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 (NOVA) 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 NOVA. 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 Robert Henderson, college grants writer at 703-323-3493 or at rhenderson@nvcc.edu

NOVA Selected as AACU Leadership College

After an intensive application and review process, which included a site visit, the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AACU) has selected NOVA as one of twelve leadership colleges under an initiative entitled, Giving Community College Students a Roadmap: From Entrance to Engagement in Educational Achievement and Success. The project advisory board selected colleges committed to a set of learning outcomes that will strengthen the support available to our students as they pass through the college to career and further academic advancement. This selection of NOVA would not have been possible without the assistance of Dr. George Gabriel and Dr. Jennifer Roberts and the data they provided.

Office of Grants Development Busy in July

Your Office of Grants Development assisted in the preparation and submission of six proposals in July.

Transition Program for Students with Intellectual Disabilities into Higher Education (TPSID)

Since 1992, Dr. Jean Robinson has led a training program for STRIVE (Support and Training Resources Independence Vocational Education) on NOVA’s Annandale Campus. Over 1,500 students with learning disabilities have passed through STRIVE. This remarkable program’s profile was recently raised with support from NOVA College Board Member David Miller and Dr. Robert Templin, President.

Mr. Robert Henderson of the Grants Office developed and wrote this proposal to the Department of Education’s Office of Postsecondary Education with strong technical support from Ms. Susie Ko (AN) and Ms. Courtney Palmer-Sales (AL), Disabilities Counselors.

Dr. Robert Vaughn (AN) Workforce Development, Dr. Elizabeth Harper, Vice President, Academic and Student Services (CS), and Dr. Jean Robinson provided leadership for NOVA STRIVE: An Academic Pathway to Independence. An early July meeting of the grant team laid the foundation for a residential and day student educational initiative for students with intellectual disabilities. This academic pathway to independence, if funded with $2.5m, has the potential to generate 500 day and 35

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full time residential students within five years. Good luck to the team!

National Center for Academic Transformation (NCAT)

Joyce Samuels, LO, Bev Drucker, WO, and a team of math professors from throughout the College assembled a unique proposal to submit to NCAT, the National Center for Academic Transformation. Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) plans to redesign all three developmental mathematics courses (MTH 2, Arithmetic; MTH 3, Algebra I; and MTH 4, Algebra II) into one unified course, MTH 1, Developmental Mathematics. The redesign will streamline the path through developmental courses into college level math courses, by putting in place revamped content along with processes that have a potential to produce significantly higher success rates. Our calculations indicate that the redesign will result in approximately a 7% decrease in per-student costs for offering the course. Best of luck on this innovative proposal.

Office of Military Outreach and Support Services seeks funding from the U.S. Department of Education, Fund for Innovation in Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)

The NOVA Office of Military Outreach and Support Services (MOSS) has applied for $408,000 over three years from FIPSE to become a Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success (CEVSS). With FIPSE funds, NOVA would expand services to veterans by adding new staff to the MOSS team: a Transition Counselor to support student veterans from application to graduation by providing internal and external resources with attention to their individual needs, and an Outreach Coordinator for recruitment. Good luck to Mike Johnson, Veterans Coordinator. Debra Wiener of the Office of Grants coordinated development of this proposal.

NOVA’s College Readiness Initiative

(CollegeSavvy) under the leadership of Provost Dr. Barbara Saperstone (AN) and coordinated by Ms. Kerin Hilker-Balkissoon, in partnership with the Fairfax County School System and George Mason University, has also applied for $709,000 of funding from FIPSE for program expansion. This initiative addresses the lack of college graduation by many students, especially those considered underserved or “at-risk”; and the fact that the number of these at-risk students continues to grow at a much faster rate than the general student population in Northern Virginia. NOVA formed a regional task force of K-12 and university partners to create the Pathway to the Baccalaureate (Pathway) Program. Launched in 2005, Pathway addresses student barriers to the transition, retention and transfer of large numbers of at-risk students in our area through a one-stop, case management system delivered during the regular academic day. CollegeSavvy will reduce the number of students in developmental education. Debra Wiener also coordinated the development the Readiness proposal. Good luck to Barbara and the team!

VCCS Regional Career Pathways Initiative

Bill Browning, of the College’s Workforce Development unit, submitted a proposal to the VCCS’s Regional Career Pathways initiative. With this proposal, NOVA sought to accelerate and pilot-test innovative and high-impact components of a regional career pathway project focusing on retail and banking careers for the Northern Virginia region. The centerpiece of this plan was development of a co-enrollment retail management training program for low-income family breadwinners, in partnership with Goodwill of Greater Washington. This NOVA college credit co-enrollment model would have built on Goodwill’s success in offering a bank training program that placed 92% of program graduates into banking jobs. NOVA’s nationally-recognized co-enrollment partnership with the nonprofit Training Futures program would have had another venue funded by external sources. Despite the hard work of Bill Browning and others, this initiative was not funded. However, NOVA has a viable plan that can be presented in other competitions.

Driving Change Through Grants

Dr. Rima Gulshan, a 5-year veteran of the Faculty in Languages & Literature at NOVA’s Annandale Campus, recently received approval from VCCS for a new course, Non-Western Literature in Global Context, that is already accredited for transferability to four year institutions. Rima was able to mobilize funding for reassigned time to develop the curriculum approval document for the climb through NOVA’s approval process and has received the course number ENG 270. The lessons she
learned along the way are fundamentals in curriculum development for any faculty member.

Lesson No. 1: Do not let the process daunt you or inhibit your professional imagination; that is a disservice to our students and the reputation of the college. **Associate Vice President for Academic Services, Dr. Sheri Robertson** is NOVA’s guardian of academic integrity and she will help you think, work, and write through the proposal—until it is correct in every detail. The procedure can be lengthy and requires review at NOVA, with the VCCS, and at the four year institutions.

Debra Wiener Accepts a Position with Action on Smoking Health (ASH)

After too short a stay with the Office of Grants Development at NOVA, Debra Wiener has accepted a position pursuing a long standing passion for health care and international programming. ASH addresses all aspects of the problems of smoking and nonsmokers’ rights, and supports the international war on smoking by working with and supporting the Framework Convention Alliance [FCA], an umbrella organization made up of hundreds of individual organizations in more than 100 countries all working to enforce the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control [FCTC]; the world’s first international antismoking and nonsmokers’ rights treaty. Debra will be leading development efforts for the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Please join us in wishing Debra all the very best of luck in her new endeavors.

Rima’s new course will examine non-western popular culture, written texts, film, and mythology through the lens of comparative literature and the shifting horizons brought on by dynamic changes in global culture. In close coordination with professional colleagues, she wrote the grant proposal in the Spring of 2009, and, in May of 2009, received the award. In the summer and fall of 2009, Rima developed and designed the course. She continued to work on the transferability of the course with our four year counterparts.

The course, ENG 270, was approved by NOVA’s Curriculum Committee in January of 2010, was approved by NOVA’s Admin Council in March and by the VCCS Deans’ Course Review Committee in April. It was approved by UVA, GMU, and GWU for credit transfer immediately afterwards. In March of 2010, Rima wrote and submitted her final report to the Office of Professional Development of the VCCS.

Lesson No. 2: Give yourself sufficient time for the system and the processes to work as they are designed to work and do not become discouraged. The processes will actually improve the product and ensure the outcome you seek. Rima began discussions with four year institutions about their course curriculum and transferability of a new course from NOVA in the Fall of 2008.

Lesson No. 3: Rima urges other faculty members to consider what it takes to push a new course through the system and then “…just do it!” because new courses will better prepare NOVA’s students for the rigors and demands of a global marketplace.

For more information on any of the programs mentioned above please contact Deborah Rosen or Rob Henderson.

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