



## August 2019 Director's Report

### **NEO Adult Education**

#### ***Student Enrollment and Performance***

NEO Adult Education's August intake was our largest to date with 94 prospective students attending the four intake sessions offered during the week of August 26. Of these, 72 have since "enrolled" (attended 12 hours or more)

As of August 31, Table 4 (measures educational gains) was at 50% which is very high for so early in the school year and NEO was recognized by the Center for Workforce Innovations (CWI).

#### ***Programming***

**PM ESL:** NEO has begun offering PM ESL classes for the first time in many years. We hope to see this program grow.

Both our morning English as a Second Language (ESL) program and our evening Adult Basic Education (ABE) class are near capacity and we are looking into options so that we do not need to put prospective students on a wait list.

We continue to provide onsite testing at the Porter County Juvenile Service Center for the TASC test that replaced the GED as Indiana's High School Equivalency (HSE) test.

### **NEO Testing Center**

In August, we had 19 HSE testers – 16 (84%) passed the test.

We also had two people take and pass the "ParaPro" licensing test to be a school paraprofessional. .

### **NEO New Vistas High School**

**School Starts!** The first day of school was August 28. More on student enrollment and performance with September Report.

**Dual Credits:** New Vistas has been approved for and will be offering the following dual (high school and college) credit classes in 2019-2020: US History, English, Spanish, Advance Manufacturing

**Pathways:** The school has added Information Technology to its Career & Technical Education (CTE) pathway options for the new graduation pathway plan. This is in addition to Advanced Manufacturing, Business, Art and Health Science.

**Flex Fridays:** This year we will implement Flex Friday as an initiative to meet the various academic and social-emotional needs of our students. Flex Fridays will occur every three weeks; the first will take place September 20th. Some of the activities for a Flex Friday may include but are not limited to:

Guest speakers  
Remediation

Enrichment  
Field Trips

Community Service/Project

**Google Classroom:** High school teachers will be using "Google Classroom" this year to post assignments, resources, and agendas to develop self-directed learning, digital literacy, and accountability.

## **Community Connections, Outreach & Development**

Brooke Allen, NEO's Development and Communications Coordinator gave presentations about NEO to the South Haven library staff and at the Lake Area United Way monthly luncheon which is attended by about 50 other nonprofit professionals in Lake County. Rebecca participated in Board Meetings with the Urban League, Portage Rotary, and NWI Literacy Coalition.

We hosted Mission Tours in August; guests included representatives from Head Start, Regional Health System, and a representative from US Senator Mike Braun's office.

Student outreach and recruitment was the focus in August via emails, text messages, Facebook/Instagram ads, press releases, partner outreach, and direct phone calls to students.

We are now sending bi-weekly email newsletters to students, parents, partners, stakeholders and community members using MailChimp as our platform. Our first newsletter resulted in a 26% open rate (industry standard for education is usually about 14%). The newsletters will feature information about accomplishments, upcoming events, or good news and directs readers to the website for additional information about our programs.

As reported in the July Director's repots, NEO's Annual Open House and the United Way Day of Caring were held in August at NEO.

## **Personnel/ Professional Development**

The week of August 19 was dedicated to staff professional development. All staff participated on various focus sessions including school safety, communication, instructional technology, and school-wide commitments to addressing issues related to implicit biases.

Leona Chandler-Felton (New Vistas Social Worker), Yolanda Williams (New Vistas Student Support Specialist) and Clifton Rhodes (New Vistas Director of School Safety) participated in a 2 day training hosted by The Porter County Juvenile Detention Center on the Social emotional curriculum "Why Try".

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

### **Weds. Sept. 25, 2019:**

- "At the Table" Conversations: 10:00 AM, Adult Education students
- New Vistas Back to School Night: 5:00 – 7:00P
- "At the Table" Conversations: 6:00 PM, New Vistas Parents

### **Thursday, September 26, 2019:**

- "At the Table" Conversations: 8:00 AM – New Vistas High School Students
- NEO Board Meeting (following the conversations)

