

## MONTHLY REPORT

**Dean of Instruction**  
**Linda Elliott-Nelson**  
**March 25, 2009**

### **Accomplishments:**

- Successful NCA/HLC site visit, March 2-4!
- Presented on learning opportunities at AWC at the Good Morning Yuma event on March 12<sup>th</sup>
- Presented for the City of Yuma “City Outlook” program on the City channel on learning opportunities at AWC– to be broadcast
- Collected FTSE for Spring 2009 (up 11.9%) and collected midterm grades
- Article in Yuma Sun on 3/25/09 on enrollment increases
- Team worked on Fall 2009 and Summer 2009 schedules
- Prepared Summer 2009 learning brochure for summer classes
- Worked with the Assessment Academy Team on project
- Attended ribbon cutting for Quartzsite and Parker on March 26<sup>th</sup>
- Participated in interviews for the Associate Dean for Humanities position

### **Business and Liberal Arts**

- **SOCIAL SCIENCE** – Peter Lhotka reported that Charles Godfrey performed a Tai Chi demo in his REL 201 Comparative World Religion class. They performed a trick shot exhibition and magic show in his Per 140 Billiards class on March 20<sup>th</sup>. He finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the Desert Tour Classic 8 Ball event in Phoenix on March 20<sup>th</sup> and won \$275.00.
- **WELLNESS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION** – Jane Peabody had two fitness segments this month on Channel 11 Early Morning News. They placed two requisitions to purchase new equipment for the fitness center. They are very excited about this as it will make a significant difference for all who use the fitness center.
- The pool is now open for all to use. They did have an issue with a bee hive in the pool area but that has been resolved and they are taking precautions to prevent it from happening again.
- **EDUCATION, FAMILY, AND HOSPITALITY SERVICES** – Patty Powers met with Doug Rutan and NAU education faculty on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February to discuss program changes and determine the next steps. A follow-up meeting will be on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss if any additional modifications need to be instituted in order for NAU to receive their full accreditation. Karen Spencer attended the NAU Curriculum meeting. Patty Powers participated in the Yuma Plan T4S Data sweeps on 3/1 and 3/11/09. She met with Otondo to discuss how we could

support their gifted population. This may entail AWC student presentations, AWC CTE faculty seminars and possibly resurrecting the Summer Gifted Academy. A follow up meeting is to be scheduled to discuss student profiles to determine next steps and how AWC and Otondo can work in partnership to support their students. Asmahan Akam for Distance Education was a guest speaker for Patty's Diversity class and Karen Spencer's Intro to Education to discuss what it was like growing up in Saudi Arabia as an immigrant from the Sudan. Karen participated for two days on the Strategic Planning Committee for District 1. She will be attending two follow up meetings in April and one in May. The goal of the committee is to plan their mission statement, vision and goals for the upcoming year. Mary and Karen met to discuss the meeting date and the agenda for the TTTF meeting. There were several conflicts for the scheduled May 1<sup>st</sup> date. The new date is being considered by all members and hopefully finalized by the beginning of April. The next Education Department meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 P.M.

- Christina Hawkey has been writing her column for the Yuma Daily Sun and assisting the Honors students with the Relay for Life. She has completed a critical thinking project with her Human Development students by having them review texts for next year.
- Judy Watkinson attended the monthly First Things First Board meeting. Emergency funding is going to scholarships to help pay for childcare subsidies taken away by State Funding. Judy has been working with Briana Martinez to do ECE grad checks for 08/09.
- BUSINESS AND CIS – Michelle Sims recruited at the MCAS Air Show. She attended the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce Good Morning Yuma breakfast and the evening mixer. She also attended the monthly Board of Directors meeting, and facilitated the NAU-Yuma informational sessions in classes.
- David spent much of his free time during his spring semester with the SIFE Club. The month of March was no exception. At the beginning of March, the SIFE Club maintained a food booth at the annual Midnight at the Oasis event in conjunction with the Partners' Optimist Club. This was the SIFE Club's second year assisting the Optimists with this endeavor.
- The following weekend had the SIFE Club conducting a demographic survey on behalf of MCAS Yuma at their annual MCAS Air Show. More than 500 surveys were collected about the participants at the air show, how often they attend, why they attend, and listening their likes and dislikes. The results of our survey will be given to both the MCAS Public Relations office and to the many proprietors at the air show. Our goal was to improve the many services offered at the air show for future events.
- During the last weekend in March, I plan to take the SIFE Club to six Flags Magic Mountain as a type of retreat for all of their hard work this past year. Although we did not compete at the SIFE USA Regional Competition for the first time in thirteen years, the SIFE Club has continued to produce exciting projects that enhance our community.

- One cannot give a March 2009 monthly report without at least mentioning that the NCA arrive, evaluated, and left our campus leaving behind ten more years of full accreditation for AWC.
- Charles Balch became a textbook reviewer for the Community College Consortium for Open Educational Resources Assisted with the development of The Learning Pad School Tennent Web page.

### **Distance Education**

- Distance Education worked on improving the response rate for online faculty appraisal. Through tying in online appraisal advices to assignments within the class, Distance Education was able to increase the response rate on appraisals from students from a 10% rate to a 53% rate.
- Jana Moore worked with the mathematics department to interview and recommend for hire a Math Learning Specialist for the CCRAA grant.

### **Humanities**

- For March **AWC Theatre** broke attendance records for its production of *Honk*, with SRO houses for every performance! The production also procured and then donated 495 pounds of food to the Yuma Food Bank and 36 bags of clothes to the CrossRoads Mission.
- **Ceramics:** On March 4, guest Artist Glenn Grishkoff gave a public lecture, “Redefining the Brush as Art,” and worked with the ceramics, painting, and 3D design students on a brush-making and mask-making workshop.
- **Chip Straley** worked with the theatre faculty at KOFA High School to provide training in Mime and Pantomime for the students in KOFA's upcoming production of *The Fantastics*.
- **Ellen Cohen** held an organizational meeting for Yuma Peace Expo in support of peaceoneday.org on March 9 AWC student organizations such as Student Government and Cultures Coming Together.
- **Fine Arts** faculty hosted Yuma symposium Day (Feb. 26) on campus for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that event. Four artists lectured to the college community.
- **Michael Miller** published a film review in the Yuma city daily newspaper, *The Sun*: “The Miracle of ‘The Pope’s Toilet,’” March 5.
- **Porchia Moore** was recognized with a "Volunteer Star" award this month for her volunteer services with the Yuma Art Center.
- **Steve Moore** attended the Freshman Composition Seminar (McGraw-Hill Higher Education) March 19-20 at the Fairmont in Scottsdale.
- **Music Dept.:** The AWC Choral Music Concert of March 6 played to a full house and raised more than \$800 that goes to scholarships and lessons for music students.
- **Music Dept.:** On March 17, the Chamber Singers performed as guests at the Yuma Co. Jr. and High School Festival. **Chuck Smalley** helped to adjudicate the festival, held in the new auditorium at Gila Ridge HS.
- On March 19, Choir Day, the **Music Department** hosted about 60 singers from

- four high schools.
- **Bernadette Presloid:** On Wednesday, March 4, 2009, her ESL Reading & Writing 2 class met at Otondo Elementary School to read children's stories aloud to kindergarten, first grade, and ELL classrooms, in honor of the NEA's Read Across America Week, or "Dr. Seuss Day.
  - "Free to a Good Home Book Giveaway": The **Reading Department** is actively updating and culling its libraries in LR 47 and LR 50, resulting in quite a number of books being given away. (This is the 3rd cull.)

### **La Paz County**

- Early Assistance
- Meeting with Campus Life staff to discuss improvement of Performing Arts programming in La Paz.
- Outreach event: "What to do after High School" for juniors at Lake Havasu City High School.
- Missoula Children's Theater
- Met with Terri Lambert to discuss delivery of the Violence Prevention Program in La Paz
- Plans for Ribbon Cutting
- Ribbon Cutting at Quartzsite & Parker
- AWC booth at La Paz Fair
- Produced 10 new TV "La Paz Connections" shows
- TV services worked on moving into the new building
- Preparing for new "Medical Insight" show in cooperation with CRIT
- Taped the Missoula Children's Theater presentation of "Red Riding Hood"
- Educational Talent Search - Eileen attended the annual WESTOP Conference, which was held in Phoenix this year, the week of 3/1-3/4/09. Arizona put on a wonderful conference and had great attendance.
- PUSD has been on Spring Break the last two weeks
- Met with the La Paz Career Center on how to strengthen our partnership
- Met with Faculty rep on the development of a Native American Studies program in La Paz

### **Science, Math, and Agriculture**

- NSF Grant for \$600,000.00 in scholarship monies for students majoring in Biology or Environmental Science. Marketing and Application process underway.
- AWC Agriculture participated with UofA Agriculture in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Agriculture Summit at the Yuma Civic Center. We greeted and provided information to about 100 students from area high schools.
- Kathy Watson presented at the High School Counselor Breakfast
- Spoke with Carpe Diem Charter School and Yuma Catholic about potential sites for offering both engineering and agriculture.

- Working with Rakesh Pangasa in developing an AAS in Engineering Technology
- Scott Donnelly presented at the American Chemical Society Annual meeting at the invitation of the society. He gave two oral presentations and two poster presentations.
- Visited South County with Mat Anderson and Michael Miller
- Participated in the Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies in La Paz County
- Kathy Watson continues to write a monthly article for the Yuma Sun on issues that impact Families.

### **South Yuma County**

- Held a very well attended Education Community Awareness Day.
- AWC students participated in Cesar Chavez Essay writing contest within the City of San Luis.
- Have the Teatro Comunitario courses in place.
- Recruiting for Summer Bridge Program.
- Participate in Community Leadership Alliance leader recognition dinner.
- Presented to City of San Luis Chamber of Commerce Monthly Breakfast.
- Recruiting students for Summer Session

### **Future Activities**

- Begin work on Spring 2010 schedule
- Begin registration for Summer and Fall 2009 on April 20<sup>th</sup>
- Summer Faculty meeting scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>
- Prepare for numerous graduation/learning celebration events in May

### **Business and Liberal Arts**

- SOCIAL SCIENCE – Peter Lhotka is scheduling Joe Michaud, Native American, to speak at his REL 201 class.
- WELLNESS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION – The decision was made to keep the fitness center open for the spring break. This will be great for all students who are staying here during spring break. The pool will be open as well.
- EDUCATION, FAMILY, AND HOSPITALITY SERVICES – Patty Powers will continue working with the TTTF.
- Karen Spencer will begin entering the questions for the two surveys developed by her TTTF subcommittee. One is for first year teachers and one is for administrators. The surveys will be distributed in late March early April as first steps in collecting data regarding teacher preparation and administrator perceptions.
- The education pathway for high school students through NAU that was developed by Alison Keough's subcommittee and finalized by Naomi Magna out of Larry

Lebsock's office for distribution.

- Patty Powers will be hosting the San Luis High School Education Professions class on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April.
- Judy Watkinson hopes to attend the statewide accreditation workshop by NAEYC in Tucson on May 18<sup>th</sup>. We will work on a.c.r.e.s to change the option of SPC 110 to SPC 215. This is public speaking. The main focus for our students is to be articulate in speaking with parents as well as children.
- Karen Spencer is going to introduce a section of public speaking for educators.

### **Distance Education**

- Planning a Summer Technology Camp

### **Humanities**

- ***Fine Arts:*** Bill Blomquist has applied for the AWC League of Artists to participate in Art Beat in May in Downtown Yuma.
- ***Michael Miller*** writes monthly film review and hosts Sun Cinema Series in Historic Yuma Theater downtown, in partnership with *The Sun* and the City of Yuma Arts and Culture Commission. Next date: March 4.
- ***Porchia Moore*** currently sits on the City of Yuma Ad-Hoc Public Art Committee.
- ***Georgia Tyson*** has been accepted to go to Liberia to participate in a teacher-training event at Ricks Institute, July 1-15, as part of the effort to rebuild the educational infrastructure following 20 years of civil war.

### **La Paz County**

- Represent AWC's interest on the La Paz Economic Development Project, Town Pool project and the Lower Colorado River RC&D
- Improve Student Services in the outlying areas of La Paz
- Continue efforts to develop ways to extend the college's offering into the outlying areas of La Paz
- Occupation of New Buildings: Parker & Quartzsite
- Develop New Classes and Build Enrollment
- Develop new strategies for registration problems in Quartzsite & Salome
- Meeting with Campus Life to discuss delivery of Campus Life programs throughout La Paz and Yuma Counties.
- Mid term intervention

### **Science, Math, and Agriculture**

- Kathy Watson will continue to meet with agriculture professionals in the community to talk about the AWC program and the partnerships with U of A and NAU.
- Planning a conference call next week with the U of A College of Ag department

on other potential programs that might come to the Yuma area with some joint offerings.

- Follow up letter to all who left contact information at the Ag Summit
- April Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting
- Hopefully hire CCRAA math grant positions and agriculture position

### **South Yuma County**

- Preparing for South Yuma County Celebration of Learners