

# Start Here, Go Everywhere



**NOVA** | Northern Virginia  
Community College

**President's Report**  
**2025**





Dear NOVA Community,

As our community's college, NOVA is committed to advancing opportunity for Northern Virginians, and the pages that follow share how we continue to connect students to affordable, exceptional and transformational higher education and workforce programs. Whether taking their first college class or reskilling in a new field, our students can be confident that they can start here and go everywhere — boldly.

We are so proud of the inspiring journeys our students take. Last year, almost 11,000 students leveraged their outstanding NOVA educations to pursue four-year degrees at Virginia universities, including over 3,600 at our neighbor George Mason University. The pathway to the baccalaureate for many students began with free NOVA courses while they were still in high school. At a time when the high cost of a college degree can be a barrier for students and parents, we are dedicated to keeping the door to high-quality higher education open and affordable for the more than 70,000 students annually who make the smart choice to start at NOVA.

An increasing number of these students are eager to shorten the distance between learning and earning. NOVA has forged deep partnerships with employers, ensuring that our students graduate career-ready from programs that may take less than a year to complete. For example, in collaboration with Amazon Web Services and Google, we provide fast-track, paid pre-apprenticeship programs that prepare students

for jobs in data center operations and the skilled trades. We know our students want to keep climbing the career ladder, but also want to do it on their timeline and their terms. So, our short-term certificate programs connect both to in-demand jobs and associate degrees, that then transfer to universities. NOVA goes even further by supporting students' career prospects with our guaranteed interview program, paid internships and micro-internships, and coaching services.

NOVA has long been the region's largest provider of talent, so when sudden shifts in the local economy affected Northern Virginia, we responded with a sense of urgency that matched the moment, launching the NOVA New Employment, eXploration and Transition Program — NOVAnext. This innovative initiative supports displaced federal workers and contractors, providing free courses leading to in-demand industry credentials, including certifications in AI. They also receive comprehensive career services and direct connections to employers. Since March, more than 700 of our neighbors have joined NOVAnext, a program that is creating opportunity when it is needed most.

As Virginia's largest public higher education institution, NOVA proudly serves as your economic changemaker, transforming individual lives while strengthening our entire region. Every day, our students build their better, bolder tomorrows at NOVA, and we couldn't be more honored to be part of their incredible journeys.

*John L. Porter*

John L. Porter  
Chair of the College Board

*Anne M. Kress*

Anne M. Kress, Ph.D.  
President

Our cover photo features trailblazer Deborah Martinez Castellanos, the first Hispanic woman to complete NOVA's Data Center Operations program. Deborah secured a job before her graduation in 2022 and then rapidly advanced in her career, a testament to her talent, drive and the strong foundation she built at NOVA. Her success caught the attention of The Wall Street Journal, which highlighted her in a 2024 article. Cover photo by Maansi Srivastava.



# NOVA At-a-Glance



**19,233**  
High school Dual  
Enrollment students



**4,248**  
Workforce students



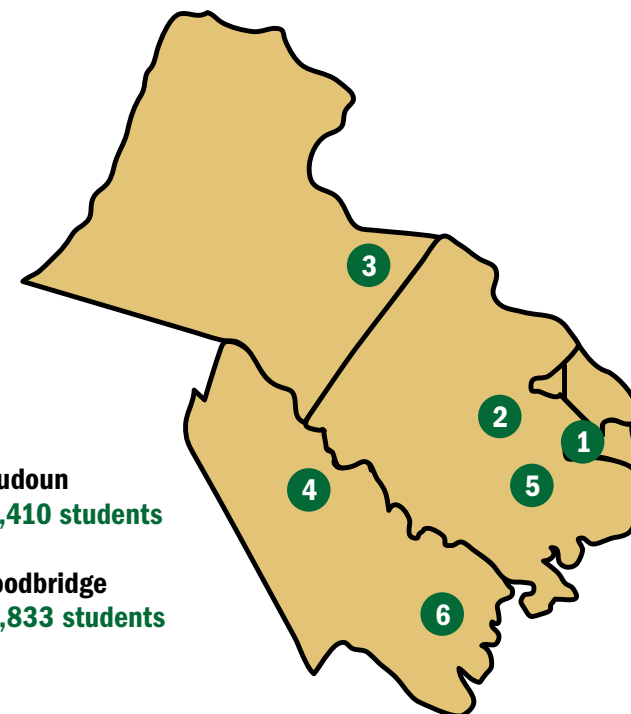
**77%**  
Full-time student  
success rate



**7,500+**  
Students earned associate  
degrees and certificates

## Our locations

NOVA serves the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park across six campuses, the Reston Center and NOVA Online.



1

**Alexandria**  
16,098 students

2

**Annandale**  
16,253 students

3

**Loudoun**  
19,410 students

4

**Manassas**  
11,838 students

5

**Medical Education**  
2,074 students

6

**Woodbridge**  
10,833 students

**Total enrollment: 76,506**

## Our students

**99%**

of NOVA students  
live in Virginia.

**44%**

of students took  
an online class.

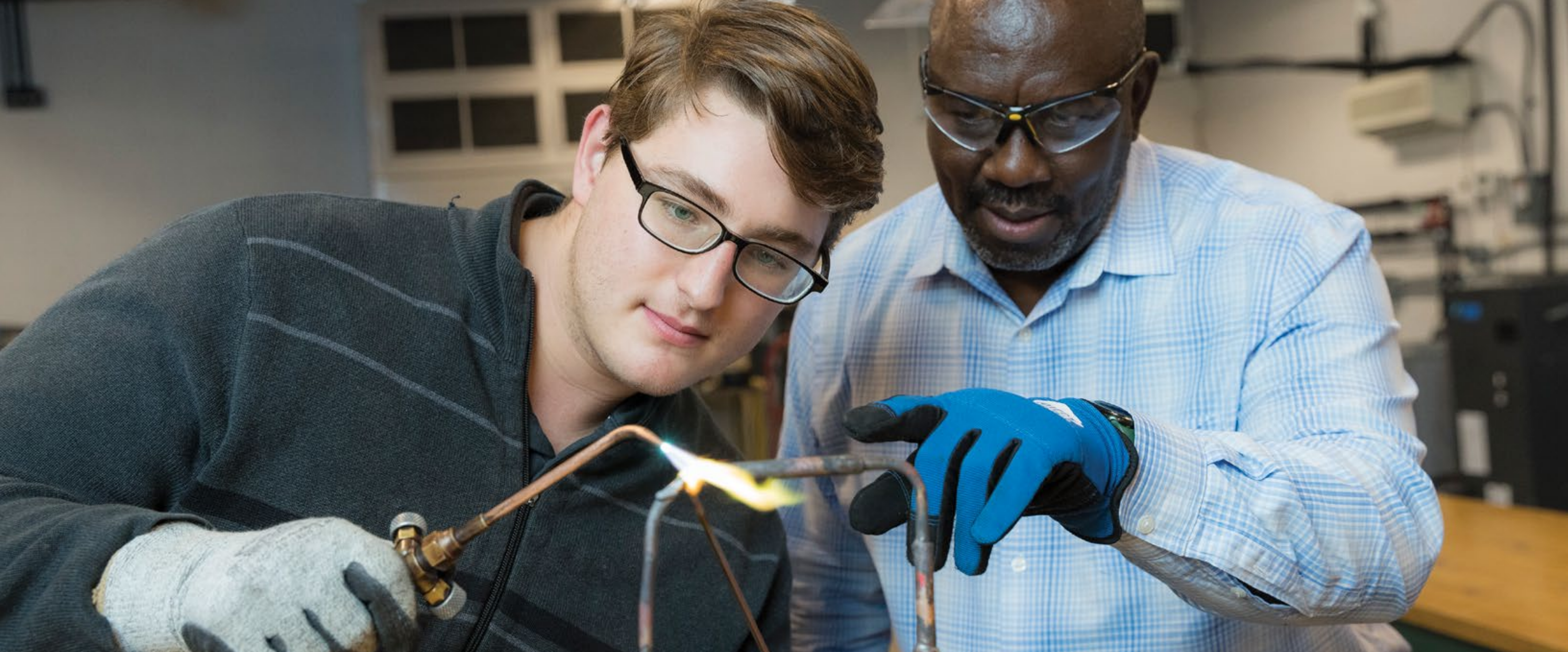
**75%**

of students  
attend part time.

**68%**

of NOVA transfer students  
enrolled at a Virginia four-  
year institution.





# NOVA Workforce: A direct path to relevant, in-demand employment

In a landscape of rapidly changing skills and careers, we are dedicated to understanding and responding to our residents’ and employers’ needs in innovative, cost-effective ways. This past year, we supported more than 4,200 students looking for real economic opportunity.

NOVA Workforce offered training, professional development and credential preparation in more than 180 courses across key sectors, including information technology, healthcare and dental, business and management and more. Most courses can be completed in weeks or months rather than years, ensuring our students can swiftly shorten the distance between learning and earning.



Hear from Workforce graduate Paris, who turned tragedy into triumph when she found her answer at NOVA.



# FastForward students see significant growth in wages

NOVA is an economic changemaker for the region, and our partnership with the Commonwealth's FastForward program provides significant economic opportunity to our students. By strategically developing short-term training in partnership with local employers, we ensure our students are prepared for immediate, high-demand careers right here in Northern Virginia.

In the 2024-25 academic year, we offered 25 high-quality training options in healthcare, information technology, human resources, and trades and transportation. These courses delivered real, transformational change: NOVA FastForward graduates saw their **average annual wages increase from \$20,980 before training to \$34,181 after completing training and earning a credential**. That's a 63% increase!

FastForward courses are available at reduced cost for eligible participants and free to those who qualify for Virginia's G3 workforce financial aid program, making FastForward an ideal place to start.



- ▶ 95% FastForward course completion rate
- ▶ 63% average annual wage increase after earning a credential
- ▶ 11% increase in FastForward enrollments in the 2024-25 academic year





New Employment, eXploration and Transition Program



When Northern Virginians faced sudden changes in their professional lives due to significant federal workforce reductions, NOVA responded with the urgency that matched the moment. Partnering with the Alexandria/Arlington Regional Workforce Council, Virginia Career Works Northern Region, and the Northern Virginia Chamber, we launched the New Employment, eXploration and Transition Program (NOVAnext) to help our neighbors prepare for their next steps and retain critical talent in our region.

Through NOVAnext, eligible participants receive one tuition-free industry certification class, virtual interviewing and resume-writing workshops, and career coaching from private-sector peers. NOVA's \$1 million investment has helped hundred of residents make a new start when they needed it most.

- ▶ Won Northern Virginia Chamber's Impact Award for Workforce
- ▶ Highlighted in the Virginia House of Delegates' report, Federal Budget Realignment and Implications for Virginia

*I am so thankful for the opportunity provided by NOVAnext. I had always wanted to get my Project Management Professional Certification but could never afford or had the time to do so. Moving toward getting that under my belt means so much both personally and professionally.*

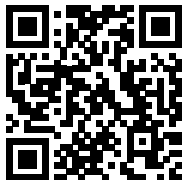
Ricardo F.



# Connecting learning to careers

Real-world, work-based learning experiences help develop the cutting-edge, career-ready talent our region needs today and tomorrow. This year, NOVA connected students to career-starting professional opportunities that help them go everywhere.

Information and Engineering Technology students worked at industry leaders like **Microsoft**, **Digital Realty**, **AFCOM**, and **Prince William County Public Schools**. NOVA's liberal arts majors, supported by the **Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation**, completed innovative project-based internships, seamlessly linking their humanities curriculum with the modern workplace.



Hear how NOVA political science major Virginia started here and found her future in an internship at the Smithsonian!



Because of NOVA's deep partnerships with employers, our students graduate career-ready from accelerated training programs that take less than a year to complete and lead directly to employment. Students who started in the **Amazon Web Services** Information Infrastructure Pre-Apprenticeship in cloud computing and **Google's** Skilled Trades and Readiness construction and skilled trades program were hired immediately after completing these programs.

NOVA's stackable credentials tie learning directly to earning. Engineering Technology Career Scholars earned certificates and received guaranteed interviews for either registered apprenticeships in the burgeoning semiconductor industry or internships with data center or semiconductor partners.

*NOVA has really set the standard for students coming into the industry on the internship level. The continued partnership with NOVA has been great. As the internship program has been growing, the quality of the students is increasing.*

John Limbacher, market technical manager  
Digital Realty





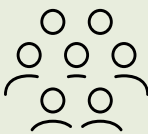
# NOVA leads in Dual Enrollment success

NOVA’s Dual Enrollment (DE) program gives a bold start to our region’s future talent by offering free college courses to area high school students. This access to affordable and high-quality higher education sets them on the pathway to the baccalaureate—and takes them everywhere.

This year, we launched an innovative collaboration with Prince William County Public Schools, welcoming students from Freedom High School to in-person college classes on our Woodbridge campus. And as the new collegiate partner for the Governor’s Health Sciences Academy at Alexandria City High School, we hosted a transformational summer bridge program to introduce rising ninth and 10th graders to high-demand careers in healthcare.



Hear how dual-enrollment graduate Jodie found her opportunity at NOVA!



**19,233**  
Students enrolled



**129,579**  
Credits earned



**\$25.3 million**  
Scholarship value



# Celebrating national excellence in tech and trades

We are incredibly proud of our students' success at the national SkillsUSA Championship. Competing against top talent in high-demand trades, NOVA's teams demonstrated exceptional mastery, bringing home silver medals in Computer Programming and Interactive Application/Game Development, and bronze in Commercial sUAS Drone and Engineering Technology Design. NOVA was one of only two Virginia colleges to earn national medals.

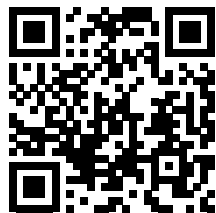


*Classroom learning can leave students with limited technical and project experience ... SkillsUSA closes that gap by letting me build a project tied to my program, develop skills employers are seeking, and network with others in my field.*  
Alait M.



# Affordable pathways and seamless transfer

Starting their journey to a bachelor's degree at NOVA is a smart choice that saves students money and time. The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia calculates students who earn an associate degree and transfer to a public four-year institution in Virginia save an average of \$21,961. To make these pathways seamless, NOVA maintains Guaranteed Admission Agreements with 50+ colleges and universities so students can bypass the application, easing the transfer process and preventing the loss of valuable credits. We are proud to have signed new agreements with Marymount and George Washington universities this past year. And our nationally recognized ADVANCE program with George Mason University was highlighted as a model in the Aspen Institute's *Transfer Playbook 2.0*.



Hear how NOVA alum Hannah started her Ph.D. journey in NOVA's ADVANCE program.



# The NOVA Foundation: Transforming lives beyond the classroom

The NOVA Foundation translates our community’s generosity into direct, high-impact support for students.

Since its launch in Fall 2023, the NOVA Student Success Fund has delivered \$365,000 in emergency grants and scholarships to support degree completion.

Our fourth annual Giving Day saw the NOVA community demonstrate incredible generosity, raising over \$78,000 in just 24 hours to meet emerging needs of students and the college.

We are also honored to acknowledge a transformative, \$1 million anonymous gift to fund a pilot program for healthcare and veterinary technology students, enhance specialized advisor training, and launch the NOVA Police Department’s Therapy Canine program.



*This scholarship took a huge weight off my shoulders, and I’m truly grateful. Because of your help, I can focus on my classes instead of stressing about money. Thank you for giving students like me a real chance. You really made a difference in my life.*

Gertrude B.



**Contributions and grants**  
**\$2.64 million**



**Endowment value**  
**\$38 million**



**Scholarships awarded**  
**\$625,000**

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Check us out at [www.nvcc.edu](http://www.nvcc.edu).



Thank you to the NOVA community and those who contributed to this report.