Planning and Feedback Session

The purpose of this session was to gather data from a statewide group of stakeholders (ND citizens) using one of the key questions developed by the SPTF: “If you could describe the ideal college, what would it look like?”

Submitted by Marlene Anderson & Bobbi Bingeman

**Group:**
NDLA (North Dakota Library Association) Conference Attendees [held in Minot]

**Date:**
September 21-24, 2011

**Tool:**
Random Survey (used a written form to gather free-form responses)

Responses

- A learning commons area with tutoring and advising; a computer classroom for library instruction; Modular furniture - comfortable - that can be easily arranged; a fireplace

- Recognizable programs (courses and degrees that are held in high regard by the business community); Academic support (high-quality library resources, flexible, tutoring options, comfortable study spaces); Student-focused (streamlined registration, financial aid, and other administrative needs)

- The ideal college would thoroughly prepare our young people for their future positions, contract negotiations, work experiences, work ethics, and community involvement.

- Where advisors to students are very well-versed in that part of their job and give students all the “inside info” they need to know to navigate the red tape.

- One that is forward thinking in regards to what the future job/career needs are probably going to be and offers programs in those areas.

- Student friendly - everyone; staff & faculty’s focus is on the students’ needs. Buildings and accessories conducive to students’ needs. Identify these needs through surveys, observations, focus groups.

- St. Cloud State University has a wonderful center of learning called the “Miller Center” where students from all major fields of student [sic] congregate to learn and share.
• Collaboration - credits to transfer from college to college in ND (All); HS dual credit to be accepted @ any college not just the one where registered. This would be great! It doesn’t tell you how the college would look, but colleges would need to add classrooms, dorms ... to accommodate more students if the credits would transfer equally at every college/university in ND. It would look like a computer lab in constant motion - libraries open 24/7 to accommodate students.

• I would like to see library presence (flyers, posters, computer stations, etc., virtual reference librarian?) in every dorm room on campus.

• All syllabi, texts, documents for coursework would be online. The college would provide state-of-the-art labs and collaboration places with comfortable furniture and technology (scanning, shared computer work, etc.) available in small group areas to enhance communal learning and group projects. There should also be quiet spaces for study. The library would be the learning commons providing access to all formats of materials and electronic resources.

• Options to participate online via distance and face-to-face.

• Open - diverse (age, population, various ethnic groups); day, night and perhaps even weekend class schedules to accommodate part-time and working students; online classes also because of above item reasons.

• Large, comprehensive, with excellent research facilities (libraries, labs, etc.); less focused on “workforce training and more emphasis on student learning, scholarship, intellectual development, and competency in their program of study.

• The outside of the college would be clean with lots of green and flowers. Water fountain. Inside clean bright rooms with up-to-date technology. Small class sizes with a lot of one-on-one attention to students. Student organizations and a lot of student participation.

• Teacher ed would have longer periods of student teaching; less expensive books? Use online textbooks?