

American Graduate Meeting
January 13, 2014
10-11:30am

Angelo Gonzales- United Way Mission Graduate
Cindy O'Neill- RFK Charter
Ian Esquibel- Learning Alliance
Tony Watkins- APS Truancy Office
Melissa Harris- Generation Justice
Rodney Bowe- UNM DEI- OAAA
Nicole Byrd- OAAA
Marvin Johnson- DA Office
Kay Provolt- JAG
Laurel Wyckoff-NMPBS
Teresa Brit-Asenap – Unidos Project
?? Boys and Girls Club New Director

Introductions were followed by updates on where we are going next with American Graduate. A new funding opportunity from CBP arose at Christmas for a second round American Graduate grant. New Mexico PBS will make an application based on community partner input and priorities, but Mission: Graduate will be a central organizing principal.

Some action step ideas for 2014. Discussion about how to support APS truancy pilots and looking at data for practices working in APS. Process at RFK is that staff does home visits to families after kids have 3 absences. New City New bus routes help with transportation now.

Mission: Graduate presentation by Angelo Gonzales (see PowerPoint presentation)

What is the initiative going to do? It is NOT a program.

Mission: Graduate's Goal is 60,000 degrees and certificates by the year 2020. This includes students who are currently in the pipeline - middle school and above. It is understood that Dual Credit options may help even 6th grader get certificate by 2020.

CEOs and college presidents, superintendants Editor of Albuquerque journal are on Mission: Graduate Vision Council.

The partners agree that this process starts with an understanding of equity and the opportunity gap. Also that eventually (though not in the first phase) efforts will require economic development work with business owners and also entrepreneurship skills development.

We will need to focus on adults also. 227,000 working age adults (24-64) have finished high-school but never competed or started college. About 60,000 have never finished college.

Mission: Graduate will facilitate stronger partnerships across the community.

1) between school and community. Summer learning, business, resources connection to students. Identify effective practices. Transitional points are where we lose students. There are policy barriers in those handoff points.

2) indentify effective practices through use of data. We will be intentional about putting data front and center on everything we do.

3) Align and increase public and private resources. Are there enough resources? Data will show us where the gaps are and where there is poor alignment?

4) Career pathways. This comes up over and over. How do we help students get to careers. How we share the many types of careers that available in our community? How do students learn about careers and how do we get partnerships in place that will help them land in a career in our local area.

Our call to action is for American Graduate partners to join and form a Collaborative Action Network and to develop and implement an action plan. The question is: Do we want to be a separate group or join a network and implement a plan. Not everyone will have time to commit the time, so community support councils are an option that requires a less time commitment. We need to do a better job about communicating how specifically business community can help.

Networks will take on one or two outcomes at MOST. We will start with four networks. Intel has agreed to be the convening partner for the employment network. NM PBS will be the convening partner for the dropout prevention and recovery network.

Mission Graduate will look into local data to see where we have pockets of effective practices that can be scaled. For the long run, we will have project teams. Truancy (attendance) will be a way forward for one project team and a focus for action.

Rotary clubs as an advisory council, and a STEM group have started already. They are looking at the whole cradle to career continuum. Mission graduate is convening local conversations in the other 3 counties. Valencia meetings already started.

We hope to get all the youth councils together and have them meet on a regular basis.

Timeline: We should have a strategy map in place by July. Implementation will be in the 2014-15 school year. Using data we will be focusing on what is actionable next school year? What is key? Where do we already have data and capacity and where are

assets? Performance measures will also be set. They want to know very concretely how they can help.

Next steps. We want our partners to participate in a network OR participate in a community support council. Also to align support within your own organizations.

For grant writing purposes we want a **short term goal** that we can expand into a long **term goal for 2020**. There is concern about partners' identity and keeping our own branding. We hope the umbrella will not overshadow other groups. It is helpful to think about Mission: Graduate more as a backbone than an umbrella.

A promise has been made for Mission: Graduate to share data. Has the vision council committed to share? We need to start inventorying data on existing activities. We hope that all our partners will share their data also. The bigger institutions have promised to do that to some extent.

There are of course some barriers against sharing student level data. Mission: Graduate will work to put data sharing agreements in place.

An equal opportunity network will be formed later, but equity should be embedded in all the action networks. Each grade level student data set has bridge points that will be crucial. For instance Algebra I is the greatest fail rate at APS and that impacts graduation rates.

Our February American Graduate meeting will require hours to get started on action planning. New partners will be invited. Angelo and Laurel will send an application to all current partners to entice people to participate.

Next Meeting February 3 10 AM – 1 PM (Lunch will be served).