



Barstow Community College

For Immediate Release

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Barstow Community College Organizes Native American Outreach Committee

BARSTOW – In an effort to reach the underrepresented population of Native Americans living in Barstow and surrounding communities, Barstow Community College yesterday held a Native American Outreach Committee meeting to discuss, plan and implement programs that will aid in getting Native American youth engaged and committed to attend and complete college. “I don’t know of any Southern California community college that is opening up this type of dialogue,” states Clifford Brock, president of the college.

The open dialogue was important to help BCC understand and create a targeted program that will increase the number of Native American students that complete their education at the college. At the end of the fall semester 2006, 1.9% of Native Americans in Barstow attended BCC. That number increased to 2.2% at the end of the spring semester 2007. “That slight increase was due to the outreach that such agencies like Indian Health made to the middle and high schools in Barstow regularly throughout the year,” stated Larry Birts, lead educator for the agency. “I’ve seen several students attend this college, and that’s exciting.”

Meeting organizer Joe Clark, interim dean of student affairs, pledged to do whatever was necessary to reach out to the students. “Wherever there’s a need, we will travel, create or implement,” he stated. Follow up from the meeting included development of recruitment opportunities of Native American faculty on campus, community events specific to Native Americans and the formation of an officially recognized student club for Native Americans on campus.

In attendance were members from the Native American community that included Kay and Larry White Cloud, Charles Wood, chairman of the Chemehuevi Tribe, Naomi Borel, community member with Native Challenge, Larry Birts, lead health educator with Indian Health, Clair Ellis,

principal of Barstow High School, Jim Davis, principal of Central High School, Peter Perez, counselor at Barstow Junior High School, Lynette Everly, counselor at Silver Valley School District, Jesse Flores, field representative for County Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, Manny Lopez, Vice President of Dos Costas Communications, and student services divisions on campus that included Admission and Records, Financial Aid, Counseling and Extended Opportunity Programs and Services.

Barstow Community College is located in Southern California's Mojave Desert, also known as the High Desert, halfway between Los Angeles and Las Vegas on Interstate 15, and continues to be the fastest growing on-line community college choice in the region. More information about the college can be obtained at www.barstow.edu.

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