

August 5, 2013
American Graduate Meeting Notes
United Way Conference room

Attendees:

Tony Watkins of APS
Angelo Gonzales of CEPR
Tommy Hernandez of BBBS
Candace Lopez of BBBS
Hahn Nguyen of FUE
Franklin Schargel
Monika Monje of CNM/Unidos
Emily Salazar of Innovate-Educate
Evelyn Bonilla Montanez of ENLACE NM
Nicole Byrd of OAAA
Renata Witte of NMPTA
Italia Aranda of AFT-NM
Valerie Lopez of CYFD-JPO
Maria Hines of APS
Zoe Otero Martinez of Junior Achievement
Rose Poston of New Mexico PBS

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

Partner Announcements:

- *The House I Live In* screening at the Kimo on August 7 at 6:30pm-9:30pm, sponsored by the New Mexico Health Equity Working Group.

NMPBS Community Cinema series presents *The Graduates/Los Graduados* screening on September 25. The Graduates explores pressing issues in education today through the eyes of six young Latino and Latina students from across the United State. More than a survey of contemporary policy debates; viewers gain a first-hand perspective on the different challenges facing Latino high school students and their families, educators and community leaders. The Graduates is not only a story about how Latino students are faring in our nation's public education system, it is also a story about the graduates who will make up America's future.

There will be an Bilingual screening of the two-part, two-hour documentary. Hour one focuses on boys and young men while hour two focuses on girls and young women. Laurel asked for input for the discussion panel and who the target audience should be to screen the documentary. There was discussion that we should find someone who has persevered and can offer their experience. Also, it was felt the audience should have some groupings of charter schools to plant the seed and to invite the parents who endured those hardships. Another suggestion made included the idea that students should bring an adult/mentor that has made a difference to them. A discussion followed the suggestion that we target middle schoolers and bus them in similar to a field trip or screen it at a school but, it was felt that it should be an out of school activity held in the evening with peers and family.

NMPBS will participate in [American Graduate Day 2013](#) on September 28. It is a live broadcast and community engagement event dedicated to helping all students stay on the path to high school graduation and future success in college and career. Broadcast and streamed nationally from the Tisch WNET Studios at Lincoln Center in New York City, the seven-hour special highlights community partners, educators, youth, and celebrities involved in education and youth intervention programs to help keep at-risk students in school. Content strands include Early Learning, Career Readiness and College Completion, STEM, More and Better Learning Time, Dropout Recovery and Prevention, Mentoring and Family Support. [Big Brothers Big Sisters](#), [Boys & Girls Clubs of America](#), [City Year](#), [Horizons National](#), and [United Way](#) are among the community partners participating.

Community Forum Planning Group Results:

- Goal: To improve attendance
- Objective 1: Identify one or more short term but sustainable strategies that attendees and partners can collaborate on to improve attendance
- Objective 2: Recruit participants for televised Town Hall(s)
- Outcome: Action plan for a one year collaborative project
- Host: Three or more entities will co-host 3-4 conversations

Proposed Overall Agenda

- Open with American Graduate video content
- Provide a list of strategies that are proven to work in other communities
- Provide local data about the attendance and barriers

Community Café at a glance

- Three progressive rounds of conversation
- The end of each round, participants are invited to move to a different table

Focus on what matters

- Contribute your thinking
- Link and connect ideas
- Listen together for insights and deeper questions

PLAY. DRAW. DOODLE.

- Each group has a table host who remains at the table during the three conversation rounds. The host will welcome newcomers, share the main ideas, themes, and questions, and encourage guests to link and connect ideas.
- Feedback? The group felt a documenter training should be held beforehand.

Questions from Attendance Focus Group Report

- **Parents:**
 - Why are some students consistently tardy?
 - What can parents do?
- **Students:**
 - What are some of the family issues that keep kids from school?
 - Do you know someone who is skipping? What are their reasons?
 - What are the barriers to keeping your classmates in school?

- What are kids doing when they skip school?
- Do you feel peer pressure to not go to school?
- Do teachers encourage you to stay in school?
- Is there an adult at school who cares about your success in school?

Small group breakout to discuss Focus Group Report and propose questions for community forums

- Student questions that should be proposed are:
 - First Group: What makes you want to go to school? What makes you not want to go to school?
 - Second Group: How do you perceive truancy and who is to be held responsible?
 - What resources can improve?
 - Third Group: What is the cultural of the school and community? What does family engagement look like to you? What should an ideal school look like?

Next meeting will be September 16, United Way of Central NM, second floor

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

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