

Attendees:

Randy Woodcock of United Way
Carlotta A. Garcia of APS
Tommy Hernandez of Big Brothers Big Sisters
Roberta Rael of Generation Justice
Marvin Johnson of District Attorney's Office
Renata Witte of New Mexico PTA
Angelo Gonzales of UNM-Center for Education Policy Research (CEPR)
Melissa Harris of Generation Justice
Huong Nguyen of NM Asian Family Center
Stephanie Romero of New Mexico College Access Network
Kay Provolt of Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) NM Rio Grande HS
Krista Martinez of Junior Achievement of New Mexico
Jeanette Miller of National Museum of Nuclear Science & History
Benton Howell - Bernalillo
Dan Frampton, counselor Media Arts Charter School
Paul Broome of ABEC
Chi-Hsin Changi of New Mexico Asian Family Center
Bahati Ansari of Robert F Kennedy Charter
Sharon Tenorio of Big Brothers Big Sisters
Suzan Reagan of New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions
Matt Oppenheim of Prout Research Institute
Jose Muñoz of ABC Community Schools Partnership
Franklin Schargel of School Success Network
Diane Torres-Velasquez of Latino Education Task Force
Polly Anderson of New Mexico PBS
Rose M. Poston of New Mexico PBS
Hollie Lovely of New Mexico PBS

Reviewed clip of Teacher Town Hall

Some Reactions: "What really struck me was how much teachers wanted to share"; "The disconnect between the administration and teachers was strong. They mentioned state regulations, APS, in terms of who tells teachers what and how they need to teach"; "The collective sense of urgency the teachers expressed. It was obvious there is a tremendous amount of passion and love for the profession. That was an important and powerful thing for New Mexico PBS to show the public". Bahati Ansari noted that African American teachers were not well represented.

Polly explained that every teacher who spoke in the Town Hall appeared in the broadcast, although some of what they said may have been edited because of time.

Reactions continued: There was some discussion about apprehension of teachers willing to comment because their boss may be in the room or may be watching the show. Paul Broome pointed out that with tenure and job security there is no reason for teachers to be reluctant to speak out. That there are grievance procedures for them to follow, and there are rights through collective bargaining that protect them. Franklin Schargel countered that although teachers cannot be easily fired in New Mexico, there could be unpleasant consequences for those that spoke up during the Town Hall.

Laurel showed some of the teacher comments that came in after the town hall.

Laurel continued with PPT of Education Community Priorities Survey:

The survey was based on work done by America's Promised Dropout Summits in 2009 (several in attendance participated in that work), also based on recommendations by Bureau of Business and Economic Research report for United Way of Central New Mexico along with results of their public forums. Also included were priorities from community work on an APS family engagement policy.

Three Main Themes emerged from our community survey: Family Engagement, Student Engagement, School and Community Partnerships. Randy Woodcock mentioned that United Way is looking at their granting policy based on these priorities and thinking about strategies that have a proven broader impact rather than on investing in numerous separate projects that have smaller impact. Laurel reviewed the worksheets completed at the last meeting under these headings. From some of the research by UNM CEPR and previous community discussion, New Mexico PBS created on-air spots featuring Marvin Johnson of the District Attorney's Office. Clips of three 30 second messages were shown as examples of messages that the community is already helping to create.

Laurel continued with the question of "What are the public media messages and stories?" Discussion continued regarding the importance of reading by the first grade and families helping their children learn to read. Polly asked Laurel to describe the Raising Readers campaign that New Mexico PBS launched this year with the message "Any time is learning time." There are tools and ideas for parents to help their kids get ready for learning to read. Benton Howell wanted to know if there is historical data on school absenteeism and truancy so we could see what has changed and if this is a new problem or a continuing one. Angelo Gonzales said that that UNM Center for Education Policy Research has current data but has not yet worked on historic trends. Marvin Johnson stated that kids see on TV the availability of fast money, cars and don't associate a good education with those things. They think they can be a skateboarder, a rapper and I don't have to go to school that there's other ways I can make a living. Jose Muñoz commented that coming from the juvenile justice world, kids see all the dropouts in that system. It's not just fast careers, its fast education in New Mexico. Young people can just get their GED and they don't think about how a high school diploma might affect them in the long run.

At this point we broke into three smaller groups to work on messages and stories for Public media.

Discussion Results:

Group 1-School/Community Partnerships:

- Highlight some specific activities in community schools: Manzano Mesa, Pajarito, Helen Cordero, La Mesa, ACLCP sites, Elev8 sites, and charter schools. Highlight different approaches to school community partnerships in a community school context. Tell some stories about best/promising practices in community schools (including the importance of having a coordinator for these initiatives across schools).
- Specific examples: JAG program and Junior Achievement working together in schools. Manzano Mesa Elementary School where parents are encouraged to tutor students besides their own children, the purpose being to provide homework help.
- Two major target audiences: Community members who want to help but don't know how to access the system or who to contact; policy makers and decision makers at state, district, and school level who could benefit from concrete examples of how to engage community in a meaningful way.

Group 2-Family Engagement:

- First message idea: What are parent's expectations of their school? How to achieve more dialogue between schools and parents.
- Second message idea: What are the school's expectations of the parents?
- Third message: What are society's expectations for parents? Make sure your kids get to school.

Group 3-Student Engagement:

- Reach parents and have them be the teller of the messages to other parents
- Try to narrow down messages specifically about raising awareness
- Get business community involved: empower merchants to ask questions to why kids in their businesses aren't in school? Perhaps businesses should get more involved in the community and ask the kids why they aren't in school.
- Try to develop some messages about social interaction
- Raise awareness about mentoring as a solution for individual kids
- School programs relate to real work - examples
- Partner with community to tell others about successful student engagement stories
- Students need to tell other students some messages about the importance of staying engaged

Thanks to United Way of Central New Mexico for providing the space for our meeting today.

Our next American Graduate Community partner meeting will take place on Monday June 4 here at
United Way of Central New Mexico 10 – 11:30.

Thanks to everyone for your time and willingness to partner with New Mexico PBS.

*****Meeting concluded*****