



September 2020 Director's Report

NEO Adult Education

Student Enrollment and Performance: As of October 13, 2020, 59 students are enrolled in NEO's Adult Education Program. Our 8-day HSE Fast-Track program continues to yield incredible results. To date, 15 students in our HSE Fast-track class have already taken and passed their TASC test with 8 more slated to finish by the end of the month.

Program Updates: NEO's satellite classes are in various stages of opening. ESL class in Valparaiso began on September 28 with 4 students. Our East Chicago and Gary satellite programs begin October 19, 2020. These classes are in partnership with the Adult Learning Cooperative/Work-Driven Strategies, a new adult education provider for NWI who is partnering with NEO to bring services to Gary and East Chicago. Our Lake Station ESL class is slated to begin at the end of the month. Our classes at the Porter County Jail have been postponed until January due to COVID.

We are in the planning stages of a partnership with Albanese Confectionery Group to bring adult education programming and certification opportunities to their employees.

NEO Testing Center

23 students took the TASC test for Indiana's High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma in September. 19 passed (83%), 4 (17%) did not pass. 15 new graduates were NEO students.

New Vistas High School

Student Enrollment and Performance: Students continue to struggle with attendance especially on remote learning days. Teachers and support staff work daily to reach students via phone, email and texts. Mrs. Williams, New Vistas' Student Support Specialist has mailed 31 attendance letters home to minors, met with some parents, and started the truancy process for non-responsive students/parents.

Program Updates: Mrs. Valtierra's Service-Learning Class is engaged in multiple projects including school rain barrels, creating an inventory of landscape plants, and Equity and Justice projects.

New Vistas' Student Council is co-hosting a blood drive in the NEO Sportsplex on November 2 with the American Red Cross.

Other Updates

College-Go Week: NEO's New Vistas and Adult Ed students participated in NEO's 2020 "College GO! Week." A shout-out to all the staff and students who participated, especially NEO's Enrollment and Career Coach Savannah Sullivan. The week included contests, scavenger hunts, morning announcement college fun facts, door decorating and sweet treats and plenty of opportunities for students to learn about post-secondary options and available resources. Our students also received gift cards, SWAG and educational materials from our local colleges!



NEO's Equity & Justice Committee: NEO's Equity & Justice Committee is working on developing resources, addressing issues, and creating events that bring AWARENESS to diversity, equity, and justice within our community. The committee is currently comprised of 8 employees and 1 community member and is trying to recruit parent(s) and student(s).

Voter Registration: Thanks to volunteers from the League of Women Voters and the valiant efforts of NEO's Registrar Leticia Munguia and New Vistas paraprofessional Sandra Reed, over 25 students registered to vote and learned about polling places and voting resources.

New Hires: Two of our 2019-2020 volunteers who worked in our Adult Education Program have joined our team. Daniel Mack-Ward will serve as the English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher for our Lake Station class and Anthony Nelson will provide support to our evening Adult Basic Education (ABE) students at NEO. We are still seeking a high-school math (algebra) teacher and ABE teacher.

Professional Development: NVHS staff participated in ongoing Professional Learning Community teams and meetings and teachers continue their school improvement training focused on Clear and High Expectations. Yolanda Williams attended the Porter County Juvenile Services Summit.

Financial Updates

All high-school related grants were submitted and approved. These include all Title grants (I,II, III, IV, and School Improvement), Alternative Education, and Special Education Part B. NEO's application for an Economic Disaster Injury Loan was approved and received.

Facility Update

Construction on NEO's solar array project with Sun FundED began on October 6. This is very exciting. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is scheduled for Thursday November 5 at 9:00 AM.



REMINDER:
Next Board Meeting: Thursday October 22, 2020
(in person and zoom option)

