

November 2019 Director's Report

NEO Adult Education

Student Enrollment and Performance:

- As of December 2, 2019, NEO Adult Ed had 139 students enrolled. We are at 53% of our contracted enrollment goal, and this is a 5% increase over last year.
- 54.68% of students have post-tested and made gains (Table 4). We have met our short-term goal to have 50%+ on Table 4 by December 31, 2019.
- Had 15 students pass the HSE exam, which is an increase of 8 students from this time last year.

Program Updates:

- NEO has recruited two volunteers for our Vecinos project; our goal is four.
- The Vecinos project held a second Intercambio (“exchange”) program at the Lake Station Library on November 14 on legal issues immigrants may experience pertaining to housing. Representatives from The Welcome Network and the Gary Housing Authority exchanged information with the 14 people in attendance.
- NEO enrolled 10 students into our new ServeSafe IET (Integrated Education and Training) course as of November 25, 2019.
- The NEO Adult Education team held a Thanksgiving celebration/ potluck feast!



NEO Testing Center

21 HSE testers – 13 passed, 8 failed
3 Para-Pro testers – 3 passed, 1 failed

New Vistas High School

Student Enrollment and Performance:

- November Attendance = 92.08%
- Current enrollment is at 225.
- NVHS mobility: Since the beginning of the year, 53 students (24%) have withdrawn, dropped out (can't locate), or have been withdrawn by us due to no attendance or other reasons. This is a slight decrease from last year's rate of 26%. New Vistas' student support services team is finalizing student retention plans and a coordinated student support services system. Mrs. Swope will be discussing our student retention goals and plans at the January Board meeting.

Student Discipline Report: Overall suspensions are down from last month by 12. It appears that our cell phone policy is working, violations are down by 7. Insubordination/refusal to follow sign-out procedures are down by 1.

Program Updates:

Advanced Manufacturing Fair – Mr. Foster and 15 New Vistas' students joined hundreds of regional high school students at the annual Advanced Manufacturing Fair in Crown Point in November.

Blood Drive- NVHS's student council sponsored the annual Fall Blood Drive with the American Red Cross. It was a huge success. We had 31 donors which will save 93 lives.



FAFSA Support- Three families attended the November 21 free financial aid and FAFSA support night coordinated by Ms. Burkes (Communities in Schools).



Phoenix Voice Food Drive: The Phoenix Voices Student Communications Club (sponsored through LULAC and Ford Driving Dreams) held a food drive in November for the Portage Township Food Pantry.

Flex-Fridays continue to create opportunities for celebrations, community building, special presentations, and academic remediation. In November, our monthly attendance and Phoenix Awards were presented to students for excellent attendance, performance and growth, and citizenship. Morning breakout sessions were for academic remediation or academic enrichment. Students were assigned time slots to work with teacher where they had the lowest percentage. Those who were passing all classes worked on career and college exploration and planning or served as peer tutors in the classrooms. Afternoon breakout sessions focused on various areas of Social Emotional Learning.



Special Visitor:

Dr. Mohammad Hamid, Minister of Community and Zongo Development from Ghana, visited NEO to learn about Project Neighbors, a non-profit organization that helped launch NEO. State Senator Ed Charbonneau and others joined him as he met and spoke with our staff, students, and Board members.



Personnel/ Professional Development

Personnel Changes:

Courtney Dix, administrative assistant, has left NEO for another position closer to her home. Nia Stein, high school English, left at the end of Term 1. Mr. Pryor will be splitting his time between teaching 2 English classes and his current position as instructional coach.

Professional Development:

Jennifer Jennings, Rebecca Reiner, and Courtney Dix attended training on providing required services to homeless and foster students.

Dr. Stacy Miller of Valparaiso University led the Level 1 training in Restorative Practices for New Vistas and NEO staff. The goal is to have 100% of all NEO trained in these practices aimed at creating a culture of community, trust and accountability.

Financial Updates

Giving Tuesday: Our fundraiser during the week of Giving Tuesday resulted in donations of between \$1,300 - \$1,500 and yielded three new donors. This money will be utilized to update teacher/staff technology.

School Improvement Grant: NVHS' application for a two-year, \$154,228 competitive school improvement grant was approved. These funds will be used to support professional development, teacher stipends, administrative support and instructional devices aligned with our school improvement plan.

Facility Update

SunFundED will have updates at the December Board meeting.

NWI Commercial Properties has secured a potential renter for the 2 acres we have for sale.

Community Connections

Mission Tours and Presentations: We had five mission tours in November. These included a mix of potential volunteers and community members. Follow up and cultivation of these relationships continues through the month of December. One of these volunteers has already started helping in the evening adult education program. November also included two presentations at community events/groups.

Charity Tracker: NEO's Development and Communications Coordinator has completed the last set of training to implement Charity Tracker, a new online system through Lake Area United Way that connects agencies around shared clients for referrals and assistance tracking. The development coordinator will now train a few of the NEO staff on how to use this program so that we can connect our students and their families with outside programs they might need.

REMINDER

Next Board Meeting Thursday December 19, 2019

