

Feedback: "Using a New Lens -- CVEC Looking Ahead"

Summary Themes from CVEC Annual Meeting
May 1, 2011

Question 1 – Should CVEC reach out to those with limited mobility? If so, how?

Observations: Do we have requests? Should there be a survey? How does this reflect CVEC mission?

This changes way course is presented. How can one focus on students?

For sight impaired – how to address?

Many not interested in TV instruction, appreciate personal interaction

If there is a population with interest and limitations, possible delivery systems:

CCTV - NTV

*Individuals/Facilities have television

*Can be viewed privately/viewed by a group

**Challenge: Production costs, time, ability to interact via this means, etc.*

On the Circuit #1: Video Sets

*Varied numbers possible (2 in a set; 4 in a set; 7 in a set; whatever)

*Built around a related topic; each video a separate topic

*Flexibility: Can be viewed privately; viewed within a group setting

*Flexibility: Viewing times can vary

*Easily transported from one viewing context/facility to another

**Challenge: Lack of interaction with presenter (clarification; discussion; etc.)*

On the Circuit #2: Instructor "Rides" – Anyone remember lyceum programs at school?

*Instructor moves from one venue to another (e.g. Three Links to Parkview West to....)

*Instructor does not commit to eight sessions/ 2 hour length each session

*Number of instructors on the circuit could vary (Fall Term Lyceum might have four instructors, the Winter Term six)

*Presentations built around a related topic/varied topics

*Circuit schedule could be published beforehand (topics; instructors; locations; times)

*Interaction preserved (clarification possible; discussion possible)

**Challenge: Charge per session; will attendance guarantee instructor payments?*

Note: We know from the one time session on Venetian painting at Village on the Cannon that a topic of high interest can/will draw a crowd. (April 2011)

Question 2 – What about lowering age of eligibility?

Observations: Current classes are frequently filled early with some under enrolled.

Do we have profile of student body? Are there many under 50 who are interested? Is this needed to keep CVEC viable?

What if the enrollment numbers became too large?

Are there enough classrooms if there are more students?

What impact would this change have on current student population?

Would upcoming population be interested in “Elder” collegium?

Would teachers be willing to teach evenings & week-ends?

Could classes be held in other communities?

Perhaps online courses would appeal to younger students.

Questions 3 – What publicity most/least effective?

Current publicity reaches those already involved or interested. What else needs to be incorporated to keep community informed and engaged as current students “retire”?

Observations: Many newly retired are surprised to hear about CVEC & its excellent courses.

Why is CVEC presence in the community not more widely known?

Are we elitist? Currently offer unique learning experiences that don’t compete with other programs.

Possible options to explore or expand:

Having a presence with information at voting booths

Consider use of bulletin boards – Archer House & ??- identify targets, active member in age group

Identify way to be included in city info – pamphlet for Northfield does not list us consider realtors

Lecture courses might draw attention

Consider expanded use of local paper – column weekly or periodically

Media: Web page, “word of the month”

Partner with Library Board or a senior residential facility

Questions 4 – Suggestions for future CVEC programming?

*Benefits in team teaching – mentioned in more than one group.

No classes presently offered at Kildahl – includes access for mobility issues

Explore shorter courses, e.g. 4 weeks in fall might appeal to those to go South

Size of classes – agreed that 15 about right, primarily for discussion purposes

Consider review of the balance of courses offered: science, literature, film, religion, etc.

Contact people outside immediate area to teach classes

Consider contacting those who have successfully taught in the past & suggest teaching another subject or expanded topic

Explore diverse formats – e.g. more interactive – cooking class, singing, geology, some larger classes

Evening/week-end classes – is there an interest?

Revisit topics of 5-10 years ago – how has information or content changed?

Suggest general membership have access to results of suggestions

Some locations better than others – how is this done? Is there a charge?

Could there be offerings of classes in Faribault or other locations?

Observations: Is some content already being addressed in other community organizations?

What does CVEC do that sets it apart from other educational activities?

Suggestions for courses generated by several tables:

More local history – identify specific period (e.g. Revolutions)

Study of France and Germany post Charlemagne

Course on Reinhold

Architecture, China: phenomenal growth & new aspects

Encourage Ian Barbour to teach Science & Religion again

Anything Bill Woehrlin is willing to teach

Courses on South America – neighbor to the South

Course on energy issues – available energy sources, pollution, costs, geological impacts, international issues

American Labor movement

Armchair travel