

October 2019 Director's Report

NEO Adult Education

Student Enrollment and Performance:

As of November 1, 2019, NEO Adult Ed had 126 students enrolled. We are at 48% of our contracted enrollment goal, and this is a 5% increase over last year. Had 8 students have passed the TASC (Test Assessing Secondary Completion) and earned their High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma – 6 more than at this time last year!

Program Updates: NEO's Adult Ed program is STILL seeking volunteers to serve as day or evening tutors with our English as a Second Language (ESL) program. Our need for volunteers is critical as enrollment continues to grow.

Tina Allen-Abulhussan, NEO's Vecinos Project Coordinator, organized the first of three fall Immigration Information Nights on October 17, 2019 at the Lake Station Public Library. This first one was on "The Law and the Police" and representatives from The Welcome Network (legal assistance) and the police were on hand to discuss and answer questions on issues pertaining to legal issues related to alcohol, drugs, sexual harassment, assault and discrimination.

NEO Adult Ed has added a new certification option, ServSafe (food manager), to our Integrated Education and Training (IET) model. We will begin this online training course before winter break.

In October, we held our monthly student celebrations to recognize students who meet attendance requirements, make a level gain on a post test, earn their HSE credential or career certification, and/or pass their US Citizenship test. Below are some of these students.



NEO Testing Center

21 people took the TASC (Test Assessing Secondary Competency) test in October for their High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma (formerly GED). Only 12 (57%) passed. However, of the 21 testers, 8 were NEO students and 7 of these passed (87.5%)! We also had one student take and pass the ParaPro Certification test.

New Vistas High School

Student Enrollment and Performance: New Vistas has 225 students currently enrolled. Since September's "count day", 29 students have withdrawn, and 37 new students have enrolled. 61% are Porter County students, 37% - Lake County and 2% are from LaPorte County. The most significant changes are the decrease in

students from Lake Station and Gary and the increase in students from Valparaiso and Chesterton. Further analysis of data will be forthcoming.

New Vistas' Free and Reduced lunch rate is 55.1%.

NVHS attendance rate in October was 90.37%/

Program Updates:

New Vistas' now has four active **extra-curricular clubs:**

- Mrs. Grayer's Art Club - 7 members
- Ms. Kochan's Science Club- 9 members
- Mrs. Dix's Student Council – 12 members
- Mrs. Munguia & Mrs. Valtierra's Phoenix Voices Communications Club – 20 members.

New Vistas' students from the Art and Phoenix Voices club created artwork for our **Día de los Muertos** (Day of the Dead) celebration here at NEO. This artwork was also displayed at the Porter County Museum as part of their regional display.

Members of the Phoenix Voices Club took a fieldtrip to the Amazon Plant as part of their ongoing exploration of various STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering Math)-related fields supported by LULUC and Ford Driving Dream grant. Students saw first-hand incredible advances in technology that impact them daily.

The focus of October's **Flex Friday** was Career Success and included break-out sessions on:

- Developing strong soft skills
- Ranking work priorities
- Recognizing STEM and other high-growth industries
- Identifying personal-brand and job-hunting tools
- Applying 4Cs: critical thinking, communication, creativity, and collaboration,

65 students took the **ASVAB** in October as an option for demonstrating College and Career Readiness. 10 Juniors passed and 11 Seniors passed.

All sophomores and juniors took the **PSAT**. We do not have results yet.

2019 NVHS enrollment compared to 7-yr. avg.

River Forest Cmnty. Sch Corp.	-0.4%	-8.9%	
Merrillville Cmnty. School	0.4%		
Lake Central School Corp	0.2%		
Tri-Creek School Corp.	0.3%		
Crown Point Cmnty. Schools	0.3%		
School City of East Chicago	0.6%		
Lake Station Cmnty. Schools	-9.7%		
Gary Community Sch. Corp.	-2.8%		
Griffith Public High School	0.4%		
School City of Hammond	0.4%		
School City of Hobart	1.4%	-0.3%	
School Town of Highland	-0.1%		
LaPorte Cmnty. Sch. Corp	0.2%		
Michigan City Area	-0.5%		
Duneland Sch. Corp.	5.5%		8.3%
MSD Boone Township	0.2%		
East Porter County	0.6%		
Porter Township Sch. Corp	-0.6%		
Portage Township Schools	0.7%		
Valparaiso Cmnty. Schools	1.9%		



Personnel/ Professional Development

Staff Changes: Monica Carrillo-Klein, paraprofessional resigned.

Jermel Nelson was hired to replace her. Mr. Nelson has a BS in Business Administration and three years of experience in the K-12 environment.

Professional Development: New Vistas' Guidance Counselor, Christina Rose, Instructional Coach, Dante Pryor and English teacher, Jacquelyn Bustos, attended a day-long training on the Social, Emotional, Behavioral Wellness of Students and the Relationship to **Multi-Tiered Systems of Support** at Hobart High School.

The majority of the high school instructional and support staff and administrators participated in training at NEO on **Restorative Practices**, offered by Dr. Stacey Miller of Valparaiso University

In partnership with Lake Are United Way, NEO is adopting **Charity Tracker**- a free, online case management system which connects students and families with resources. This is part of our retention efforts. Anna Swope (NVHS Principal), Adrienne Carrol (Ad. Ed. Director), Siara Burkes (Communities in Schools), Yolanda Williams, (Student Support Specialist), Leona Chandler-Felton (Social Worker) and Brooke Allen (Communications/Development Coordinator) participated in training.

Community Connections

For the third year, NEO hosted North Shore Health Center's annual Trunk or Treat event which coincided with NEO's Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Celebration. Of the 700 Trunk or Treaters, 250 families came inside NEO to see our six enfrendas (alters) have their picture taken and participate in various activities. Great exposure for NEO and a fun night for all.



REMINDER

**Next Board Meeting
Thursday November 21, 2019**

