his story: he had a negative high school experience, couldn't wait to get out of school, and planned on going into the Marines after graduation. However, a physical examination showed undiagnosed asthma, which disqualified him from joining the Marine Corps. He was left groundless and floundering for what to do with his life. He told us that his mom, Penny West, essentially dragged him to LCC and made him register for classes. His first semester was an *abysmal failure* and he ended up dropping all his classes. He decided to try it again and loves it. He mentioned how an email from his Philosophy instructor, Ryan Jones, praising and encouraging him in his studies made a huge difference in his efforts to excel and learn all he can from not only Philosophy but all of his classes.

Kristin Jacobs is the Painted Desert Campus SGA (Student Government Association) representative. She invited Sterling to become involved in SGA as a representative for LCC. Sterling replied that he was interested and would follow up with her after the meeting. He then mentioned that he was very interested in study abroad in Germany or Russia. Mr. Vest told him those programs weren't available through NPC but may be through U of A. He then told Sterling about the SGA Road Trip visiting Arizona universities, and invited him to participate noting that Sterling could arrange his time to check on the study abroad program at U of A.

Mr. Vest commented that the role of SGA is not to recruit students for NPC but to recruit students for higher education and to help all students be successful.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15.

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