2015 Fall Convocation: Start Strong, Stay Strong

NOVA faculty are invited to the 2015 Fall Convocation on Thursday, August 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Ernst Community Cultural Center on the Annandale Campus. The day will begin with a continental breakfast, followed by a welcome from the new chair of the College Senate and a student panel presentation introduced by Dr. Frances Villagran-Glover.

This year’s keynote speaker for convocation is Dr. Steve Piscitelli, an author, facilitator and history professor at Florida State College. The focus of his 10:00 a.m. presentation in the Ernst Theater will be “Mentoring Resilience: Don’t Let Anything Steal Your Passion.”

NOVA will recognize various faculty and staff and the three President’s Sabbatical Award recipients will share their projects. The convocation will end with a presidential address and a message from Dr. Scott Ralls, NOVA’s incoming president.

Boxed meals will be provided for lunch from noon to 1:00 p.m., and cluster and academic deans meetings are planned for the afternoon.

Exchange Participants Build Skills at Community Colleges

Exchange Participants Build Skills at Community Colleges Exchange participants are arriving at NOVA’s Annandale and Alexandria campuses. NOVA has two of 17 campuses across 11 states beginning the 2015-2016 Community College Initiative (CCI) Program.

The CCI is a U.S. State Department program that provides participants with quality educational study at U.S. community colleges and is designed to build technical skills, enhance leadership capabilities and strengthen English language proficiency. NOVA administers the CCI Program in partnership with eight institutions that make up the Community College Consortium (CCC). The largest of three host consortia, the CCC will host 140 of 233 CCI participants for the upcoming program year. NOVA will host 30 participants.

Exchange Participants Build Skills at Community Colleges Participants pursue educational study focused on one-year certificate programs in workforce development fields. The CCI Program
also provides opportunities for professional internships, service learning and community engagement activities. After completing the program, participants return home with a deeper understanding of U.S. culture and have gained new skills to help them contribute to the economic growth and development of their countries.

CCI participants also contribute to their U.S. host communities by helping U.S. community colleges to internationalize their campuses. According to 2012-2013 Open Doors Report, only 1 percent of U.S. community college students will gain 21st century international experience and workforce skills through study abroad. CCI exchange participants engage community college students with international cultures and diverse perspectives in their U.S. classrooms and on their home campuses. CCI participants will study in Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, state of Washington and Wisconsin.

Exchange Participants Build Skills at Community Colleges Since 2007, the CCI Program has hosted more than 2,350 participants from 20 countries. This year, CCI participants are from Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Cote d’Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Pakistan, South Africa and Turkey. The CCI Program recruits participants from underserved and unrepresented communities, particularly women.

For questions, contact NOVA’s CCI Senior Program Manager Amira Al-Khulaidy at aalkhulaidy@nvcc.edu or go online.

**Successful Camp Med by the MEC and Virginia Hospital Center**

NOVA’s Medical Education Campus (MEC) and Virginia Hospital Center jointly sponsored another successful year of Camp Med. The camp was held July 27 to 31 for rising sixth and seventh graders and August 10 to 14 for rising eighth and ninth graders. Campers gave positive feedback and expressed an increased desire to pursue careers in health care.

Campers participated in a crime scene investigation (CSI) simulation, which involved two mock crime scene scenarios of a stabbing victim and a car accident caused by drugs and alcohol. Students learned it takes a team of committed individuals to solve a crime while experiencing the intense pressure faced by health care professionals in fictional but lifelike situations. They also learned about a range of fields including police forensics, emergency medical services, nursing, medical laboratory technology, physical therapist assistant, respiratory therapy and radiography. In addition to participating in hands-on activities, each camper also became a certified AHA Heartsaver.

Successful Camp Med by the MEC and Virginia Hospital Center “The camper feedback helps us to shape our activities, the more hands-on, the better,” said Kelley Arllen of Virginia Hospital Center. “They love Camp Med because the staff at both Virginia Hospital Center and NOVA prepare creative and engaging activities.”
Parents Star Newton, of Waldorf, Maryland, and Valerie Crockett, of Fort Washington, Maryland, stated how impressed they were with the engaging activities each of their children participated in throughout the week.

“Camp Med has been very beneficial for my child,” Newton said. “This was her first time being exposed to an actual college campus for a week, learning in a classroom setting and working in a medical lab. She wants to be a cardiac surgeon and the exposure she gained at Camp Med has truly helped.”

“My 10-year-old daughter wants to be a doctor, and she told me how much she really enjoyed the camp, especially being involved with the real-life scenarios at NOVA,” said Crockett. “She kept telling me that she had never seen or experienced anything like that before and it was so exciting to actually participate in camp this year.”

Information Support Services Instructor and Trainer Deb Sharma (MEC) sent his daughter to Camp Med this year. He stated that, over his years at the College, he has observed the positive impact Camp Med has had on middle-school aged students interested in health care. Sharma shared how he has been looking forward to his daughter attending as a way to fuel her desire to become a nurse.

“This program motivates kids so much and they have fun learning and visualizing practical education,” Sharma said. “I noticed the positive and energetic attitude my child had at the end of the program every day.”

To celebrate each camper’s participation in the program, a closing ceremony for campers and their parents was held at the end of the week at the Virginia Hospital Center. Campers proudly recited journal entries about their experiences and demonstrated many of the principles they learned.

**Help NOVA Students Learn About Financial Literacy and Win**

During the 2015-2016 academic year, NOVA students who successfully complete CashCourse modules online will be entered in drawings for 20 $100 grants to be used for educational costs at NOVA.

NOVA Financial Aid will randomly select the winners after each completion period has ended. Each module typically takes less than 30 minutes to complete and covers topics such as budgeting, saving, investing, credit cards, student loans and employee benefits. Please encourage students to participate. It is a great opportunity for students to potentially win a grant while building real-life personal financial management skills and knowledge that often influences academic success, retention and even reduce stress.
Official CashCourse contest rules are posted on NOVA’s Financial Literacy Blog. In addition to the coursework modules, a variety of articles, videos, worksheets, calculators and message boards on financial management topics can be found on the CashCourse website. A comprehensive collection of financial literacy resources relevant for college students is also posted on NOVA’s Financial Literacy Blog.

NOVA staff and faculty are welcome to complete the modules for their own benefit and to assist students, but NOVA employees are not eligible for the grants. Faculty and staff may also access the free resources available on the CashCourse website and incorporate the online financial literacy content, assignments and quizzes into classes or workshops for students. If interested, please view the “CashCourse Step 6: Creating Assignments for Students” video and email Clint Young (CS) at jcyoung@nvcc.edu to request a CashCourse faculty/staff account. Young coordinates the Work-Study, Financial Literacy, and Default Prevention programs at the College and is happy to assist.

Disability Services Staff Makes a Splash at Conference

College-wide Disability Services Director Estela Landeros Dugourd and Assistive Technology Coordinator Stephanie E. Gernert made a presentation at the 2015 Conference for the Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) in St. Paul, Minnesota, July 15.

Their two-hour program, “How to Apply Principles of Universal Design in Teaching: Online and in the Classroom,” drew 50 attendees who thoroughly enjoyed the session and gave them rave reviews on their presentation and handouts. Attendees enjoyed a series of hands-on activities to illustrate universal instructional design concepts. Dugourd and Gernert appreciated the feedback as they prepare to replicate this training for NOVA faculty.

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Agbontaen’s Oil Paintings on Canvas at Schlesinger Center

The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center announces the opening of its new gallery spaces in the Forum and Passageway with an exhibition of oil on canvas paintings by Stanley Osaheni Agbontaen. The exhibit will be showing through Friday, August 28.

Agbontaen grew up in Benin City, Edo State in the South-south zone of Nigeria. He studied at the Creative Art Academy (Benin City) and at the School of Art and Design at Auchi Polytechnic. Using a pallet knife, he creates vibrant scenes with thickly applied oil paint to achieve amazing action packed scenes. His creative artistry is seen in his skillful design and arrangement that bestows the beauty of creation in the hands of a master artisan.

Agbontaen has been featured on Nigeria’s National Television Authority, received the Federal Capital Territory Award, and was nominated by the U.S. State Department to the International Visitor and Leadership Program. He has participated in several solo and group exhibitions. In 2006, he also exhibited his works with paintings of famed artists like Jacob Lawrence and Lois Mailou Jones in an international exhibition held in Nigeria by the U.S. State Department.

In recognition of his work, Agbontaen is listed in the Arts and Artists file in Smithsonian Libraries’ Collections. In 2009, he was featured in the exhibition “Africa Now,” sponsored by the World Bank, Washington, D.C., where World Bank acquired one of his pieces for their permanent collection.

Agbontaen is affiliated with various humanitarian organizations that promote equity and economic development through investments in youth education, intellectual development and empowerment. He is a full-time Maryland-based international artist.

The Forum and Passageway are for open regular business hours Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and during scheduled performances. Exhibitions in this space will be by invitation as the Center develops a plan that continues to focus on new and emerging professional artists in the Greater Metropolitan Washington area.

Leave Sharing Request

Christina Shanley (CS) has requested to participate in the leave-sharing program. If you would like to donate leave hours, please access a Leave Sharing Program Donor Form online. Please print, complete and submit the form to Human Resources by fax to 703.323.3155. Leave must be donated in eight-hour increments and only annual leave may be donated.

If you need other assistance or have questions about NOVA’s Leave Sharing Program, please contact Chantell Jones at 703.425.5270.
Mentors Still Needed

Mentors Still Needed Calling all campuses – especially Alexandria, Woodbridge and Loudoun. The Great Expectations (GE) Mentor Program is still in need for mentors to match with students. GE is a program that helps Virginia’s current and former foster youth gain access to higher education and transition successfully from community college to a credential that will lead to a self-sustaining career.

One of the benefits of the GE program is to foster healthy relationships through the mentor program. Each GE student is paired with a NOVA employee who serves as a mentor. Resources and support are provided to the mentor throughout the year.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact the Great Expectations Mentor Program Specialist Cynthia Delacruz at cdelacruz@nvcc.edu or 703.425.5394. A mentor application must be submitted prior to attending a three-hour orientation/training. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Printing Services: Time Is Running Out

NOVA Printing Services would like to remind faculty and staff that, if you need course packs, forms, copies or prints, they are the destination for all classroom and teaching needs. There is no better time to put in your orders than right now. The sooner they receive your requests, the sooner they can get them shipped out to you. Please avoid the last minute delays and hassles.

Printing Services looks forward to hearing from you. Contact them today at:

Website: http://www.nvcc.edu/printing-services/index.html
Email: PrintingServices@nvcc.edu
Phone: 703.323.3292
Fax: 703.323.3221

Announcements

1. NOVA Convocation 2015 – Start Strong—Stay Strong
   AN Campus, Ernst Cultural Center
   Aug. 20, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
2. Technology Training (T2)
   Summer Workshops – Faculty & Staff
   https://www.nvcc.edu/faculty-and-staff/technology/tac/tactraining/register/
   For more info AskTechTraining@nvcc.edu