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. 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, drosen@nvcc.edu or 703-323-3440, or Robert Henderson, college grants writer, rhenderson@nvcc.edu or 703-323-3493.

Late 2009 and early 2010 in the Office of Grants Development have been consumed with submitting proposals on behalf of various programs and receiving recognition and funding for others. Here are some examples:

**Global Skills for College Completion – League for Innovation in the Community Colleges**

NOVA is one of sixteen community colleges to be selected for the “Global Skills for College Completion” project managed by LaGuardia Community College in New York for the League for Innovation in the Community Colleges. Faculty member, Ms. Nancy Hoagland, AL, was nominated by the College to participate in this project, which will involve working with faculty from other institutions to create innovations in teaching basic skills in English and mathematics. The College is honored to be selected for participation.

**STARTALK Program Funded Another Year!!**

Congratulations to Dr. Laura Franklin, AL, for another year of funding for the “NOVASTAR-TALK 2010: Teaching with Technology” program. The College has been notified that we will tentatively receive $91,630 to continue this successful project, providing professional development for faculty teaching less-commonly taught languages.

**Evacuation Transfer Point Supplies**

As a result of efforts by Mr. Will Flagler, director of emergency planning, the College will receive $150,000 from the Department of Homeland Security for supplies to be used by the State of Virginia in case of state-wide emergency.

**MEC Busy Submitting Proposals**

Provost, Mr. Brian Foley, dean, Mr. Andrew Cornell, faculty, Ms. Mattie Wilson, Ms. Jackie Gibbons, and grant writer, Ms. Gail Jackson, are to be commended for their hard work in partnering with community colleges, public and private organizations, employers, and health care institutions to submit a major proposal entitled “Health Information Technology in Health Care Competency Exams.” This Department of Labor program would make NOVA a major player in developing competency exams for health information technology personnel.

Submit items of interest for publication in the Grants Newsletter via e-mail to drosen@nvcc.edu
In addition, the College cooperated with a number of different partnership groups to submit proposals for the development and dissemination of health IT instructional materials. NOVA partnered with Drexel University, the University of Pittsburgh, Tidewater Community College, the SUNY System, and George Washington University. Only one of the teams will be selected, but NOVA is a partner in each of the proposals named above.

Finally, Ms. Geraldine Hofler, Ms. Sara Stoller, and Ms. E. Carol Jones, also from the MEC, are to be commended in their submission of a proposal to the League for Innovation in the Community Colleges, at the League’s invitation, for their “Significant Discussions” initiative.

State Department—Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Initiatives

Dr. Paul McVeigh, Dr. Syedur Rahman, Mr. Rob Henderson, and Ms. Deborah Rosen have been involved in the past few months in the submission of a series of proposals to the U.S. Department of State to host international students and faculty. If funded, these programs will strengthen the College’s Global Affairs Program and bring national and international recognition.

Henderson and Rosen Article Published

Mr. Rob Henderson and Ms. Deborah Rosen authored an article for the Spring issue of the “Dispatch,” the news magazine of the Council for Resource Development on how to involve faculty in the grants process entitled, “No Silver Bullets.”


Bruce Rosenstein, of the Office of Grants Development, was a guest of the NOVA Libraries Working Group meeting on January 5, to discuss grant and other funding possibilities for library-related projects. Bruce was until recently a longtime librarian at USA Today, and he also teaches at the Catholic University of America School of Library and Information Science.

The main topic was a current Alexandria Campus Library pilot project, in which David Anderson has started digitizing Alexandria Campus archives (e.g., photos, yearbooks, student newspapers, films, audio files) to make them available on the web. With new funding, the project could be expanded to include all college archives.

Questions for Milan Hayward

Occasionally the Grants Newsletter will publish a brief profile and conversation with individual faculty and staff of the College who have been active in the pursuit of grants. These are informal surveys to provide some insight into the rich intellectual endowment we enjoy at NOVA and also to share the excitement that comes with winning in public competition the resources to realize your ideas.

Name: Milan Hayward
Department: Academic and Student Services
Job Title: Special Assistant for Career & Technical Education

Brief description of most recent grant: “Drive to Employment” is the only single community college proposal funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service in 2009 and is expected to share best practices with a nationwide audience. The primary purpose of the program is for automotive students to prepare for employment by providing transportation solutions to low-income workers and job seekers. As one NOVA colleague said, the program puts the “community” back into community college.

What is the most important thing you hope to accomplish as a result of this grant? The challenge of “Drive to Employment” is to demonstrate how occupational service learning can simultaneously develop students and communities. I expect to learn a lot about how the college can work more effectively with community partners to solve community challenges.

Can you offer any tips to other faculty about the grant writing process? Find a grant to fund your idea, not the other way around. If your idea and the grantor’s goals aren’t in alignment, forget about it.

What gave you the idea to pursue the grant? My experience working with applied learning curricula and Strategic Vision 2015 goal that NOVA should be a regional resource for economic development were key factors. The Request for Proposal (RFP)
challenged some of my notions about experiential learning and provided a focus for my interest in experiential education.

**What have you taught at NOVA?** My teaching discipline is Automotive Technology, but I’m an adult educator first. Adult education is about the needs of the learner; where context is just as important as subject matter. I’ve worked in various leadership and special project capacities.

**What is the most impressive thing we should know about your students?** Most NOVA students want to learn, but they also want to know that what we ask them to learn matters. It’s the difference between filling the proverbial bucket one drop at a time versus lighting a fire.

**What is the most impressive thing we should know about your students?** We recently held a series of Drive to Employment clinics on Martin Luther King Day. Not only were the classrooms filled with indigent citizens from the community who needed car repairs to get to their jobs and to look for work, but our automotive students said, “...this brought it all together for me. We were actually working on cars with the problems that we studied in class. It was worth every dime for us and the folks we were helping to put back on the road.” I believe this transformative experiential education can go beyond the service days and actually inform our automotive instruction.

The new Drive to Employment class and the related NOVA Day of Service demonstrate how fires can be lit when course context matches content. Low income neighbors bring their car problems to our automotive students and it’s like a chemical reaction. The clients need assistance so they can drive to work, look for work, or just get to the grocery store. An elderly lady at the day of service said her car meant freedom to her. That was a humbling thing to hear, especially when you consider the poor condition of her car. At the same time, the students seek an experience that will prepare them for employment. These students have practiced on training vehicles in other classes and now they’re working on real cars belonging to real people, and attempting to solve real problems. After just three weeks of class, one student wrote that Drive to Employment honed his technical skills. The fact is that education can be transformational and NOVA students are hungry for that kind of experience.

**How has technology changed the nature of your work and study?** Web 2.0 technology is changing the way people learn and share information. For example, “Drive to Employment” students will be challenged to document learning and community service through blogs, YouTube videos, and other web-based technologies. Here is a link to the Drive To Employment MLK Service day video.

http://www.youtube.com/user/DriveToEmployment#p/a

**What is the most interesting book you’ve read in the past year, and why?** Paulo Freire’s *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* is certainly one of the most interesting books I read in 2009. Freire associates education with freedom and argues for pedagogy with the potential to humanize. It’s a philosophy that might extend in some ways from Freire’s Brazil to U.S. community colleges.

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