



YOUTH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday, June 8, 2011

11:30 a.m.

Northern Essex Community College (Riverwalk)

360 Merrimack Street, Building 9, Room 426

Lawrence, MA 01843

Youth Council MEMBERS PRESENT:

Howard Allen, Janet Allison, Irene Chalek, Lisa Coy, Brad Howell, Steve Noroian, Megan Shea, Cal Williams, Linda Piergeorge,

MVWIB Youth Council MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tom Casey, Howard Flagler, Kristine Blum, Beverly DeSalvo, Ed Fitzgerald, April Lyskowsky, Heidi Riccio, Barbara Richards, Donna Rivera, Michael Strem

MVWIB STAFF PRESENT:

Deborah Andrews, Rafael Abislaiman, Susan Almono, Odanis Hernandez, Mary Kivell

OTHERS:

Dr. Lane Glenn

I. Call to Order

Youth Council Chairman Cal Williams called the meeting to order at 11:46 a.m. He thanked Dr. Lane Glenn and Northern Essex Community College for hosting today's meeting and asked him to say a few words.

Dr. Glenn said that he was pleased to welcome the MVWIB Youth Council to this facility which opened last December. This space houses the college's Workforce Development and ABE programs as well as some business credit courses.

II. Approval of May 11, 2011 Minutes

Cal then called for a motion on the minutes of the May 11, 2011, 2011 meeting.

Motion by Howard Allen seconded by Brad Howell to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2011 Youth Council meeting as submitted. Motion passed.

III. Legislative Funding Update

Deborah Andrews reported that there was \$4m in summer jobs funding with \$230,000 going to serve 120 youth from Lawrence, Haverhill, and Methuen. Deborah said that we are expecting additional

funding to serve an additional 78 Lawrence youth. There is \$2m in the supplemental budget for Connecting Activities and the Senate 2012 budget includes \$1.2m for July 1 through June 30th which hasn't been approved to date. We receive \$75,000 per year but expect we may be getting less this year.

The state has received Race to the Top monies to meet Common Core goals that include career and college readiness. Lawrence, Haverhill, Greater Lawrence Tech, Amesbury and Newburyport have received Race to the Top funds. There will be advisory councils at each high school comprised of staff, community folks and parents. We will work with schools to provide work readiness and career professional development and curriculum for the schools. Efforts are targeted for Level IV schools that DESE has identified due to MCAS scores.

Janet Allison said that schools that take the Race to the Top money have to fire the principal if they have been there three years and the school is underperforming. This is all based on test driven data but nevertheless, Janet said that we are not meeting the needs of youth.

Deborah stated that our WIA allocation for youth is \$925,000 which is about a 6% drop in funding.

Linda Piergeorge asked if there were any studies on MCAS scores as she is seeing more and more of her clients testing out and going to NECC for basic language and basic math. Dr. Glenn said that when Dr. Hartleb first came to Northern Essex 75% of new students required remedial courses and that number is still 75%. Janet Allison said that the real tragedy is the students who have passed all their courses and not the MCAS and then go the NECC to get an associate degree without a high school diploma.

IV. "Achieving the Dream: 'What does it take to prepare college students for the workforce'"

Youth Council Chair Cal Williams referenced Dr. Glenn's, "Where the Boys Aren't" a previous presentation by Dr. Glenn to the Youth Council. Dr. Glenn Northern Essex Community College Vice President of Academic Affairs and incoming President said that the Community College has seen an increase in male students since that presentation. He feels that is in part due to the unemployment rate among males. They feel the need to attend college in order to be competitive in the workplace. He also mentioned that there are more events and information to ensure that veterans are aware of the services they are entitled to.

Dr. Lane Glenn began his presentation stating he would like to refer to a couple of comments that President Obama made and highlight what a community college can do. He said that President Obama said, "that by 2020, America will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world." The president also said, "In a global economy where the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge, a good education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity – it is a prerequisite." Dr. Glenn said that there are a number of well-paying jobs that require more than a high school diploma but not a four-year degree. There are 600,000 of these jobs in Massachusetts in health care, law enforcement, computer technology, etc. Many of these middle skills jobs pay over \$50,000.

As an exercise, Dr. Glenn distributed envelopes and asked council members to write the three things that a student should be able to do upon graduating from college. Dr. Glenn said that the Commissioner's Advisory Group on Undergraduate Education (CAGUE) describes what employers

want. They want written and oral communication; technical/information science; critical thinking and informed decision making; problem solving; relevance of education and lifelong learning; and workplace skills. Dr. Glenn said that on a scale of 1-5, NECC graduates rate the quality of their education and ability to transfer or get a job a 4+. Over the last five years 94-97% of NECC graduates were employed within one year and employers consistently report satisfaction with the quality of NECC students.

Dr. Glenn said that the problem is getting students to remain in the program to credentialing, with the average part time degree taking as long as seven years. If folks must begin with ESOL, it is a long road to a GED. When attending part-time, working 30+ hours, raising families, learning English, 75% require remedial courses, most don't cross the finish line.

Achieving the Dream is a multiyear, national initiative to help more community college students succeed. The initiative is particularly concerned about student groups that have traditionally faced the most significant barriers to success, including those with low-incomes and students of color. Four colleges in Massachusetts are participating, Bunker Hill, Northern Essex, Roxbury and Springfield Technical Community College. The goal is to successfully complete developmental courses and progress to credit bearing courses completing them with a grade of C or higher. NECC is looking at dual enrollment and early college for new student achievement levels (the middle third) and are aggressively getting out to area high schools. They will be increasing advising and intervention services and supplemental instruction which will follow a peer model of tutoring. We are looking at stumbling blocks like mathematics and English Comp I and addressing retention with a 2012 goal of 75%. The American Association of Community Colleges is looking for 50% more graduates by 2020 and NECC is the first college in Massachusetts to accept the challenge.

Dr. Glenn then spoke of other things such as the Health & Technology Center slated for 2013 with space close to the current campus for 7 or 8 hybrid classes and he said that they expect the Lawrence enrollment to double in the next two years. Discussion followed on what works with students such as mentoring and attachment to an advisor. Dr. Glenn said that we are working with Amesbury and Haverhill High Schools and have had conversations with Lawrence. Dr. Glenn said that we are looking to put resources where they can do the most good and want students to succeed. Cal then thanked Lane Glenn and NECC for hosting today's meeting stating that NECC has always been employer friendly.

V. Program Updates

Deborah said that she would like to thank Lisa, Matt and Christy for all their work on the summer youth program. Lisa said that she received 800 applications from Lawrence, Haverhill, and Methuen. Six hundred were complete and entered in the lottery with 120 names pulled. In the next two weeks staff will offer workshops on work readiness training, health and safety information and career information. Lisa said that we have more than enough businesses who have stepped forward and there will be an Employer Breakfast on June 17 at the Career Center. Deborah said that youth will work up to 25 hours per week for six weeks and earn \$8.00 per hour.

WIA – Outcome measurements for the quarter ending March 31st include both traditional WIA and also common measures. We are meeting all goals for out of school youth, but our in school youth numbers have not met our goals for attained 1+ goal and increase literacy/numeracy. Lisa said that we need to review information and how to work with vendors to achieve this goal.

Deborah asked Howard Allen to report on the externships. Howard said that the externs have completed their work and he mentioned that the teacher that went to Strem Chemicals developed a curriculum on conversions which is a MCAS requirement. Understanding conversions is also part of the intake process at Strem Chemical. The externship at UPS was also successful and we may have them come in with their materials to a Youth Council meeting. Howard said that he will be meeting with Deborah next week with the materials and will discuss how make externships a more self funding process in the future.

Rafael Abislaiman said that we are working under the assumption that WIA will be re-authorized. We will see a 8-9% reduction in funding numbers in WIA. We also had ARRA funds last year so with the cut in WIA and ARRA we will have a \$3M reduction in our funding, which is significant.

The other thing Rafael wanted to mention was that he has been asked to serve on the Lawrence Superintendent Search Committee and hopes that the focus remain on what is best for Lawrence students.

VI. Adjournment

Having no further business Howard Allen made a motion to adjourn seconded by Janet Allison. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kivell

Mary Kivell
Recorder