



**MINUTES – METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2016, 4:00 P.M.
PIMA COUNTY LIBRARY LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM,
101 N. STONE AVE., TUCSON, ARIZONA**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Dennis Barger, Dr. Kent Barrabee, Leshawn Bowen, Dr. David Doré, Deborah Embry, George Favela, Guillermo Figueroa, Jennifer Flores, Steve Freeman, Molly Gilbert, Javier Herrera, Teri Laguna, Alexander Lewis, Beth Matthias-Loghry, Rafael Meza, Dr. Daisy Rodriguez Pitel, Jo Riester, Jennifer Sprung, Dr. Kasey Urquidez, Dr. June Webb-Vignery, Pat Wiedhopf.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Bill Ardern, Dr. Linda Arzoumanian, Dr. Mary Jan Bancroft, James Cook, Jen Darland, Richard Elias, Paul Lovelis, Luis Manjarrez, Regina Romero, Dr. Alan Storm, James Wiltbank, Maggie Zheng.

NON-COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Edward Nossem.

- 1.0 **CALL TO ORDER – PAT WIEDHOPF**
The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.
- 2.0 **ROLL CALL – PAT WIEDHOPF**
Roll call was conducted; a quorum was established.
- 3.0 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – PAT WIEDHOPF**
The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was recited by all attendees.
- 4.0 **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 20, 2016 MEETING MINUTES – PAT WIEDHOPF**
Motion to approve: George Favela
Second: Jennifer Sprung
Motion carried unanimously.
- 5.0 **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2016 FINANCIAL REPORT – PAT WIEDHOPF**
Motion: George Favela
Second: Jennifer Sprung
Motion carried unanimously.
- 6.0 **MEC COMMISSIONERS ACTIVITIES REPORTS – PAT WIEDHOPF**
The MEC Commissioners each reported on their activities with their constituencies. The notes of these are available from the MEC office.

7.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS – GEORGE FAVELA

7.1 Budget – Bill Ardern (Not present; delivered by Dr. June Webb-Vignery)

The budget is tracking appropriately; the Executive Director’s Report shows current funding applications and awards status. The MEC has received a 4-year funding through College Success Arizona from the Helios Education Foundation for the Regional College Access Center, and work is underway to implement the provisions of this funding. Titled College Knowing & Going, this initiative brings college access support to 18 school districts statewide; the MEC is the Southern Arizona Component and will work in conjunction with Northern Arizona and Central Arizona components. In addition to Pima County, the MEC will be responsible for Nogales.

The MEC has completed the 2016-2017 RFP application process with both the City of Tucson and Pima County.

7.2 Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon – Dr. June Webb -Vignery

The 25th Annual Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon will take place on Friday, April 29, 2016 at the Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel, 7350 S. Nogales Highway. We have 14 tables at present. The 2016 Honorees are: Lifetime Achievement Award – Dr. John Pedicone; Education Advocate Award, General Ron Shoopman; Teacher Award - Jennifer Anglin, Flowing Wells Junior High School, Flowing Wells Unified School District; Corporate Award – Cox Communications; Counselor Award – Dr. Judy Bowers; Small Business Award – Elliott Accounting; and Youth Award – Nayra Ochoa, Rincon High School, Tucson USD. MEC Commissioners are encouraged to contact their constituencies to procure tables.

7.3 Appointments –Deborah Embry

No action.

7.4 YAC/TTC – Maggie Zheng & Leshawn Bowen

The YAC/TTC has been discussing fundraising options, one of which is a “Percentage Night” at a local restaurant, where a percentage of that evening’s income would be donated to the YAC/TTC. The money would be spent on polo shirts, the design is under discussion. Leshawn Bowen suggested that the YAC/TTC recruit from school student councils.

Plans are underway for Civic Engagement Day, to take place on Wednesday, March 2, 2016. We now have the funds to hire a bus to travel to Phoenix, thanks to generous donations from the Tucson Education Association, the Cesar Chavez Coalition, and an In-Kind from Gray Line Tours for the bus. MEC Commissioner Jo Riester has also secured a donation from Thrivent Financial for the lunches.

7.5 Issues –George Favela

No action.

7.6 Regional College Access Center – David Rodriguez

The Helios Education Foundation has committed approximately \$5.2 million to the College Knowing and Going Initiative over four years to fund all juniors taking the ACT exam in 19 Arizona school districts, implementation of college access activities including application to a postsecondary institution, FAFSA completion, and a multi-year research survey. Dr. Webb-Vignery and

David Rodriguez travelled to Phoenix to meet with Helios Foundation staff to discuss the implementation of the initiative.

A Helios funding of \$1,100,000 administered by College Success Arizona through the Arizona College Access Network (AzCAN) will provide for coordination through three sites located in southern, central, and northern Arizona. They are: Metropolitan Education Commission's Regional College Access Center (RCAC) for the Southern region; Arizona College Access Network (AzCAN) for the Central region; and the Northern Arizona College Resource Center for the Northern region.

The following Southern Arizona school districts and schools are participants:

FLOWING WELLS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Flowing Wells, Sentinel Peak High Schools;

SUNNYSIDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Desert View, Sunnyside High Schools;

TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Catalina, Cholla, Palo Verde, Project More, Pueblo, Rincon, Sabino, Sahuaro, Santa Rita, Tucson, University High Schools;

VAIL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Andrada Polytechnic, Cienega, Empire, Pantano, Vail Academy High Schools;

NOGALES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Nogales, Pierson Vocational High Schools;

We expect completed activities will lead to the following outcomes:

Short Term – A college-going culture for all students is prevalent in high schools. Secondary leaders set high expectations and create rigorous, college-going environments for all students; Long Term – Increase the percentage of students, especially underserved students, in Arizona graduating prepared for college and career, and completing postsecondary education. The College Knowing and Going Initiative has received recognition from the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics through the 2015 Commitment to Action.

Dr. Webb-Vignery and David Rodriguez have met with the school superintendents involved with the grant. A Kick-Off Press Conference is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2016 at Catalina High School Auditorium; Mayor Rothschild and Pima County Supervisor Richard Elías, as Co-Chairs of the Regional College Access Center, will speak. Other elected officials, school superintendents, and the media will also be in attendance.

7.7 Key to Employment Symposium – Ed Nossem

The Key to Employment for the 21st Century Symposium took place on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at the U of A Student Union. We had 358 students, 34 Chaperones/teachers, and 56 exhibitors. Everything ran smoothly, and the student evaluations were all positive.

8.0 CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No action.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT – PAT WIEDHOPE

Motion to approve: Jennifer Sprung

Second: George Favela

Approved 3/16/2016

Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Approved 3/16/2016