Alexandria Women’s Center Hosts Elect Her Training Program

Ignacia S. Moreno, former assistant attorney general for the U.S. Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resources Division, speaks to students during the Elect Her event February 26 at the Alexandria Campus after giving an inspiring speech and answering student questions.

In partnership with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Running Start, Alexandria’s Women’s Center hosted Elect Her: Campus Women Win February 26 at the Alexandria Campus. More than 30 female students from all six campuses had the opportunity to engage in conversation about their campus Student Government Association (SGA) and getting involved in politics on a local, state and national level.

Elect Her is the only program that trains college women to run for student government and future political office. This year, students heard from City of Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg and Ignacia S. Moreno, former assistant attorney general for the U.S. Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resources Division.

“This is our second year of receiving this training from AAUW, and it’s a really big thing for a community college,” said Dr. Carolyn Lorente, director for the Women’s Center. “All of the efforts of the Women’s Center are in support of education and advocacy for women and minority issues.”

Annandale Campus SGA President Yasmin Bekri, Manassas Campus SGA President Gracie Billingsley and Woodbridge Campus SGA Treasurer Ziona Bates speak on a panel at Elect Her about their experiences with SGA and getting involved in their communities.

During her talk, Silberberg discussed how she became involved in politics. She encouraged the women to really think about the trajectory of their lives. “There’s no failure in trying,” Silberberg explained. “I encourage you to keep going and get an education. I won’t sugarcoat it; running for office is complicated but take it one issue at a time and surround yourself with a good team. And just keep going.”
Elect Her also had a student panel of NOVA SGA leaders. Manassas Campus SGA President Gracie Billingsley, Annandale Campus SGA President Yasmin Bekri and Woodbridge Campus SGA Treasurer Ziona Bates spoke about their experiences.

“I never thought I’d step up and be a part of SGA,” said Bekri. “I have a speech impediment, but I don’t want to be behind the scenes anymore. I’ve learned about advocacy and improved my communication by being a part of SGA. I know I can be an effective leader.”

Alexandria Women’s Center Hosts Elect Her Training Program

City of Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg speaks to NOVA women students during the Elect Her training program February 26 at the Alexandria Campus.

Moreno continued to inspire the women by talking about building their brand. She emphasized the importance of standing for something, being determined and never closing the doors on themselves before anyone could tell them no.

“Your brand is who you are and what people say about you when you’re not in the room,” Moreno said. “We need more women representation and more women of color representation in Congress. One individual can change the world. And what you need to think about is why can’t that be you.”

The AAUW empowers women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. The nonpartisan, nonprofit organization has more than 170,000 members and supporters across the U.S. Running Start is a nonprofit organization that brings young women to politics so they are knowledgeable about the process, invested in the outcome and interested in participating as elected leaders.

Save the Date: NOVA Service Awards Luncheon on April 8

The NOVA Service Awards Luncheon honoring employees completing 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years of service with the Commonwealth of Virginia and the College will be held on Friday, April 8 at Westfields Marriott Washington Dulles, 14750 Conference Center Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151.

Invitations will be sent to all recipients. Social time (cash bar) will begin at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. The list of those being honored is in the Flyers section of this edition of the Intercom. Please check the list for the following information as certificates are made based on this list:

The correct spelling of your name
Your years of service
Once again, we will be raffling off to the award recipients a gift certificate for a weekend night stay for two with complimentary breakfast at Westfields Marriott Washington Dulles. You will receive a raffle ticket at the luncheon registration desk on the day of the lunch.

Contact Dana D. Reilly at dareilly@nvcc.edu if you have any questions. Invitations will be mailed to home addresses.

Hats Off to MEC Employee for Charitable Work

Rotarian and MEC Allied Health Dean Andy Cornell presents Elvira Nevarez with the check from the Rotary Club raffle, which she donated to complete the comedor in Managua, Nicaragua.

Elvira Nevarez, administrative assistant to four specialized allied health programs (Respiratory Therapy, Health, MedLab and Phlebotomy) at the Medical Education Campus (MEC), began her charitable work that consisted of building a comedor (feeding center) in Managua, Nicaragua. Nevarez expected the initial rush of donations to quickly slow down and that her dream would take more than two years to come to fruition.

Much to her surprise, the comedor was inaugurated February 6 which accompanied thousands of participants in attendance including families within the community. The festivities included games, cake, food and music. The center will provide a nutritious meal to over 250 children five days a week, making it one of the largest and most productive feeding centers in the community.

Between church, word of mouth, friends and family, Nevarez raised approximately $7,000 to help build this comedor in her native country in only one year. Nevarez, born and raised in Managua, vividly remembers seeing extreme poverty up close. The areas in urban slums in the outskirts of the capital city of Managua, have dealt many years with issues of unemployment, lack of education, nutrition and adequate health care. She also remembers her mother’s wise words: “Si ayudas con un poquito puedes cambiar el mundo” (if you help with a little bit, you can change the world).

To top off this touching story, during the Christmas holidays, she bought two Springfield 50:50 Rotary Club raffle tickets to help charities with food pantry and scholarships for graduating high school students. To her disbelief —she has never won anything in the past- Andy Cornell, dean of allied health and a Rotarian, called her one day and told her that she was a winner. She did not hesitate to donate the amount needed from this $622 check to fulfill the comedor fundraising. The rest was also donated to buy uniforms and school supplies for a needy girl and a pair of shoes for another one. Things took off from there, and Nevarez just keeps giving.
“I hope it is a snowball that just keeps getting bigger and better. My experience in Nicaragua was truly amazing and is one that I will carry with me both personally and professionally,” she said. “My mission will not stop there, now my plans include to continue and maintain a robust partnership with Feed the Children, in order to self-sustain this children’s nutrition program that feeds 250 children one meal each day.”

With her efforts, Nevarez hopes to touch these children’s lives and hopes they will have better education, health and a chance to be successful in the future. She also thanks everyone for their encouragement, prayers, financial donations and investments in the lives of these children.

**Epic Paintings by Brian Burgess at Manassas**

Epic Paintings by Brian Burgess at Manassas Paintings by Brian Burgess were on display in Colgan Gallery at the Manassas Campus from February 2 to March 1. Burgess is a multimedia artist who likes to create narrative art with epic or mythic subject matter. His journey as an artist began as a student at NOVA’s Loudoun Campus where he earned an associate degree in fine arts. Burgess says his NOVA education provided an excellent foundation for his path as a visual communicator and he went on to earn a master’s degree in fine arts at Hartford Art School.

On the Manassas Campus, nine of his 24”x18” carefully-rendered illumination paintings were shown. Each painting echoed his interpretation of Greek mythology. On February 24, the artist also gave a scintillating presentation that involved his unique techniques and artistic developments and his appreciation and tribute to skills learned at NOVA. His artwork was followed by a reception where students, faculty, staff and community members were able to meet him and ask questions.

For more information on the exhibition, contact Rosemary Gallick at rgallick@nvcc.edu.

**Credentials to Careers Hosts “Leap Into Your New IT Career”**

Students chat with potential employers during the Credentials to Careers’ Leap into Your New IT Career networking event.

More than 120 NOVA students registered for the recent Leap Into Your New Career networking event hosted by the Credentials to Careers (C2C) team February 29 at the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center at the Annandale Campus.

Adult Career Pathways Internship and Career Counselor Trasi Watson said the C2C team organized this event to give NOVA students and alumni the opportunity to network with Northern Virginia employers and industry representatives in the fields of IT, computer science and cybersecurity.
During Leap Into Your New IT Career, students had the opportunity to meet potential employers interested in hiring NOVA students for full-time positions and sharing information about internship opportunities. The speed interviewing portion of the event gave employers the opportunity to speak with specific students of interest individually before the networking reception began.

An engineering and software services company, a federal government agency and a full-service professional staffing firm were among the 14 companies represented during the Leap Into Your New IT Career event. This event was free for students interested in networking and seeking opportunities in the information technology, cybersecurity and computer science fields. It was also free for participating employers.

Drinks and refreshments during this event were provided by sponsors, the Northern Virginia Community College Education Foundation and the President’s Office. The C2C event was fully funded by a grant through the Department of Labor, Education and Administration.

C2C encourages those employers who were unable to attend Leap Into Your New IT Career to post their job listings to the College Central Network. For more on Credentials to Careers, go here.

The Harlem Renaissance at Annandale for Black History Month

Educator and historian Edwin B. Henderson II made a Lyceum presentation titled “How the Harlem Renaissance Changed America.”

This year a number of events were scheduled for Black History Month at the Annandale Campus with the Harlem Renaissance as the theme. The first of these was a Lyceum Committee event on February 17 in the Ernst Center Forum featuring a program titled “How the Harlem Renaissance Changed America.”

It was presented by Edwin B. Henderson II, founder and president of the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded in 1997 to commemorate the founding of the first rural branch of the NAACP in Falls Church in 1915 and to preserve the early civil rights history of Northern Virginia.

Henderson’s grandfather, Dr. Edwin Bancroft Henderson, was a high school teacher and spent 25 years as head of the Department of Physical Education for the then-segregated D.C. public schools. He is credited with introducing the game of basketball to black students. In 1909 and 1910, as a player and coach, he led D.C.’s 12th Street Colored YMCA to two undefeated seasons and back-to-back national championships. Recognized as the “Grandfather of Black Basketball,” Dr. Henderson was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2013.

The Harlem Renaissance at Annandale for Black History Month
One of the images shown in Edwin B. Henderson II’s presentation was a map of night clubs in Harlem in the 1920s and 1930s.

There is a connection between Dr. Henderson and the topic of the Lyceum speech because one of the basketball players he coached was a young Edward Kennedy Ellington, who would become a leading light of the Harlem Renaissance as orchestra leader Duke Ellington, whose group became the house band of Harlem’s famed Cotton Club.

An educator and historian, Edwin B. Henderson II spent 18 years as a history and government teacher at Luther Jackson Middle School in Fairfax County. He made the point that the Harlem Renaissance was a cultural revolution that changed music, art, sports and political thought, not just in black communities, but throughout the U.S.

The Harlem Renaissance at Annandale for Black History Month

One of the leading lights of the Harlem Renaissance was the poet Langston Hughes, shown in this photograph taken in 1936 by Carl Van Vechten, who lived in Washington, D.C., with his mother in 1924 and 1925 before enrolling in college.

One of the major contributing factors in its development, he said, was the “Great Migration” of African-Americans from the South to better jobs in Northern and Midwestern cities and concentrated aspiring people in places where they could encourage each other and express their new found freedoms. Among those coming out of the Harlem Renaissance were poet Langston Hughes; band leader Cab Calloway; singer Billie Holliday; and singer, actor, athlete and activist Paul Robeson.

Dr. Jean DuBro, English associate professor and interim English assistant dean of the Languages and Literature Division at the Annandale Campus, brought students from her English 112 and American Literature classes for the lecture.

“My students told me they found the lecture very informative and that they learned a lot,” DuBro said. “Some of them were particularly interested in the influence of Joe Louis on Mohammed Ali and liked hearing all the sports references that Mr. Henderson was able to make given his and his grandfather’s connections.”

NOVA Physics at Showcase at the Virginia State Capitol

NOVA students Amanuel Eshete and Denny Okudinani explain to legislators their research on an unusual magnetic dipole, important for the development of novel toroidal metamaterials. Further to the right, Roberto Rivas-Martinez presents his research poster on cosmic-ray muons and the Higgs, called “The God Particle.”
On February 29, NOVA Physics enjoyed Leap Year Day and visited the state capitol in Richmond, with the Virginia Academy of Science (VAS) for the Research Showcase for the state legislators. After being snowed out twice, seven physics students from Professor Walerian Majewski’s research honors course PHY 298, who are also members of NOVA Society of Physics Students (SPS), were invited to participate in the VAS Research Showcase.

Of the 32 posters presented, six were from NOVA. NOVA students showed their work over the last two years including research projects on magnetic levitation, cosmic rays and physics of metamaterials. They were also the only representatives of the state two-year colleges and were the only presenters on physics. Twelve other Virginia universities were represented by their juniors and seniors. NOVA physics students presented their research to a variety of legislators, educators and to other students.

After the general poster presentations, students attended the legislative Science and Technology Committee meeting chaired by Delegate Richard Anderson. Students from universities and colleges around the state discussed how their involvement in research activities has exponentially increased their understanding of their course work by requiring them to apply what they have learned and work in situations where the answers are not already known.

Professor Conley McMullen, who is the VAS president, introduced the four guest speakers, two of them from NOVA. Student Nathan Gaul explained that in research, individuals must design the experiments themselves, build equipment and compare results with the theory. The second student who addressed the committee, Angel Gutarra-Leon, mentioned that the research has helped him to see that he could do work in science and is now intending to get a doctorate in astrophysics.

NOVA’s group of students visited offices of Delegate Vivian Watts (39th House District) and Senator Chap Petersen (34th senate district) presenting them with annual research reports from the last two years. They had a discussion with Watts about the importance of research in education. She was very pleased to hear that NOVA students’ community college experience was their first step toward seeking advanced degrees and said she had worked with NOVA “since forever.” She was astonished at the level of research being done at the College.

Students pointed out, it was an exciting day of sharing their work and enthusiasm with state legislators. They said they were proud and fortunate to be students at NOVA.

Loudoun English Professor Visits ADAMS Center for Unique Event

In December, the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) Center Mosque and the Girl Scouts Troop 920 welcomed visitors to build and strengthen community bonds and promote peace through knowledge and understanding. NOVA English Professor Nathan Leslie was fortunate
enough to attend as a result of a message from a former NOVA student, Rahima Ullah, who was one of the generous tour guides.

The mosque was filled with informational booths about the Koran, clothing, henna stations and there were refreshments after the tours. The tour Leslie received was delightful and informative, and Ullah detailed information about Islam to those of other faiths and answered questions. In addition, Ullah showed the large group of interested community members rooms for prayer, the educational classroom areas and other meeting rooms. The mosque was packed with members from the community – both adults and children. It was heartening to see such interfaith connection and the ADAMS Center made attendees feel so welcome.

It was a wonderful and inspirational night to be a part of the Sterling community. Leslie was thankful to be so welcomed by the ADAMS Center Mosque and the Girl Scouts Troop 920.

The A-Train Arrived with the Harlem Renaissance Fair

NOVA alumna Sharón Clark performs with the Thad Wilson Jazz Orchestra.

Continuing the theme of the Harlem Renaissance as part of Black History Month activities at the Annandale Campus, the Ernst Community Cultural Center played host to the “Harlem Renaissance Fair,” presented by the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation, on February 19.

Herb Smith, Annandale assistant professor of music, whose jazz combo has provided music for many events at NOVA over the years, served as the master of ceremonies for the event that was billed as an “evening of jazz, dance, poetry and displays.”

The A-Train Arrived with the Harlem Renaissance Fair

Annandale Campus Professor and Retention Counselor Joann Credle, Paul Robeson reenactor Keith Irby, and NVCC Educational Foundation Executive Director John Ruffino enjoy the evening.

The evening began with an introduction by Edwin B. Henderson II, Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation founder and president. “Tonight’s celebration,” he said, “is a reminder of the rich and vibrant history and contributions of African-Americans to the fabric of our nation and the world.”

He was followed by Dr. Spencer Crew, Robinson Professor of History at George Mason University, who spoke about the “Great Migration” of black families from the South to Harlem and other cities that helped to fuel an explosion of cultural and artistic creativity.

The Thad Wilson Jazz Orchestra then took the stage and performed the music of Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway and others who played at famous Harlem venues such as the Cotton Club, Savoy Ballroom and Apollo Theatre. Accompanying them was vocalist Sharón Clark, a Washington,
D.C. native called by The Washington Post as “the finest jazz singer in Washington,” who is a former NOVA student and took classes from Herb Smith.

The A-Train Arrived with the Harlem Renaissance Fair

Annandale Assistant Professor of Music Herb Smith, Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation President Edwin B. Henderson II, and bandleader Thad Wilson at the end of a wonderful evening of jazz, dance and poetry.

“Since I taught her, she has gone from a student amateur to a polished professional with her own voice and understands the nuances of the music,” said Smith. “She does not mimic other singers; she has retained the spirit of a Dinah Washington or an Ella Fitzgerald when she sings.”

Among those in the audience was NVCC Educational Foundation Executive Director John Ruffino. “It was a wonderful evening that was both educational and entertaining,” he said. “We look forward to having the Harlem Renaissance Fair here again next year.”

There was a one-man play based on the life and poetry of Langston Hughes, titled “Dreamweaver: The Works of Langston Hughes,” performed by poet and actor David Mills that was sandwiched between intermissions during which reenactors of famous Harlem Renaissance personalities, such as Paul Robeson, Josephine Baker, Billie Holliday and Zora Neale Hurston mingled with attendees.

For the second set, trumpeter and bandleader Thad Wilson and his orchestra were joined by renowned neo-bop jazz pianist and vocalist Johnny O’Neal. Accompanying the performance were members of the Guardian Dance Company of Baltimore, who recreated the dancing of the 1930s and 1940s that would have been found in Harlem night clubs.

Dr. Joann Credle, professor and retention counselor, also attended and was accompanied by two student members of the Annandale Campus Black Student Alliance, for which she serves as faculty sponsor. “I thank Annandale Campus Liberal Arts Division Dean Burt Peretti,” Credle said, “for his generous contribution of tickets to allow these students to attend this delightful evening.”

Video On Demand: Science Seminar on How STEM Became STEAM

Manassas Science and Applied Technology Interim Dean Diane Mucci, Chemistry Associate Professor Reva Savkar (who is also the chair of the Annandale Campus Science Seminar Committee) and Loudoun Biology Professor Gillian Backus.

On February 26, Dr. Gillian Backus (Loudoun Biology Professor) and Dr. Diane Mucci (Manassas Interim Dean of Science and Applied Technology) gave an interactive presentation titled, “How STEM became STEAM and Everyone Won: Incorporating Humanities in STEM Disciplines.” They
shared their experiences on “Building a STEAM Engine” that brings together one student and two faculty members – one from science and one from art – who mentored the student from concept to completion of a science motivated work of art.

NOVA Science Seminars are organized by the Mathematics, Science and Engineering Division and Annandale Campus Lyceum.

NOVA’s Video Services recorded the event and has made it available online. If you would like to view it, please go online.

Crossing the Finish Line

During the month of February, the Alexandria Campus provided two Graduation Preparation Workshops for students who are applying for graduation in the spring or summer 2016 semesters. The workshops started in 2013 as a collaborative initiative between the Alexandria and Annandale Counseling Departments for continuing students. Other participating departments in the initiative included Admissions and Records, Barnes and Noble Campus Bookstore and Financial Aid.

One goal of the program is to provide intentional retention services for students. Another goal is to give guidance to students on how to complete their academic programs successfully and transition into life after NOVA.

Understanding that the last year of college for many students can be challenging, encouraging students to plan and utilize time management skills is an important part of the program. Students have to meet various deadlines (especially for university transfer) in their last semester. Thus, a panel of staff addressed topics including verifying academic requirements, applying for graduation, commencement information, transfer planning, financial aid and preparation for employment. Students were also given an opportunity to ask questions of the panelists.

The Alexandria Campus held two programs on February 5 with 25 students and an evening program on February 17 with 64 students in attendance. Students attending the first session were able to have their academic advisement reports reviewed by a member of the Counseling Department upon departure. For the first time, the evening program was provided as a live stream using Google Hangout On Air through the coordination of the Technology Innovation Learning and Teaching (TILT) Department. There were 34 viewers during the session which provided students the ability to watch live online if they could not come to campus. The link is also available for continued viewing and to date has been viewed over 300 times on YouTube.

Students who attended the program were able to provide their information and be assigned to an Academic Success Counselor. Students will receive reminders about graduation deadlines.
and be connected to a resource for additional support. The Counseling Departments will also gather information regarding the transfer (acceptances, selections, etc.) and/or career decisions of the participants. Various NOVA campuses will have Graduation Preparation programs each semester with slight differences in format.

Please consult your campus calendars for future events and recommend students to attend who are close to graduation or want to prepare early for their last semesters at NOVA.

The Extended Learning Institute now has a virtual graduation preparation video. It is a permanent link that can be shared year around.

Please access the flyer in this edition of the Intercom. If you would like to view the February 17 Graduation Preparation Workshop event at Alexandria Campus, please go online.

The Schlesinger Center Presents “Dear Suburbia” by Kallista

The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery at NOVA’s Alexandria Campus announces the exhibit “Dear Suburbia,” mixed media works by Jessica Kallista. “Dear Suburbia” opens Friday, March 18 and runs through Sunday, April 24. The artist’s reception is from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Friday, March 18.

“Dear Suburbia” is an immersive experience using storytelling to explore a bio mythography of everyday life in the suburbs of Northern Virginia in the early 21st century. The works of this exhibit call to mind the familiar artifacts and ephemera of the mundane and reimagines and transforms them into dreamlike elements of magical worlds that are just below, above or somehow beyond our reach. “Dear Suburbia” addresses embodiment, identity, mindfulness, space and place as experienced by a stranger in the strange land that is suburbia. The process, practice and pieces form a collective call to action, a documentation of a lived experience and a communication with the world beyond this strange land.

Kallista is an artist, poet and curator living in Northern Virginia. She received her M.F.A. in creative writing with a concentration in poetry from George Mason University in 2002. Her poems have appeared in “Phoebe,” “Sou’wester,” and “So to Speak.” Her work has been included in exhibitions at George Mason University, The Adam Lister Gallery, Epicure Café, Gallery Underground, Target Gallery, The Fridge, Tempus Projects, The Bricks of Ybor and Olly Olly. In 2014 she founded Olly Olly, an alternative art space in Fairfax, Virginia, in order to create space for local art and artists with a focus on experimental, conceptual and performance art.

The Fisher Art Gallery is located on the upper level of the Schlesinger Center on the Alexandria Campus and is named for local artist Margaret “Peggy” Fisher and her late husband, Joseph Fisher. Gallery hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday and during performances.
Science Seminar: The Ecology of Wavyleaf Basketgrass

Science Seminar: The Ecology of Wavyleaf Basketgrass All faculty, staff and students are cordially invited to a Science Seminar titled “The Ecology of Wavyleaf Basketgrass: A New Invasive Species in the U.S. Mid-Atlantic Region.” This event will be held Friday, March 25 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the CE Forum Ernst Center on the Annandale Campus. Dr. Vanessa Beauchamp, plant ecologist and associate professor at Towson University, will be the guest speaker. There will also be a meet and greet and light refreshments from 11:30 a.m. to 11:55 a.m.

Abstract:

Wavyleaf basketgrass (Oplismenus undulatifolius) was first discovered in the United States in 1996 in a state park outside of Baltimore. The grass has since spread to thousands of acres throughout Maryland and Virginia. Recent research by faculty and students at Towson University and Hood College has looked at seed production, dispersal and germination rates, competition with other native and exotic grass species, effects on forest food webs and ways to control its spread. They have also developed Project Wavyleaf, a citizen science initiative and accompanying cell phone app to allow the public to help with mapping the distribution and locating new populations of this potentially damaging invasive species.

Beauchamp is in the Department of Biological Sciences at Towson University. Her research focuses on disturbance ecology, forest succession, ecosystem restoration, and the ecology and impacts of invasive plant species.

This event is presented by the Science Seminar Committee; Math, Science, and Engineering Division; and the Annandale Campus Lyceum Committee.

Money Management and Free Tax Prep Workshops

NOVA’s Financial Literacy Program will be holding Money Management Workshops throughout February and March to discuss strategies college students can use to improve their financial situation. Topics to be covered include budgeting, saving, emergency funds, credit cards, compound interest, credit reports, responsible borrowing, financial aid, student loans and financial coaching.

A few of the Money Management Workshops are scheduled to begin right after some of NOVA’s Free Tax Preparation Workshops end so that students may receive assistance from IRS-certified volunteers with preparing their 2015 tax returns and then stick around to learn about managing their finances.
Please encourage students to take advantage of these events! Faculty and staff are also welcome to attend. More details are available on NOVA’s Financial Literacy Blog at http://blogs.nvcc.edu/financial-literacy/upcoming-events/.

Second Annandale STEMfair on April 14

Following a successful first effort last year, the Annandale Campus Mathematics, Science, and Engineering (MSE) Division will host STEMfair 2016 in the Ernst Community Cultural Center on Monday, April 14.

Organized this year in a collaborative manner by a 14-member interdisciplinary advisory committee chaired by Chemistry Associate Professor Ritu Kansal, information about STEMfair 2016 can be found online.

Last year, the event drew 42 official entries, with over 120 participating students and more than 180 attendees. STEMfair 2015 photos are available online.

“I encourage faculty throughout the college to inform their students about this great opportunity for them to network with each other and share their work with other students, faculty, and industry representatives,” said MSE Dean Abbas Eftekhari.

Students may present their work as either an oral presentation or a poster presentation. And there are three categories of entries:

- Physical Sciences (PHY, CHM, GOL)
- Biological and Environmental Sciences
- Engineering, Computer Science, and Mathematics

The entries will be judged on the following areas:

- Originality and Creativity
- Scientific Method
- Analysis of Data and Conclusion
- Communication of Results

Awards and recognition include trophies and certificates for each category and there will be cash awards for select projects. Internships and research opportunities are also possible.

You can access the flyer in this edition of the Intercom. For questions, contact Ritu Kansal at rkansal@nvcc.edu.
Become a Mentor with Great Expectations

Did you know that 94 percent of foster youth will not graduate from college, and that within two years of leaving the foster care system 25 percent will be incarcerated while 50 percent will become homeless? Improving these odds takes strong mentors. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, the Great Expectations (GE) program is looking for NOVA faculty and staff to be mentors to 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 our mentor program. Each GE student is paired with a NOVA employee who serves as a mentor.

A new mentor orientation will be held on Monday, March 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., location TBD. If you are interested, please contact Cynthia Delacruz, the Great Expectations mentor program coordinator, at cdelacruz@nvcc.edu or 703.425.5394. A mentor application must be submitted first prior to attending the training.

For more information regarding GE please visit https://www.nvcc.edu/cpi/ge.html or http://greatexpectations.vccs.edu/.

Junior Achievement Is Looking for NOVA Employees to Volunteer

Do you know that NOVA employees have the opportunity to volunteer time at Junior Achievement at the Finance Park throughout the school year? NOVA is currently an educational sponsor for Junior Achievement (JA), and as a volunteer, your role at the JA Finance Park would help students through a personal finance simulation by sharing your knowledge, perspective and personal life experiences as well as monitor students’ progress through the day (specifically from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.).

You do not need to prepare anything ahead of time. Volunteers will be fully trained prior to the simulation. School teachers and JA staff members will be on hand throughout the day to provide guidance. They take individual or group volunteers.

To signup, please complete the JA volunteer registration online.

For more information, please contact Cynthia Delacruz, the Junior Achievement volunteer liaison for NOVA, at cdelacruz@nvcc.edu or 703.425.5394. Also, feel free to visit http://www.myja.org/ to learn more about Junior Achievement.
Announcements

1. Bulk Mail – Saving Money on Large Mailings
   Contact NOVA Printing Services
   703.323.3292 or printingservices@nvcc.edu

2. Dessert with the Deans
   LC Café, 12 – 2 p.m.
   March 17

3. Save the Date: Ready, Set, Brand!
   Leadership Conference
   Loudoun HEC – 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

4. Get Your Taxes Done For Free
   http://turbotax.intuit.com/taxfreedom/index.jsp?vitaSiteID=S16091503

5. This Spring, join TILT
   Fridays at 10 a.m. via WebEx
   To register, go to https://goo.gl/C9lgwz

6. STEMfair 2016
   April 14, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
   AN Campus, CE Forum
   Visit blogs.nvcc.edu/stemfair for more info

7. HR OL&D Workshop Schedule – Spring 2016