

April 29, 2013
American Graduate Meeting Notes
United Way Conference room

Attendees:

Melissa Harris—Generation Justice
Kristin Johnson—ATF
Suzan Reagan—NM Department of Workforce Solutions
Dan Frampton—Media Arts Collaborative Charter School
David Cox—Horizon Academy West
Maria Molina--ENLACE
Judy Baca--DOH
Diane Torres-Velasquez—UNM & Latino Education Task Force
Tony Watkins—APS Truancy Program
Rose M. Poston—New Mexico PBS

Introduction, Welcome, and Today's Goals by Laurel Wyckoff

- Goals of work today
- Content update
- Follow up from employer conversation last month
- Case statement message
- Testimonials
- Next steps

Content update: Screened an excerpt from American Graduate half hour segment on Family engagement policy and implementation. Group viewed video created by Media Arts Charter School addressing youth mental health. Tool kits will be made available by the school. Filming was done in a skit type scenario, a terrific example of youth produced messages for other kids.

Conversation about education and employment:

- What do employers want?
- What do they mean by qualified workers?
- What can we do to help make the bridge from the classroom to the "real world?"
- Ideas?
- Collaborations?
- Media support?

Discussion: Teachers and students need workshops on education and the workforce. According to the Department of Workforce Solutions, health care is the biggest industry that still has increasing jobs available. David's experience at Horizon Academy West is that resume skills are not being learned. He has trouble hiring people at \$20 to lead summer learning programs at the school. He cannot find qualified workers and found

that even a sophomore in college cannot write a proper resume. It is not just the spelling and grammar but the process and critical thinking needed. How can we pay them \$20 an hour and they can't write a resume when three others that can would be more than happy to make that wage? There are not enough local jobs available for the kids to migrate into after graduation. What are we training them to be?

Training needs to align better with the work that is available. We need to make a connection with the employers. They can be invited to come into the classroom and talk about resume skills, attire and other topics that help make kids employable but schools don't address. Students could make a field trip to a business to see how work is done and talk with workers. Field trips to UNM or CNM campus could give them an expectation that college is possible.

Continuation of Building a Case for Support

Discussion

It was suggested to look at the mission of New Mexico PBS to see how it meets the needs of the mission of American Graduate.

What key messaging can we share with funders about our work on American Graduate?

- Public media helps New Mexicans take responsibility and pride in our education system and as a community we can work together for the best outcomes for all students.
- Positive awareness can be transferred to the younger generation through media.
- Public media can aggregate community resources and build collaboration
- NMPBS can create more awareness of the issue and build a bigger more aligned community collaboration to work on it.
- Public media can tell stories of successes and challenges.
- The business community can be engaged and connected with the education community and both can discuss their needs and how to get them met.
- Public media provides access to communities at large and to those without access to cable/satellite.
- Public media provides a forum for diverse voices that can be broadcast.
- American Graduate creates a forum for social service agencies to talk with one another, to collaborate and to start conversations with the public.

Testimonials

Partners answered the question "What has the American Graduate initiative meant to you?" These quotes will be used in our final report to CPB due April 30.

I truly enjoy the group and feel like it is one of the highlights of my time learning how to best work with other organizations to serve our youth. Zoe Otero Martinez, Director of Education, Junior Achievement of New Mexico

American Graduate has connected media Arts Collaborative Charter School to a community of organizations committed to improving the quality of education and the outcomes for our

students. It has sparked great discussions about the challenges we face and possible solutions to the challenges. Dan Frampton LMSW, Arts Collaborative Charter School

American Graduate has opened my eyes to the many complex issues involved in improving the education system. I've also become informed about so many programs that are currently working and making a difference with youth. To me AG is about becoming informed and involved with making true improvements in youths futures. Suzan Reagan, Labor Economist, New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions

As an Administrator with the second largest charter elementary school in New Mexico, American Graduate has provided my school a nonpartisan forum to discuss the status of public education in New Mexico, and, more specifically the state of public education in Albuquerque – the state's largest school district consisting of 90,000 students.

Because the New Mexico PBS brand is held in such esteem, educators business leaders, local champions, and other like-minded community stakeholders now have a safe place to share their thoughts leading to informed decision-making without fear of personal, professional or institutional reprisal for saying what needs to be said to move the 'expectation needle' up more than one notch.

This community capacity-building process is gaining traction so we need not slow its momentum by holding onto outdated paradigms that suppress the rights of many to the benefit of a few. David Cox, Family & Community Engagement Coordinator, Horizon Academy West

American Graduate is a unique community collaboration bringing together many voices expressing concerns and ideas on how to improve education and graduation rates for students. This effort brings attention and focus to the issues that families, students, educators and all community members face in achieving the goals while supporting creative thoughtful solutions that move the community to action. Judy C. Baca de Arones, Health Promotion Specialist, Department of Health, Public Health Division

Sustaining American Graduate:

Agenda for our next meeting...

What's next?

What's one concrete action can we make together? How should we address career paths and truancy?

Announcements:

Community Cinema Revolutionary Optimists coming up at the KiMo.

Diane Torres-Velasquez announced the Latino Education Task Force *Youth and Community Film Festival* on May 4 at Atrisco Heritage Academy. *Precious Knowledge* is a PBS documentary about the struggles to keep Chicano studies in Tucson Schools.

Next meeting will be June 3, 10 AM United Way of Central NM, second floor

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

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