New Loudoun Higher Education Center

Facilities Planning and Support Services is pleased to announce the completion of the new Higher Education Center (HEC) at the Loudoun Campus.

The HEC opened its doors to faculty, staff and students this August. It houses new faculty offices, IT and facilities staff offices, a Communication Center, an Information Technology Networking Lab, a recording technology studio as well as general classrooms and an event space for lectures and/or conferences. The building is a LEED Silver design and spans approximately 41,000 square feet. The HEC is peppered with energy saving features including directional outdoor lighting, occupancy sensors for lighting control, LED lights and a geothermal system to provide heating and cooling. To top it off, the HEC has a green roof and rain gardens for reducing rainwater run-off and a white roof for reflecting heat.

At Loudoun, the HEC is the second new building completed in the last three years; Learning Commons (LC) opened in 2012. Loudoun Provost Julie Leidig is excited about the future of campus facilities and lauds the HEC.

“The Higher Education Center is a very welcome addition to the Campus,” She said. “With this building now completing the circle of academic buildings surrounding our campus pond, the Loudoun Campus now has a fully collegiate look and feel.”

Prior to opening, Communication Studies and Theater Assistant Dean Josh Pachter highlighted many of the benefits of the HEC saying, “Can’t wait for it to open for business. The new HEC building will include a beautiful Communication Center, with video recording equipment and conference rooms which will allow our COMM study students to practice and record their speeches, conduct interviews, work on small-group assignments, prepare for competition in regional and national forensics tournaments, and have a quiet place to study, to meet with their instructors and to relax before, after and between classes.”

Campus Operations Director Sally Wrenn has worked tirelessly throughout the planning and construction process. She is excited about several aspects of the building including, “the cantilevered event space which when standing on the balcony you feel like you are suspended in the air over water.”
“I like the industrial design of the building, which is reinforced by the exposed trusses and metal railings,” Wrenn said. “Also, we have two collaborative classrooms featuring interactive computer capabilities. Students can connect their computers to the monitors on the table and project to other tables or the classroom screen.”

Please take some time to come by and see the new building and enjoy all it has to offer. Also, mark your calendar for the ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for September 24 – more details to come.

You Are Invited to the 50th Anniversary Gala

The Northern Virginia Community College Educational Foundation is holding the 50th Anniversary Gala on Wednesday, September 9 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Robert Ballard who discovered the Titanic, Bismarck and John F. Kennedy’s PT 109 (“Patrol Torpedo” boat), among his many accomplishments. In addition, Dr. Scott Ralls, NOVA’s fifth president, will make his first public appearance, and Dr. Richard J. Ernst, NOVA’s second president, will attend. You are invited to join current and former NOVA colleagues for a wonderful evening. More than 400 guests are expected to attend.

Please go online to purchase tickets. Select “I/We will attend,” then select “Other” and calculate your total at $125 per ticket, which is nearly 60 percent off the single ticket price for the general public. You do not want to miss this fun-filled evening as we look back at what has been accomplished and how NOVA has grown in 50 years.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer L. Jones at jljones@nvcc.edu.

Kickoff for 5th Annual Manassas Teacher2Teacher Event

The Manassas Campus held a kickoff event for the fifth annual New Full-time and Adjunct Mentorship Program – Teacher2Teacher on August 18. The Teacher2Teacher event, an Achieving the Dream initiative, hosted activities where new faculty networked with Manassas colleagues from 9:00 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. They met mentors, were offered various perspectives and insights into teaching/learning and received additional information and resources to enhance acclimation to their new roles.

The Faculty Traveling Resources Fair, “Step Right Up,” had a carnival theme. Mentees were invited to learn more about various Manassas Campus resources by actively interfacing with key professionals and departments on campus. Special raffle donations were graciously provided by Provost Roger Ramsammy; Cindy Miller and Robin Muse, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning; Campus Community Relations Specialist Ramunda Young; Diana Davis,
Campus Bookstore; Heidi Adamson, Enrollment Services; Marcie Schreibman, Student Life; and Amy Moore, Common Health, just to name a few.

Kickoff for 5th Annual Manassas Teacher2Teacher Event Ask Me! was another opportunity for attendees to ask their questions. Faculty members were on hand all day to help and get individuals going in the right direction. Special thanks to professors Rizza Hansen, Maryann Schmitt, Vashti Bryant, Diane Mucci, Rebecca Harris-Scott, Molly Lynch, Shakil Shrestha, Rohini Ganjoo, Matthew Westerhoff, Elaine George, Barbara Hopkins, Jaidee Zavala, Vijaya Gandreti, Steven Fritsche, Mocha Dyrud, Barbara Lash, John Harrison, Michael Carrington and Bill Ruffle.

Teacher2Teacher Orientation and Peer Share Sessions were very informative as well. In morning and evening sessions, new faculty learned about the Manassas Campus Mentoring Program. Mentees met their mentors and became acquainted with other new mentees in their discipline. Current faculty shared their experiences, tips and proficiencies and answered questions.

Campus tours were also available. Those that missed the campus resource fair explored the Campus through the eyes of student ambassadors. According to several faculty, the day promised and delivered an inspiring opportunity to build community and, like NOVA students, “Start Strong.”

The year-long, mentorship program is coordinated by Health and Physical Education Assistant Dean Dahlia Henry-Tett who stated, “It was definitely a collegewide team effort and I really appreciated everyone’s support.” The event was well attended and included presentations by professors Maryellen Ryan, Lorraine Goldberg, Jeremiah Donovan, Laura Casal, Henry-Tett, Daniel Reilly, Bernice Mayfield, Alicia Tucker, Ia Gomez and Geeta Jadhav.

Alexandria Campus Opens New Testing Center

The Alexandria Testing Center moved into its new home in room AA-156 in the Bisdorf Building on August 12. Having the Testing Center in close proximity to other key resources such as Financial Aid, Business Office and Student Services is a huge benefit to students and affords them the opportunity to accomplish all requirements more efficiently.

As partners in each student’s success, the Alexandria Testing Center provides a wide range of comprehensive and accessible services. Our services include, but are not limited to, The Virginia English and Math Placement Test, Extended Learning Institute (ELI) online exams and faculty makeups. Alexandria has one of a few centers that proctor for other community colleges within the Virginia Community College System.

They are equipped with the most current software and an ADA compliant testing room which allows students access to the CCTV, Dragon and Zoom Text software.
The Testing Center mission is to provide exemplary customer service to every person that enters. Please check them out online, view their blog and follow them on Twitter.

Taylor Speaks at the Medical Education Campus

Dr. Mark Taylor, nationally recognized educator, consultant and public speaker, presented informational tools on ways to better understand generational student learning styles to faculty and staff at NOVA’s Medical Education Campus (MEC) on August 21.

Taylor’s interactive presentation, “Meet Generation NeXt,” offered a specific model of learning based on increasing student activity and the use of technology from a generational perspective as a means to improve instructional efficiency and effectiveness. MEC faculty and staff were exposed to methods of increasing student engagement, personal ownership of class goals and methods to improve student success rates in transitioning from college into the health care profession.

Taylor Speaks at the Medical Education Campus With over 25 years of experience in higher education and management, Taylor has worked with over 350 schools in 46 states and provinces. His state, regional and national presentations have further led to business consulting with 20th Century Fox, Walmart, the University of Tennessee Hospital and the U.S. Army.

As a licensed psychotherapist in Arkansas, Taylor has prior professional experience as a college professor, academic administrator, medical administrator and clinical psychotherapist. Taylor obtained a bachelor’s degree in psychology and biology, a master’s degree in social work and a doctoral degree in counseling, all from the University of Arkansas.

Annandale Welcomes Administrators from China

Annandale Division of Languages and Literature recently hosted an informative session for academic administrators from Tianjin, China, outlining the role of the community college in the U.S. educational structure. Administrators from a variety of Tianjin universities, graduate programs, and district level offices came as part of the Fourth Round Training Courses for the Administrators in America at the invitation Global Studies and Programs Associate Vice President Paul McVeigh. The principle administrators of this program were Vice President Lei Ma of Tianjin University of Technology and Education and Division of Academic Affairs Deputy Division Chief Genghuang Yang.

English as a Second Language Professor Wilma Parker coordinated the event and led the tour of the Campus. Interim Provost Charlotte Calobrisi welcomed the group, and Interim Dean Bruce Mann and Associate Dean Jen Daniels presented.
MEC Faculty Published in National Peer Journal

Dr. Sue Bhati of the Medical Education Campus (MEC) was recently published in the peer reviewed “Journal of Obstetrical, Gynecological, & Neonatal Nursing.” Bhati and Kathy Richards’ article is titled, “A Systematic Review of the Relationship between Postpartum Sleep Disturbance and Postpartum Depression.” The article is available online through the NOVA Library. The authors found strong evidence of a link between poor sleep and depression in first-time mothers which can aid in public health prevention efforts.

Bhati is one of the proud recipients of the NOVA Presidential Sabbatical award this year. She proposed writing a community public health book tailored to the associate degree nurse, based on the interactive community and public health class she currently teaches.

Bhati also received the NOVA Creative Scholarship Award in which she highlighted her many podium and poster presentations during the past two years, the completion of a doctoral program in four years, and the innovative dissertation research wherein she conducted a pilot randomized controlled trial on sleep and postpartum depression in diverse young mothers. Next July, Bhati will be presenting her research findings at the prestigious Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Bhati said that she is fortunate to be working at the MEC, and extremely thankful to the College for providing her with the environment to succeed in her scholarly pursuits. She said she is grateful and privileged that NOVA has recognized, appreciated and honored her with these prestigious awards. She expressed her gratitude to those who have supported her including Christine Slevin and Dr. Mary Moseley, who were her cheerleaders and mentors during her scholarly pursuits; Noreen Nutting, Dr. Kathryn Patterson and Chuck VanAnden (retired) for editing the first draft of her article; Anne-Mette Harding, for content evaluation of the article; and Moseley, Paula Smith, Dr. Ann McGowan and Ashley Parham for helping with her dissertation study.

Whitmire and NOVA Community Chorus Perform in Austria

Dr. Mark Whitmire (AL) led members of the NOVA Community Chorus in performances at “Cantus Salisburgensis,” an international choral festival in Salzburg, Austria, which took place July 2 to 6. The chorus performed Beethoven’s “Fantasie in C minor” at the famed Mozarteum concert hall and presented a concert of 10 selections by American composers at Golling Fortress, a 14th century castle near Salzburg. The culminating event was a performance at Salzburg Cathedral when the chorus joined other participating choruses and the Cantus Salisburgensis Festival Orchestra for a performance of Mozart’s “Missa Solemnis.”
WDD Attends Governor’s Latino Summit

Cinthia Molinari, Tammy Raabe and Michael Sales represented the Workforce Development Division (WDD) at Governor Terry McAuliffe’s Latino Summit on August 5. Over 300 people, including key education, state and local leaders, attended the event that was held at George Mason University’s Arlington Campus.

The summit focused on the role the fast-growing Hispanic population plays in building a new Virginia economy. Breakout sessions featured topics of interest to businesses, community organizations and educators. WDD participated in the sessions “Growing Your Businesses with the Commonwealth” and “Empowering Latino Success through Higher Education and Workforce Development.”

McAuliffe was the keynote speaker for the summit, stating that his administration is dedicated to developing and implementing policies for economic development, health care and education across the Commonwealth and making sure the thriving Latino community is included.

McAuliffe visited attending vendors, including NOVA WDD, and thanked everyone for their service to the Commonwealth’s Latino community, as well as their dedication to state initiatives. WDD established connections with several attendees and have identified several outreach opportunities with Northern Virginia businesses and social services organizations. They are looking forward to upcoming events, networking opportunities and to next year’s summit.

NOVA Faculty Shine at Latino Summit

Pathway to the Baccalaureate Transition Counselor Mónica Gómez and High School Outreach and Community Liaison María Nieto-Shahsavarian represented NOVA at the Virginia Latino Higher Education Network (VALHEN) Hispanic College Institute (HCI) and at the first Latino Summit hosted by Governor Terry McAuliffe.

The HCI is a highly successful summer residential program that prepares Hispanic students in the Commonwealth of Virginia to enter and succeed in higher education. It is based on best practices and input from Hispanic educators and community leaders and much of the content is delivered by Hispanics who can relate to the students’ experiences and challenges. The 2015 HCI was hosted at Virginia Tech from July 15 to 18.

Gómez and Nieto-Shahsavarian participated in the Hispanic Stars Workshop which allows the students the opportunity to engage with successful Hispanic leaders and role models in a variety of fields. This session is a favorite for both the students and volunteers because it allows the students to ask questions and learn directly from these prominent leaders in their fields about their own journeys to success. The pair contributed throughout this four-day institute by chaperoning two busloads of students from the Northern Virginia area with over 100 high
school sophomores and juniors, helping them understand the opportunities available to them at Virginia community colleges and learning to utilize the VA Wizard tool for career and college searches, scholarships, etc. They also represented NOVA at the College, Career and Community Resource Fair.

On August 5, they attended Governor McAuliffe’s first Latino Summit of his administration at the Arlington Campus of George Mason University. The summit welcomed more than 300 individuals from Latino communities across the Commonwealth. Gómez represented NOVA’s College Pathway Initiatives in the breakout session, “Empowering Latino Success through Higher Education and Workforce Development,” while Nieto-Shahsavarian attended sessions on “Building a Strong Foundation for Virginia’s Education System” and “A Pathway to a Healthy Virginia.”

Gómez and Nieto-Shahsavarian strongly believe in expanding access to higher education and empowering underrepresented and underprivileged young people to realize their fullest potential, to gain the tools and information they need to make college part of their future and to develop skills and attitudes necessary to be active and constructive citizens of their communities.

Parents as Partners: The NOVA Experience at Manassas

As the College seeks to educate and advise the whole student, engaging parents and providing insight into NOVA’s processes becomes more relevant and necessary. For the past three years, the Office of Student Success at the Manassas Campus has hosted parents during the summer Student Orientation sessions. However, last year Student Success decided to make the parent component more formal and implemented “Parents as Partners: The NOVA Experience.”

The Parents as Partners Program is a two-hour workshop designed to increase parents’ familiarity with NOVA. The goal of this initiative is to increase parents’ understanding of the NOVA student experience, familiarize parents with resources available to students, foster a sense of connection to the Manassas Campus, better equip parents to support and empower their students to take responsibility of their academic experience while at Manassas, and increase parents’ understanding of the academic rigor and expectations NOVA faculty and staff have for their students while enrolled at NOVA.

Parent workshops consist of three sessions: (1) GPS Overview and Transfer Navigation, (2) Faculty Chat & Chew and (3) Meet the Parents! A Dialogue with the Dean of Students. During the GPS overview, the Student Success team reviewed the role of the first-year advisor in helping their students acclimate to college and succeed during their first year. They also discussed transfer planning with parents. In a hands-on activity, parents are walked through navigating the NOVA website to find guaranteed admission agreements, transfer guides and other tools that are posted to help students transfer seamlessly.
During the Faculty Chat & Chew session, faculty members spoke with parents about the academic rigor and expectations placed on students once they begin at NOVA. Faculty volunteered throughout the summer to connect with parents and this has been a huge success. Finally, during the Meet the Parents! Dialogue with the Dean of Students, the Dean of Students reviewed FERPA with parents and discussed other pertinent policies parents should be aware of as they help their students’ transition into NOVA.

During the summer 2014 student orientations, approximately 324 parents were present. To date, the Manassas Student Success has had 300 parents in attendance for the summer 2015. In addition, the Student Success team has collected some demographic data on the parents to better plan and serve them and their student(s). The team is also planning on providing fall and spring webinars for parents. As NOVA continues to focus on retention, it is imperative that students and parents learn to navigate the College’s system and understand the transfer process prior to enrolling. By helping families understand the resources available to help students after they enroll, coupled with understanding the role of the first-year advisor, Manassas Student Success is working to ensure that parents remain partners in their students’ success.

To learn more, contact Manassas Student Success Coordinator Khaseem Davis at 703.530.2834 or kdavis@nvcc.edu.

NOVA-TV Has New Videos Available

On August 17 at the Ernst Forum, the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) held their New Faculty Experience. NOVA-TV Center was in attendance to record the event. Acting President Mel Schiavelli gave the welcome address and Alexandria Liberal Arts Dean Jimmie McClellan spoke about the importance of the College. To view the CETL videos, go online to:

Acting NOVA President Mel Schiavelli
Liberal Arts Dean Jimmie McClellan

To see more great videos produced at the NOVA-TV Center, go online.

TRiP Congratulates Recent Certificate Graduates

Eight Technology Retraining internship Program (TRiP) students received the Network Technician Certificates – N. This certificate is issued by Workforce Development to TRiP students who have completed 66 hours of hands-on networking classes.

The TRiP program started in 1998 and is designed for people who want to try their hand at IT. They pay for one course at a time, and if they like it, they can continue on towards the completion of the 168-hour program. Registration for one of the mandatory courses entitles
students to the opportunity to participate in the internship program. This internship is nonpaid, denoted by the lowercase “i” in the TRiP brand. However, the internship is perhaps the strongest part of the program; interns work alongside professional IT techs and see and do what they do in a normal day on the job. Once students have achieved the 66-hour Network Technician Certificate level, they are ready for employment in entry level IT jobs anywhere.

For more information about TRiP, contact David Campbell at 703.323.3859 or Kofi Mitchual at 703.323.3829 or visit our website.

Chrome River Training Opportunities

If you travel on behalf of NOVA, you need to understand Chrome River and how it can make your life easier. There will be two opportunities to receive Chrome River training on September 16 and 22 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Building 4 of the Fairfax offices, Room 149. More training will be offered in October and November. Computers are available to work with during the class and training materials will be provided.

Please visit the NOVA SharePoint site and click on the Chrome River logo to view training materials as well as to register for a Chrome River class. Please note, NOVA SharePoint site is a network site and may be accessed only through NOVA’s network. If you are off campus, you will need to log in to the VPN in order to access the site.

Faculty Art Show at the Manassas Campus

Recent works by the Manassas Campus art faculty are on display through September 25 and the College community is invited to a reception to meet the artists September 16 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Colgan Gallery.

Matt Pinney’s art will be featured in Colgan Gallery with paintings by Rosemary Gallick, Eric Garner and other faculty members on display around the Campus.

Pinney joined the art faculty at the start of the fall 2015 semester. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Indiana University and Master of Fine Arts from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. While employing many traditional techniques, Pinney creates images that ask viewers to break with their expectations of what a work of art should be. Using different surfaces and contemporary imagery to address the differences between a mass produced image and the singularity of a work of fine art, Pinney challenges viewers to see through a unique aesthetic lens. His choices of materials examine the value and political context of an image, engaging the viewer in both the tactile and visual realms.

Faculty Art Show at the Manassas Campus
Rosemary Gallick’s paintings, including “Rock ‘n’ Roll Icons” (pictured), are on display in Colgan Hall at the Manassas Campus.

Gallick is an art and art history professor at NOVA where she has taught since 1996. She holds a bachelor’s degree in art from the State University of New York and a Master of Fine Arts from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York. In addition, she has a master’s degree in communication from Cornell University. She has published numerous articles, has given various art presentations and has exhibited her artwork extensively throughout the United States.

Garner’s work reflects an interest in patterning and visual systems, with influences ranging from American quilts, Islamic arts, African textiles and infrastructure design conventions. His work is frequently reminiscent of Russian constructivism. He has exhibited his work throughout the mid-Atlantic region, as well as in Los Angeles, Boston and New York City.

Faculty Art Show at the Manassas Campus

Eric Garner’s paintings are included in the Faculty Art Show at the Manassas Campus.

He holds a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Pennsylvania.

The reception and exhibition are free and open to the public. To learn more, contact Gallick at rgallick@nvcc.edu.

Exhibit at the Gallery at the Woodbridge Campus

The Woodbridge Campus is currently showcasing its first art exhibit of the year, “Material/Method: Contemporary Practices in Painting,” through September 25, in the Atrium Gallery in the Arts and Sciences Building.

Billy Hertz (Kentucky), Ryan McCoy (Washington, D.C.), Nikki Painter (Virginia), Phyllis Plattner (Maryland), Jessica van Brakle (Washington, D.C.), Brent Dedas (Tennessee), Evan Fugazzi (Pennsylvania), James Doiron (Kentucky), Jackie Hoysted (Maryland) and Chee-Keong Kung (Virginia) will show unique levels of experimentations and creativity. Gallery Director Erin Devine said the art show will highlight the responses of painters who invest in the formal capabilities of the materials they use and the singularity of their own inventive methods.

“The artists selected recognize the adaptability of painting to both challenge and provide experimentation in their work, whether in their working methods or in the kinds of materials they are using,” Devine said.

The exhibit is free and open to the public. For further information on this exhibition, contact Devine at edevine@nvcc.edu. The gallery is located on the first floor of the Arts and Sciences
Building and is accessible to people with disabilities. The gallery is open Tuesday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Leave Sharing Request

Shahin Mafaher (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.

Announcements

1. Technology Training (T2)
   Summer Workshops – Faculty & Staff
   https://www.nvcc.edu/faculty-and-staff/technology/tac/tactraining/register/
   For more info AskTechTraining@nvcc.edu

2. Material/Method – Contemporary Practices in Painting
   Reception Aug. 27, 4 – 5:30 p.m.
   Exhibition through Sept. 26.
   The Gallery, WO Campus
   Open Tues-Fri, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

3. STEM Career Fair
   Sept. 30, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
   AN Campus, Ernst Cultural Center