Successful 2016 Power Up Your Pedagogy Conference

NOVA’s Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) proudly presented the 11th Annual Power Up Your Pedagogy (PUP) Conference on January 7. PUP Conference is by faculty and for faculty.

This year’s PUP Conference was held at the Ernst Center on the Annandale Campus. It was a huge success with standing room only for the presidential address given by NOVA President Scott Ralls and the keynote address given by Geology Assistant Professor Callan Bentley, 2015 State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) Outstanding Faculty Award recipient.

Geology Assistant Professor Callan Bentley

NOVA Video Services has provided links to the PUP Conference videos. To access the videos, please go online and select “Video on Demand” (on the left menu bar), next select “Faculty/Staff Resources” (on the top menu bar), and finally log in using your myNOVA username and password.

If you have general questions about the PUP Conference, please contact the CETL.

Manassas Partners to Hosts Community Shred Day

The Manassas Campus held its first Community Shred Day hosted by NBC4 and Allstate Insurance Company. The event was held December 12, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The cars started lining up at 7:00 a.m. from Battlefield Parkway and Sudley Road. Over 800 cars visited the Campus to dispose of their materials. There was a five-box maximum.

Manassas also had a food drive sponsored by ACTS and Northern Virginia Family Services (NVFS), where they collected 1,117 pounds of food. Tremendous support came from Prince
Great Expectations Enjoys Holiday Potluck

Great Expectations Holiday Potluck Resized_fixed
On December 11, 2015, NOVA’s Great Expectations program celebrated the end of the fall semester with their annual Great Expectations Holiday Potluck. Over 50 participants attended the event, including students and mentors of the Great Expectations program, and various community partners.

The Holiday Potluck is an annual tradition where the Great Expectations staff and mentors and community partners take the time to give back to the students in the Great Expectations program, and for everyone to get together over a lavish meal while reflecting on the academic semester. All attendees feasted on turkey and gravy, roasted chicken, potatoes, mac and cheese, banana pudding and much more.

It was a pleasure seeing the smiles on students’ faces, and the program is looking forward to hosting this extraordinary event next year.

Taste of Thanksgiving for Annandale International Students

The Annandale Campus Outreach Committee’s first big event for the 2015-2016 academic year was a great success. The committee wanted to reach out to Annandale international students to share and experience a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Many students came out to be a part of this event, and the students really enjoyed the wonderful selection of traditional Thanksgiving main dish items and desserts. They even went back for seconds.

The Annandale Outreach Committee takes time to regularly give back on campus and in the community through volunteer work that includes canned food collections, clothing drives, student events and volunteer work at local organizations.

“Every member of this committee has really big hearts,” said Outreach Committee Chair La’Tonia White. “With the motto “Each One, Reach One’, what this committee does and stands for, makes a wonderful difference for others both on and off campus.”

NOVA Staff in Regional Conversation on Online Learning

Dr. Jennifer Lerner, NOVA’s associate vice president for e-Learning, was invited to be part of the conversation about the current and future state of online learning. Arlington Independent
Media’s (AIM) regional talk show “In Conversation,” featured education leaders talking about trends, and the expansions of online course offerings within the regional education system, hybrid classes, reactions from students who take online classes, and ongoing plans for growing online learning opportunities.

The conversation can be viewed online.

Loochtan to Serve on Local Chamber of Commerce Board

Medical Education Campus (MEC) Provost Anne Loochtan will serve as the newest board member of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Loochtan officially began her term on January 1 and will serve three years alongside 11 community leaders with strong connections to several local businesses and organizations throughout the area.

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce is led by a volunteer board of directors and paid staff. The board establishes policies for the organization and the staff implements. Its mission is “to bring local businesses together in the Greater Springfield, Virginia, area to develop and promote balanced economic growth and business opportunities in harmony with the objectives of the community.”

As a board member, Loochtan said she hopes to continue to foster a connection with Springfield businesses and the community, by building upon the work that has been accomplished by her predecessor Dr. Beatrice Veney, Medical Education Campus (MEC) dean of student services.

“Since the MEC is located within the borders of Springfield, it is both an honor and a responsibility to serve the local community,” Loochtan said. “The Springfield Chamber of Commerce has multiple service projects which are consistent with NOVA’s mission of access. I would like to thank Dr. Veney for paving the way for the MEC by creating connections and fostering relationships while serving.”

Workforce Development Attends Three Engaging Conferences

Workforce Development Division (WDD) staff attended three conferences in early December. American Culture and Language Institute Program Manager Silvana Barretto (LO), who is also the “Workforce Link” catalog lead/designer, attended the Augusoft Lumens User Summit in New Orleans. The summit allowed colleges to explore new strategies and industry best practices and gain additional insight on upcoming features. Barretto and the “MyWorkforce” team successfully implemented Augusoft’s online registration system for the fall 2015
semester, and the initial response has been very positive. In fact, NOVA’s “MyWorkforce” homepage design was recognized among the three best Lumens homepages.

Directly after the Augusoft Lumens Summit, the LERN Conference was also held in New Orleans, and featured best new ideas from LERN that WDD can implement in 2016. Several pages of NOVA’s “Workforce Link” catalog were used as part of the “Best Brochure Ideas for 2016,” and Barretto was pleased to report that WDD course cross-promotion and “4 for 3” employer registration incentive were among the shared best practices. Also, the “Need a Guest Speaker?” feature was popular among other attendees, as it drew attention to NOVA’s WDD expert instructors and credibility in the field.

IT Program Developer Scott Wood (LO) attended workshops on program development at LERN. Many of the LERN standards for course proposals and new course guidelines are already being met by NOVA’s WDD. In the “What’s New in Teaching” session, Wood learned that another trend is “blended” (also known as “hybrid”) courses. According to Wood, “We are way ahead of the curve on this one.”

Wood, along with Health Sciences Program Developer Katie Jennings (LO), learned about elements for new program development at LERN. According to Wood, program development is not only about the data that drives a need for a new course at NOVA, “…if there are other training providers – who have established, reputable programs -you are doing yourself a disservice by trying to compete with them by offering the same program. I think we sometimes believe we can/should be all things to all people. I think asking ‘do they want it from us’ would be a great reality check.”

Other takeaways from LERN included STEM course development, which is includes arts to become STEAM; Zombie-themed summer camps continue to be a huge seller nationwide; stress management seminars, especially targeted to first responders, among many others.

WDD Brand and Graphics Specialist Tammy Raabe also attended several sessions at LERN centered around integrated marketing and promotion best practices. Raabe’s key takeaways include the challenges associated with being a very large, geographically diverse community college that must address hyper-local market segmentation in a high-tech regional economy. Much of NOVA’s outreach is centered around social media trends and best practices. According to one workshop on social media tools and techniques, “When times are good, participate. When times are tough, participate more.”

Following the LERN Conference, the Virginia Community College System Hire Education Conference was held December 9 to 11 in Roanoke, Virginia. NOVA was well represented, and WDD staff presented three workshops for the conference.

Annandale FSRC Hosts Monthly “Appy Hour”
The Annandale Faculty and Staff Resource Center (FSRC) hosted its monthly “Appy Hour” on December 4. Last month the center highlighted its green screen technology with a holiday photo booth session. Faculty and staff from across the Annandale Campus visited the center and made memories with their colleagues while learning about ways to utilize the center’s green screen and video editing services.

The FSRC hosts a monthly “Appy Hour” on instructional technology applications in a collaborative, hands-on setting. Past “Appy Hours” have focused on 3-D printing, Kahoot, Socrative, Aurasma, EduCanon, Symbaloo, social media and other apps that can improve teaching and learning. The center will continue to host these monthly trainings in 2016.

Upcoming “Appy Hours” will include PearDeck, an interactive lesson builder that allows students to interact with the lesson in real-time. Students’ responses can be seen and not just heard. Annandale FSRC will also host trainings on NOVA’s Open Educational Resources and Google Add-ons for Education.

Be on the lookout for FSRC’s upcoming events in your email; you can also go online. Stop by the Annandale Campus FSRC anytime in CG 206 to learn about their offerings or for one-on-one assistance with your technology needs.

Manassas Establishes a 5K Group

Manassas’ 5k Group staff: Louronda McCrary, Jenni Barlet, Cindy Klink and Maria Fesz.

Manassas Campus faculty, staff and students have established a new 5K Group for 2016. The group’s focus will be to walk or run a 5K every month in 2016. After several of the group members participated in a few 5Ks in 2015, they thought creating a group would be a fun way to socialize, set fitness goals and also help out the community at charitable race events.

So far the group has 22 members from the Manassas Campus. Several of the members participated in a race on December 13, 2015, that took place on the Campus. The first official race for the group was January 3, the sixth Annual Frozen 5K in Gainesville, Virginia.

There is a spot for anyone interested whether you are a runner or walker, even if you cannot make it to every race. The goals are to motivate and support other members of the group and also to get up and get moving in 2016.

If you are interested in joining, please ask to be added to the Facebook page: NOVA Manassas 5K Group. For additional information, please contact Jenni Barlet at jbarlet@nvcc.edu.
Manassas PTA Hosts Massage Day

Group of physical therapy assistant student volunteers with faculty Patricia Ottavio.

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Club hosted its annual Massage Day on December 10, 2015 at the Manassas Campus. Under the direction of Assistant Dean Jody Gundrum, the students provided therapeutic massages to faculty, staff and students using a variety of manual techniques to promote stress relief and relaxation in preparation for finals week.

The donations from the Massage Day and hot dog sale are going to MUSIC & MEMORY. Earlier in November, the PTA Club also hosted a Music for Alzheimer’s tabling and information event. They asked for gently used iPods that are no longer needed to help individuals living with Alzheimer’s disease.

Manassas PTA Hosts Massage Day

Students eagerly waiting to massage.

According to their website, MUSIC & MEMORY “is a nonprofit organization that brings personalized music into the lives of the elderly or infirm through digital music technology, vastly improving quality of life.” They also “train nursing home staff and other elder care professionals, as well as family caregivers, how to create and provide personalized playlists using iPods and related digital audio systems that enable those struggling with Alzheimer’s, dementia and other cognitive and physical challenges to reconnect with the world through music-triggered memories.”

Also on Massage Day, the Beta Nu Psi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa had a Community College Completion Corps Information and Ideas Brainstorm on “Each One Help One, Join the Corps” tabling and awareness event. Many students stopped by to give their ideas, new suggestions and to pledge for this cause. A few of the ideas for student success were implemented and included second-year students mentoring first-year students, instituting Cram Week, and free tutoring by Dean’s List students during exam week Monday through Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

New Professional Development Course

NOVA faculty are invited to participate in a new professional development course this spring semester: EDU 295 – The Science of Learning. This is a 12-week, three-credit online course offered through the Extended Learning Institute beginning February 15.

Participants will explore the empirical research and neurocognitive theories of learning, and relate them to their own learning and teaching experiences. Participants will seek answers to questions such as:
What is learning?
What do we know about our intended outcomes of expertise and critical thinking?
What variables most affect student learning?
Why do different students respond differently to the same learning conditions?
How does experience get transformed into memory and new ways of thinking?
What teaching functions most affect student learning?
What skills can help students be better learners?

EDU 295 provides a foundation for EDU 285, which addresses the roles and tasks of the online teacher, and EDU 287, which teaches the design of online courses, but the content of this course applies equally well to classroom and hybrid teaching.

For additional information about this course and procedures for registration, see the EDU 295 course information page or contact Bob Loser (rloser@nvcc.edu).

Leave Sharing Request

Elizabeth Ogin (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. 7th Annual NOVA Serves MLK Day of Service
   Jan. 18, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
   AL Campus, Rachel Schlesinger Center
   To register visit https://goo.gl/MJaKbc

2. Tech Training
   https://eli.nvcc.edu/trainingcatalog/
   For more info email TechnologyTrainingCenter@nvcc.edu

3. NOVA in Focus
   NVCC-TV
   January 11, 1 p.m.
4. Applying the Principles of Universal Design in Teaching: Online & in the Classroom
Jan. 29, 9:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
3922 Pender Drive, Fairfax, Room 121
Register online at https://covkc.virginia.gov/nvcc/