FastTRAC Celebration!!

Students that were in the FastTRAC program at Mesabi Range Community College in 2014-2015 were invited to a celebration to honor and celebrate their efforts in completing the 2 semester 16 credit AIDE Program (Assist, Inspire, Dream, Educate). After completion of the program, students are prepared to take the State Para Pro Test. Passing the test would allow them employment into many areas, including child care, Education, Head Start, etc. The 16 credits could also be applied to further education in the Educational field for those that choose to go on.

The FastTRAC Adult Career Pathways Program for the AIDE Program was a partnership with the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training, Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency and Mesai Range College. Each partner had a role. Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training was the Fiscal Agent. The direct service roles were: The Navigator, (Paul Pluskwik from the Office of Job Training), which included recruitment, performing interest inventories, assessments, employment counseling, job skills training, job search assistance, etc.; The Bridger, (Terri Ferris from AEOA), which included recruitment, computer literacy, work readiness, math, reading and writing preparation and study skills training; The Instructor, (Dawn Kemppainen Olson from Mesabi Range College), the first semester was 6 credits taken at the college and the second semester was 10 credits that were taken online.

The celebration, which included lunch and cake for the students and any family or friends they invited, was held to present the student a certificate and acknowledge their hard work and effort. Photos were taken of the students and their families and also with staff from the three agencies. Since the AIDE FastTRAC program is not an official certificate or diploma program and did not have an official graduation, etc., this celebration was our effort to give the students the feel of completion just as any other college program. Those that were unable to attend were invited in later for the certificate and a photo, or to have the certificate mailed to them.