



# Business Studies Department Community Advisory Meeting Friday, March 20th, 2026

## I. Welcome

- a) Introduction
- b) Total attendance for the meeting was 13 members of the community plus 4 faculty members.
- c) Rachel Townsend introduced the community advisory meeting and welcomed participants to the new Student Services building. NPC serves Navajo and Apache counties, covering over 21,000 square miles with nine campuses. The institution offers affordable tuition and free summer courses, serving approximately 5,700 students annually.
- d) Faculty introduced them.

## II. Current Degree Walk-throughs

- a) Associate of Applied Science – Medical Office Administration
- b) Associate of Applied Science – Entrepreneurship
- c) Associate of Applied Science – Management and Leadership
- d) Associate of Business (ABus)
- e) Bachelor of Applied Management (BAM)
- f) The newly launched bachelor program allows students to stack credits from associate degrees for efficient degree completion.
- g) The bachelor's degree costs less than \$13,000, comparable to a semester at a university.
- h) Programs undergo the same accreditation process as universities, ensuring quality and rigor.
- i) Virtual internships provide real-world experience by solving business problems for local companies.
- j) New emphasis options include hospitality tourism, public administration, and tribal business programs.



### **III. Current Department Updates**

- a) OER and curriculum updates - Open Education Resources (OER) aim to reduce costs and enhance accessibility for students.
- b) A.I. Integration - All courses have 10-20% of AI integrated into them. This includes AI platforms and using AI for research purposes. The department focuses on teaching students that AI is a tool.
- c) 8-week courses - The department will shift to eight-week courses for most classes starting Fall 2026, enhancing student engagement. Students can choose between eight and sixteen-week formats for specific courses like Microsoft Office and Financial Accounting.
- d) All business and economic classes will be offered online and asynchronously to accommodate students' busy schedules.

### **IV. Future degrees**

- a) Bachelor of Science – Business Administration (92 credits)
- b) Degree Layout - The department aims to introduce a 92-credit bachelor's degree in Business Administration, reducing costs for students.
- c) Tentative Timeline 12-18 months for the process
- d) Feasibility Study Survey - requested the attendees complete an online survey.

### **V. Needs of the communities**

- a) What skills do you need to see in our students
- b) Communication
- c) Presentation skills
- d) Auto body program requested. Referred them to Sam Harris.