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 rhenderson@nvcc.edu at 703-323-3493.

Productive Times in the Grants Office

Late November and early December were very busy times in the Office of Grants Development. In addition to the regular duties of the office in monitoring a large portfolio of existing grants, director of grants, Deborah Rosen, and grants writer, Rob Henderson, were busy helping faculty and staff in the submission of four major proposals. On November 29, a major proposal was submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy for workforce training for the electrical power grid. Christopher Applegate worked with a team comprised of Dominion Power, Virginia Tech, the Virginia Community College System, Tidewater Community College, and numerous industry groups to prepare a complex workforce proposal.

On November 30, two major proposals were submitted to the Fairfax County Consolidated Funding Pool of behalf of the workforce area with Bill Browning’s American Dream Team/ESL for Employment as well as the MEC’s Restorative Dental Clinic proposal, prepared by Andy Cornell and Gail Jackson.

Lastly, on December 3, a team comprised of Dr. Paul McVeigh, Rob Henderson, and Dr. Syedur Rahman prepared a proposal for the Department of State under a program entitled, “Study of the United States for Scholars and Secondary Educators.”

We will keep you updated on the fate of these proposals in upcoming newsletters.

American Association of Community Colleges Project Reach grant

Frances Villagran-Glover reports that NOVA received a short term (9 month) Project Reach grant of $15,000 from the American Association of Community Colleges for funds remaining from colleges who had not spent their grant money. NOVA was able to purchase assistive technology equipment as well as offer professional development opportunities to faculty and administrators pertaining to disability services.

NOVA’s work with wounded veterans and student veterans is highlighted in the AACC publication Enriched and Inspired: Service Pathways to College Success. NOVA has hosted two Corporate Im-
ersion outreach programs in partnership with Hire Heroes, with plans for creating academic programs for this cohort. Our students (veterans with disabilities) were peer mentors for the wounded warriors. For more information, see page 27 of the report: http://www.aacc.nche.edu/Resources/aaccprograms/projectreach/Documents/enriched_inspired.pdf

NOVA’s community outreach efforts with Honor Flight Network (also highlighted in Enriched and Inspired), which brings WWII veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the WW II memorial has been a great student engagement and learning experience, according to Frances. Since the publication has been released, the school has assisted with nine Honor Flights. The NOVA presence has been seen on numerous television station highlights, including this report from WTTG, Fox TV in Washington: http://www.myfoxdc.com/dpp/news/dc/110709_world_war_II_vets_come_to_see_memory

10 Questions with Laura Franklin

On an occasional basis, interviews with successful grant applicants from NOVA’s talented team will be published to allow insight into what it takes to win awards at the national level. Bruce Rosenstein conducted this interview with Laura Franklin of the Alexandria Campus, Department of World Languages in November of 2009.

Brief description of most recent grant: NOVA—STARTALK is a federally-funded grant program that promotes the training of teachers of less-commonly taught languages in the use of technology-enhanced teaching methods. We are in the process of applying for our fourth year of funding through the National Security Language Initiative.

What is the most important thing you hope to learn as a result of your most recent grant? To that end, we use the grant funding to put on summer workshops for teachers of Chinese and Arabic and other less-commonly taught languages. I hope to learn the most effective ways to teach our teachers how to engage 21st Century language learners with instructional technology.

What gave you the idea to pursue the grant? I have always felt NOVA excelled in technology and that our facilities for deliver of technology training at the Arlington Center are really exceptional. We are also surrounded by national leaders in foreign language education in the national capital region who have been gracious enough to teach in the NOVASTARTALK program.

Can you offer any tips to other faculty about the grant writing process? My main tip is to answer all the questions in an RFP literally and exactly, always assuming that your readers may not be experts in your topic.

How long have you taught at NOVA, and what topics do you teach? I have taught French at NOVA since 1992. Can you tell us a little about your professional background, and how you began teaching? I began teaching languages in 1979 and have taught almost every level-elementary, high school and higher education. A real love of languages and culture was the main reason I became a teacher. I was also a very early adopter of instructional technology and have been the editor of the World languages collection of the Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT) since 2000. I am very active in my profession on a national level, a member of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, the Foreign Language Association of Virginia and the Greater Washington Association of Teachers of Foreign Languages.

What is the most impressive thing we should know about your students? They learn to speak and understand the target language in level one. I believe in immersion from day one. I try to impress upon my students that they should be able to use the language in the real world.

What activities outside of work and teaching do you enjoy? I love yoga and Pilates. I used to run marathons, but now I mostly walk. I did the Capital Challenge Walk MS this past October, a 50K walk over two days.

How has technology changed the nature of your work and study? I am almost always connected. I won a Blackberry at a conference, so I take my e-mail everywhere. I teach online and hybrid as well as face-to-face courses and all my classes are web-enhanced. If academic continuity should require online teaching, I am ready to go. I follow some great thinkers on Twitter and I have a ton of good bookmarks in Delicious.

What publications do you regularly read and what websites do you check to keep up in your field? I read Natural Health, the Washington Post sports page and whatever else is in front of me. I am in Twitter and other social media sites, in my friends’ blogs and my own, and in MERLOT. I keep up with what’s going on in the world in French, Brazilian and other newspapers. I listen to international music and watch videos online. Last most amazing movie: I Bring What I Love.

Submit items of interest for publication in the Grants Newsletter via e-mail to drosen@nvcc.edu