

September 2019 Director's Report

NEO Adult Education

Student Enrollment and Performance

As of October 1, 2019, 111 students were enrolled in NEO's Adult Education program, an increase of 25 students from this time last year. We are at 42.21% of our contracted enrollment goal. Student gains are 3% higher than last year currently. NEO's ESL enrollment is increasing and is currently 40% of the total Adult Education enrollment.

Program Updates

We are currently recruiting volunteers for our Vecinos ("neighbors") project. The goal of this project is to increase NEO's capacity using trained volunteers to provide instructional support which is needed to provide students with additional one-on-one support.

Due to increased enrollment, especially in our ESL program, we put the morning ESL program on a wait list for a short period of time due to overcrowding. We believe that we will be able to open registration for this course again at the end of this month.



NEO Adult Education - Student Success Stories

Tyler is a recent HSE graduate- now bound for a welding program. He left high school due to not getting the help he needed from teachers. He fell way behind in credits and his confidence suffered as a result. He felt he was unteachable. This summer, he enrolled in NEO's adult ed program and found teachers who put the time and effort into helping him. In just four months, he gained the skills and confidence to achieve his goal of graduating. Now he is celebrating this achievement and preparing for his next goal of gaining a welding certification.



Tom came to NEO five years ago on a quest to earn his "GED". Tom is deaf and has other physical limitations. Thanks to NEO's teachers' persistence and advocacy, we were able to secure interpretive services through the State. Together with his same interpreter, Christy, Tom has been a fierce and committed student. In September, Tom took and passed the TASC test (replaced the GED) and earned his diploma!

At the monthly adult education student celebration, he told other students to not give up and to keep going to school until they graduate. "This will make you feel so much better about yourself. "His goal is to get a job and ideally teach ASL to others.

High School Equivalency Testing

August: 19 testers – 15 passed

September: 12 testes – 8 passed

New Vistas High School

Student Enrollment and Performance

Enrollment: Student enrollment for New Vistas High School on “count day” was 217. (report attached) This was short of our goal of 230.

This year, 61.6% of New Vistas students live in Porter County. This is a significant change from our 8-year average of 53 Porter County and 46% Lake County.

15.5% of our students are freshmen (2.7%) and sophomores (12.8%) while 84.5% enroll as juniors (19.2%), seniors (23.7%) or grade 13 (41.6%).

Free & Reduced Lunch: New Vistas’ free and reduced lunch rate is 56.2%.

Attendance: Current attendance rate is 89%.

18-19 Graduation: New Vistas graduated 55 students in the 2018-2019 school year. Of these, only 25 (to be confirmed) were part of the 4-year cohort. (report attached)

Program Updates

Flex Fridays: As previously mentioned, Flex Fridays aim to provide students with opportunities for remediation, completion of missing work, academic enrichment, field trips, presentations, etc.

September 20th was our first Flex Friday. A presenter from Junior Achievement introduced their School Heroes Program to our students which gives students opportunities to participate in a service-learning experience working with elementary students and at the same time, develop presentation, civic leadership, critical thinking, problem-solving, and reflective skills.

Students then watched the movie Wonder. Afterwards, they broke into Advisory groups, and using a movie guide, discussed suicide prevention and bullying. After lunch students were separated into groups for remediation for students who were behind in class and enrichment groups for the other students.

College-Promotion Week: New Vistas students participated in multiple activities including decorating their classroom doors, aimed at promoting college awareness.

Facility Update

SunFunded is moving forward with installation plans of the solar panels. They hope to secure funding by next week. They have begun the preliminary work on interconnectivity.

The City of Portage is waiting for approval from 1st Source Bank granting 50’ easements of NEO’s parcels that abut Wilshire Drive. Once they receive that, they will assume title to Wilshire Drive.

NEO’s current tenant, the Medical Career Academy, have rented an additional 1300 square feet of space from NEO.

Using funds from our 2018-2019 Secured School Safety grant, we have installed additional safety doors, fire horns, strobes, and key fobs in the building.

Community Connections

On September 25th and 26th NEO’s New Vistas High School and Adult Education students and staff and board participated in the Legacy Foundation’s “On the Table” event aimed at gaining input on multiple topics from a variety of sources through conversation.



College Week at NVHS



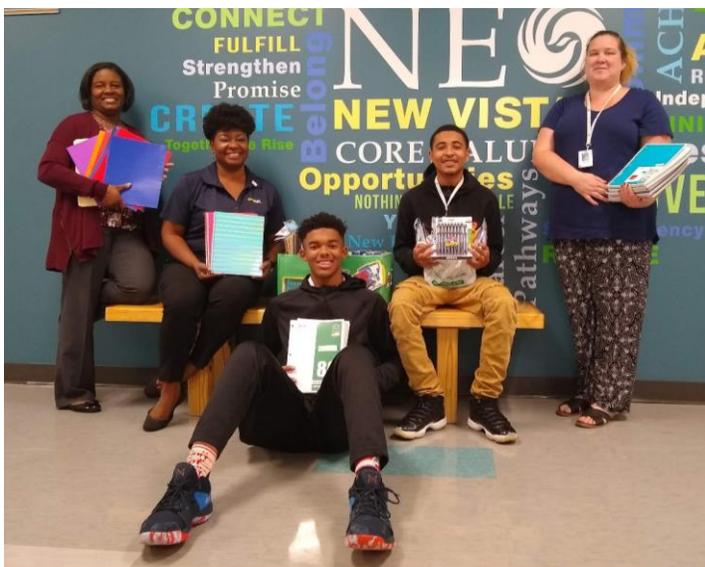
Community Connections, cont.

- We have formed a Community Partners' Committee to review and finalize NEO's Partnership Plan that will align with and compliment the in-progress overall NEO Strategic Plan.
- Rebecca has been asked to serve on United Way of Lake County's Steering Committee. She met with CEO Lisa Daugherty and the committee that is tasked with coordinating services to targeted families.
- Rebecca and Brook Allen met with Geminis President and Head Start Director to discuss options for collaborating.
- NEO received a generous donation of school supplies from CarMax thanks to Anna's connections!
- Rebecca met with Jay Birky, the educational director at the Porter County Jail about HSE support and testing services.
- Clifton Rhodes continues to participate in monthly meetings of the Porter County Safe Schools Commission and the Opioid Prevention group.

Personnel/ Professional Development

- NEO Adult Education is happy to welcome Ramona Carnahan back to NEO for a short period of time. Mrs. Carnahan graciously returned to the ABE evening classes so that we would not have to put the evening program on a wait list. She has agreed to stay on as an Instructor until winter break (if the need is there for her to stay that long).
- Tina Allen-Abulhassan, Kenneth Knuppel, Teresa Kruse, and Pamela Nelson took part in New Teacher Training for adult education on September 20.
- Dante Pryor, Jacquelyn Bustos and Anna Swope attended School Improvement workshops in Indianapolis.
- Leona Chandler-Felton, Shelley Schmidt, and Anna Swope attended a workshop on Multi-Tier Systems of Support.
- New Vistas' weekly Friday professional develop focused on the four domains of the teacher evaluation plan in September.
- Mrs. Erin Lewis has implemented monthly meeting with the Special Education Department. September's focus was the roles and responsibilities of the paraprofessionals.

Thanks CarMax for your donation of school supplies!



REMINDER

**Next Board Meeting
Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019
8:00 AM**

