Amarillo College Community Link

Community Advisory Committee Meeting

March 9, 2009

In Attendance: Bob Austin, Paul Boston, Phyllis Cook, Daniel Martinez, Mayor Debra McCartt, Charles Mestas, Anita Perez, Zetta Riles, Antonio Renteria, Becky Lopez, Grace Stringer, Danette Fenstermaker, Victoria Hughes, Maury Roman.

1. Maury called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
2. The program activity report was presented.

Danette provided an update on the GED program.

* 75 students registered for the fall 2008 semester.
* 35 received a voucher for the GED exam.
* To date, 227 students have earned their GED.
* Bob invited the committee to attend the next GED Graduation Ceremony at the Central Church of Christ scheduled for March 29th. It’s a celebration for students that come from multiple GED programs from all over the community. He commended the assistance the staff provides for these students at Community Link.

Victoria provided a report on outreach activities.

* 15 prospective students completed applications at the Cash for College seminar.
* Representatives from Panhandle Workforce Solutions, WIA program and AC Financial Aid were in attendance.
* Posters and flyers were distributed at several places including Xcel Energy, Nationwide Insurance, Pacific Cheese and businesses on Amarillo Boulevard.
* Tyson Education Day was held early February.

1. Charles Mestas presented the scholarship report.

* 6 students were selected to receive academic awards for the fall semester. Of those, 5 accepted the award and enrolled for classes.
* The committee discussed possible dates and times to conduct scholarships interviews. The committee decided to meet on April 11th in order to have an opportunity to recognize Community Link recipients at the upcoming Hispanic High School Graduate Banquet on April 23rd.
* Charles read a very eloquent letter from Adam Martinez, a former scholarship recipient. Adam expressed his appreciation for the financial assistance received through Community Link; he also shared his career dreams, information about his family and his academic performance during the last semester at AC.
* Maury requested approval to make 100 awards at $75 each for GED testing fee. The committee approved all scholarships.

1. Maury presented the community relations report.

* During the second week of January, AARP Amarillo Branch conducted their annual tax preparation training at the Community Link computer lab. The program provides free assistance with tax preparation to low income families in the community.
* The Coffee Memorial Blood Center conducted a blood drive at Community Link. Eight units of blood were given.
* AC Community Link was nominated as a recipient of the AISD “Partners in Education” award for the “Linking Education and the Community” project with Travis Middle School.

1. Meeting adjourned.