Welcome to the latest in a series of periodic publications from the Office of Grants Development. The goal of this publication is to provide basic information to faculty and staff about the grants process at Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) and to disseminate samples of the types of grant funding that are available. Future topics include the status of various pieces of legislation involving grants for community colleges and various grants applied for and received at NVCC.

If you have any suggestions about topics to include or would like answers to specific questions, please contact Deborah Rosen, the director of grants and special projects, at drosen@nvcc.edu or at 703-323-3440; or Sue Gossman, grants writer, at sgossman@nvcc.edu or at 703-323-3154.

NVCC AWARDED HOME LAND SECURITY GRANT

Northern Virginia Community college will receive a grant from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management to purchase equipment to prevent, respond to and recover from potential acts of terrorism. This is the second year of a grant awarded for the same purpose. Police Chief James Kalletta will administer this grant.

NVCC AWARDED PERKINS SUPPLEMENT TO PURCHASE BIOTECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT

Northern Virginia Community College has received a Supplemental Perkins grant to purchase equipment for its biotechnology program. This grant was a supplement this year to our regular Perkins allocation to serve eligible special populations vocational students. As a result we will be able to supplement our equipment inventory for various biotechnology-related courses.

NVCC AWARDED ACE GRANT

NVCC is the recipient of a grant through the American Council on Education (ACE). The grant to Northern Virginia Community College was awarded by the American Council on Education through a competition open to members of the Chief Academic Officer Forum on Internationalization, an ACE program funded by the Henry Luce Foundation.

The goals of the day and a half long working session proposed, with the assistance of an experienced facilitator are:

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• To identify global learning outcomes appropriate to student populations
• To determine assessment measures for these intended outcomes
• To identify particular degree programs for international emphasis
• To evaluate the effectiveness and value of the retreat (probably by means of an after-even forum) and
• To convey the results of their experience to colleagues at their campuses and within their disciplines

Dr. Paul McVeigh and Dr. John Dever were instrumental in the receipt of this grant. The project is aligned with the efforts of the Internationalization Task Force to realize the NOVA strategic goal “to create learning experiences that build greater global awareness across the college.” We can build on this award with future proposals to supplement our international initiative.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM VCCS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT SUBMISSIONS

For many years the Virginia Community College System has provided money for professional development grants. These grants, while small, have provided seed money for various projects and have been used to develop courses, to conduct professional research activities, and to upgrade skills.

The requirements for these grants have changed through the years as technology and distance education have evolved and as new staff came on board at the VCCS. In addition to the requirements stated on the official VCCS website, reader comments taken from proposals that were not funded provide additional assistance in crafting proposals. These comments will give you some insight into what the review committee and the VCCS staff are thinking when they review your proposals. In essence, they want us to 1) do our homework to see what is already out there in terms of learning modules or best practices; 2) create something original that will benefit our colleagues and students; 3) ask the College to fund conference attendance; 4) make sure that we are not inadvertently attempting to duplicate a course that already exists by checking vccs.edu/vccsonline/coursedatabase.html for online courses and vccs.edu/vccsasr/index.htm for the master course file.

Here is a sampling of recent comments:
“Courses that are already available online are not likely to be funded for design or development unless there is a distinctive or innovative component of the proposal.” “Financing conference attendance, per se, is not the intention of the professional development grant funds unless a compelling connection is made to what the far-reaching outcomes would be for significant numbers of students and faculty, and not just to the benefit of the attendee. Primarily that is professional development that is supported at the campus level rather than at the system level.”

Positive remarks for successful proposals relate to assessing student learning outcomes, inquiry-based learning, campus-wide professional development modules and innovative disciplinary approaches.

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