Community Education Center Grand Opening

I. WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
   a. Welcome, everyone. Tonight, we’re building yet another bridge to our community. Many people helped construct that bridge. I’d like to thank
      • WSU Vice Provost and Dean of Continuing Education Bruce Davis
      • Associate Dean of Continuing Education Brian Stecklein (STECK-LINE)
      • Director of Educational Access and Outreach Ruth Stubbs
      • Community Education Center coordinator Luis (LOU-EES) Lopez
      • Director of the Center for Community Engaged Learning Brenda Marsteller Kowalewski (COVE-AH-LEFF-SKI)
      • Azenett (AZ-A-NET) Garza
      • Paul Schvaneveldt (SWAN-EV-ELT)
      • And, finally, Bob Hunter and Ben Johnson of the United Way of Northern Utah for being such excellent partners in this process.

II. OPENING REMARKS
    These days, we often hear about barriers to higher education … money … preparation … support …

    But perhaps the highest barrier is a would-be Wildcat’s mistaken belief that a college education is simply unattainable.

    Without the belief that a college education is achievable, none of those other barriers can even be addressed.

    With this Community Education Center, not only will we at Weber State University tell underserved community members that a college education is possible, we will show them HOW it’s possible.

III. The Community Education Center will offer
    A. navigation advocates, who will provide guidance through the entire admissions process
    B. and an E-S-L course to ensure that any language barrier is more easily surmounted.
    C. A computer literacy course and Spanish-language GED course are also in the works.

IV. Learning is a lifelong endeavor. As some potential Weber State students learn from us, we want to make sure their children are learning as well.
A. That’s why our Melba S. Lehner Children’s School has a facility in this building.
   i. It’s not just a daycare. Kids can take part in learning activities while their parents do the same.

V. We want to make sure our efforts to get people ready for college are working.
   A. So a community research extension here will determine how well we’re living up to our expectations when it comes to making a difference.
   B. This research institution will also assist some community organizations with their own research needs.

VI. CLOSING
   A. Weber State University has always been an open-enrollment institution. That means everyone’s welcome to an education here. But we need to make sure that they feel welcome. This Community Education Center extends that friendly hand.
   B. We will break down barriers. And … in their place … we’ll build a bridge to students’ dreams.

VII. FOLLOWUP PLUG FOR OPPORTUNIDAD SCHOLARSHIP FUND
   A. You can help build that bridge as well. Toward the end of this ceremony, student Nestor (NES-TOR) Robles (ROBE-LESS) will be recognized as the first Sonora Grill Opportunidad Scholarship recipient.
   B. Like generous Sonora Grill owner Steve Ballard (BAL-URD), you can make a difference in students’ lives.
      i. Mr. Ballard contributed to our Opportunidad scholarship fund, which is dedicated to helping first-generation college students especially.
      ii. You can learn more about becoming involved in Opportunidad right here.

VIII. INTRODUCTION OF OTHER SPEAKERS
   A. I would now like to introduce WSU Provost Mike Vaughan
      i. followed by WSU Vice President of Student Affairs Jan Winniford, who will present the Sonora Grill Scholarship plaque, complete with Nestor’s name, to Steve Ballard. Mr. Ballard can hang that proudly in his restaurant, and we thank him for his contribution to students’ dreams.
      ii. Oswaldo Bueno deMoura (DO-MORE-UH) a Brazilian-born WSU Community Education Center advisory board member who has been involved in the betterment of the Hispanic community in both Ogden and New York, will
offer final remarks. He’s also worked toward the betterment of club-referee relations as a volunteer liaison with Real (RAY-AL) Salt Lake. We should thank him for that in addition to his service on the board.

B. Following Mr. DeMoura’s (DO-MORE-UHS) remarks, we'll cut this ribbon and build this bridge! Provost Vaughan, come on up.