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 announcements of grant funding. 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 703-323-3440; Robert Henderson, college grants writer at rhenderson@nvcc.edu or 703-323-3493.

Obama-Singh Initiative

NOVA has submitted a proposal to the Obama-Singh Initiative in conjunction with a number of schools in India. India’s need for workforce development is urgent and its universities’ disposition toward U.S.-type community colleges has, with the help of the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative, advanced toward greater receptivity. Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) has developed partnerships with two institutions in Karnataka, India that will model successful workforce development strategy by aligning academic training with industry needs. Specific objectives of the partnership will establish a new degree program on a campus to develop a skilled workforce in the field of Health IT. Those instrumental in developing this proposal included: Dr. Paul McVeigh, Ms. Stacey Bustillos, Mr. Rob Henderson, Mr. David Falkenstein, and Mr. Tony Bansal. We are awaiting word on whether funding will be awarded.

Financial Empowerment as a Student Success Factor

Ms. Joan Zanders, Mr. Billy Ray Davis, Ms. Nichele Williams, and Ms. Deborah Rosen were instrumental in submitting a proposal to MDC entitled, “Financial Empowerment as a Student Success Factor.” NOVA’s Office of Financial Aid will request $65,000 to initiate a program designed to increase the financial literacy of students. Various studies have shown that along with improving financial literacy, student retention improves as a result of students learning about how to conserve and grow their financial resources. This grant is requested in support of a pilot program that will be initiated in the spring 2012 semester.

The Financial Literacy Student Development Module will provide students with increased financial knowledge, additional resources via the NavPoint Student Financial Lab program, and access to invaluable industry knowledge as presented by financial community volunteers. NOVA recognizes that developing partnerships within the financial literacy program helps support volunteerism; helps grow the college’s relationship with the local community, increases exponentially the resources available to students and increases the likelihood of student success in the financial arena. Best of luck in this endeavor!

Chancellor’s Innovation Fund

Ms. Joan Osborne, with the support of Dr. Jennifer Lerner, submitted an innovative proposal to
the Chancellor’s Innovation Fund. The major goal of the Training for Online Teaching and Learning (TOTAL) project is to provide a flexible, modularized training program for Virginia Community College System (VCCS) faculty who teach blended or online courses. Specifically, project personnel intend to identify competencies necessary to support student success in online learning. We will develop short, online learning modules to address the most critical competencies for faculty professional development. Project personnel will also devise a process for registering and crediting faculty with achieving related competencies. All products of this project will be available for use at any VCCS college. Participating colleges include Germanna Community College (GCC), J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College (JSRCC), and Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA). NOVA will serve as the lead institution.

NOVA Faculty Continue Their Award-Winning Ways with VCCS Grants

In the latest round of Professional Development Grants from VCCS (Virginia Community College System), eight out of nine applications submitted by our faculty were successful in getting either full or partial funding.

Ramezan Dowlati, Psychology – LO Educators’ Realistic and Unrealistic Expectations for a 21st Century Mind? to conduct research on understanding the capacities and limitations of the 21st century minds.


Jody Gundrum, Assistant Dean, PTA – MEC Implementation of a paired student physical therapist/student physical therapist assistant clinical education service learning 1 credit course in rural Costa Rica to develop a future joint PT/PTA student clinical experience in that country.

Rebecca Kamen, Art, AL, and Jonathan Kolm, Music – AL The Science, Art, and Music of Water: An Instructional Collaboration to develop a musical composition to accompany a PowerPoint lecture designed by Kamen for a natural history course on water, science, and society.

Joan Osborne, Faculty Developer – ELI Spring 2012 Virtual Conference – Enhancing the e-Learning Environment is an online professional development event that will share innovative methods, media, and technologies to promote student engagement, success, and retention.

Paula Smith, PTA – MEC Advanced Studies Certificate for Physical Therapy Assistants to provide the foundation for a post entry level education in a Certificate format for Physical Therapist Assistants at NOVA.

Bernard Schmidt, Information Technology – MA Virtualization and Cloud Computing Workshop will bring together industrial providers with the academic community to foster discussion, collaboration, and mutual exchange of knowledge and experience.

Robert Thornett, Geography – AL Exploring Geography in Changing Bolivia to gain first-hand experience of the people, landscapes, and political developments of that country that will inform at least three different Geography courses and future articles.

The next deadline for submitting an application to VCCS is February 15 for the summer semester. Please remember to contact the Grants Department if you are interested. We are here not only to help but to increase your odds of success!

South Africa Project Picks up Speed-Opportunities for Qualified Faculty Emerge

On return from a ten day mission to South Africa for the College, Milan Hayward, Special Assistant, and Rob Henderson, College Grant Writer, debriefed with Dr. Peter Maphumulo regarding the array of meetings held with officials from the Department of Higher Education and Training, the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), and officials of the Further Education and Training (FETs) Colleges – many of whom visited NOVA over the last year.

The visit reinforced a unique grant program wherein NOVA will provide funding from the American Council on Education/USAID project to

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the Wits School of Education, a world class research University, to strengthen their capacity to support developmental math, math literacy, and English instruction at the FETs.

In March 2012, NOVA will field a team of 12 of its best math, math literacy, English, and student support service professionals to lead Technical Assistance Workshops in South Africa. This group of faculty will form in January, and work intensively with Witwatersrand counterparts before travelling to South Africa to provide training at four provincial workshop training sites across the country. Two teams will deploy to different Provincial Workshop Training Sites in Limpopo Province, and one each to the Northern Cape Province and Mpu­mulanga Province.

Under the strong leadership of Dr. Peter Maphumulo, Provost Alexandria Campus and originally from South Africa, the project has provided a new look to NOVA’s Global outreach and built new partnerships with the American Council on Education in the U.S. and overseas with the South African government, the South African community college system, and their major research university. Rob Henderson from Grants Development noted, “This demonstration of NOVA’s capacity to deliver technical assistance in the developing world is a threshold to additional work in many other countries. It is demanding work but so far we have been up to the challenge.” Milan Hayward, on return said, “The FET program managers and college leaders want and need our help. They believe NOVA has the solutions to the challenges they face in their respective institutions. However, they don't want NOVA representatives to just tell them what works in Virginia. They need solutions that can be adapted to local needs. Close collaboration with Wits and FET partners should help NOVA prepare for successful workshops in March.”

Henderson concluded, “…the needs in South Africa are great. NOVA is now positioned to play a role in helping the FET Colleges in South Africa address the same challenges in workforce development, developmental education, and in educational leadership serving their communities that we face on a daily basis. By sending a team of our very best Community College professionals in March we will help these sister institutions reach a new level in terms of delivering student success.”

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For more information on any of the programs mentioned above, please contact Deborah Rosen, Rob Henderson, Susi Mattheisen, or Sara Stoller in the Office of Grants Development.