

Amarillo College Community Link  
Community Advisory Committee Meeting  
March 18, 2013

In Attendance: Anita Perez, Melanie Watson, Myrna Raffkind, Susan Stevenson, Ann Hill, Marin Rivas, Nancy Brent, Mary Jane Nelson, Becky Lopez, Charles Mestas, April Sessler, Maury Roman, Danette Fenstermaker, Sayra Maldonado and Aida Aldape.

- I. Maury called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She introduced the Task Force members that were present, Nancy Brent, Marin Rivas and Susan Stevenson.
- II. Maury provided a formal presentation on final outcomes of the Community Needs Assessment.
  - To conduct the assessment, two research tools were utilized: a survey and focus group sessions. 850 surveys were administered in a bilingual format (English & Spanish); and two focus groups were conducted, also in English and Spanish. The Task Force members worked meticulously in analyzing and identifying the data to reveal the issues that affect members of the community served at Community Link and the immediate vicinity; they also finalized a comprehensive report.

The Task Force reconvened and presented the following recommendations:

- Continue outreach and recruitment targeting the adult prospective student population.
  - Expand enrollment services (Admissions, Financial Aid, Academic Advising and Registration).
  - Continue providing GED preparation classes.
  - Seek alternative partners to deliver ESL classes.
  - Provide tutoring and/or mentoring services at Community Link.
  - Seek partners to provide basic skills classes in math, reading and writing.
  - Provide a testing refresher class to improve college placement test results.
- Furthermore, the group identified the top issues that prevented individuals from going to college as follows:
    - Cost: 44% stated it cost too much/cannot afford it
    - Work: 32% stated they need or want to work
    - Lack of knowledge: 22% stated they do not know enough about college
    - Childcare: 21% stated they do not have childcare
  - In response to the Community Needs Assessment:
    - The mission statement has been revised from “to provide outreach services for economically and academically disadvantaged students” to a new mission which includes “to provide enrollment services and prepare students for college.”

III. Meeting adjourned.