Welcome to the latest in a series of periodic publications from the Office of Grants Development. The goal of this newsletter is to provide information to faculty and staff about the grants process at the College and to disseminate announcements of grant awards. If you have any suggestions about topics to include or would like answers to specific questions, please contact Deborah Rosen, director of grants and special projects, at drosen@nvcc.edu.

Raising NOVA’s International Profile through the Office of Global Studies

The Brazil Initiative of the Office of Global Studies is building up momentum with travel to Brasilia over the Spring Break with a team of faculty led by Ms. Stacey Bustillos, Coordinator, Office of Global Studies and Programs. The visit will lay the groundwork for study abroad programs being developed by NOVA faculty in environmental science and Portuguese language, involving a Brazilian program partner at the Federal Institute in Goias. This State Department-funded travel is but one of several activities NOVA is leading in Brazil. Additionally, the Office of International Sponsored Programs, led by Dr. Syedur Rahman, is planning for students from Brazil to arrive later this year under the "Science Without Borders" program and, where needed, English enrichment courses.

Moreover, Ms. Bustillos is raising NOVA’s profile in Latin America, and has received an invitation from the U.S. Embassy in Bogota to represent NOVA at a series of meetings to discuss opportunities for more collaboration among U.S. and Latin American institutions. These are the sorts of opportunities and professional development experiences for NOVA students, faculty, and staff provided through participation in Office of Global Studies programs. The Office of Global Studies has expanded its reach, funding, and array of opportunities available for NOVA personnel under the strong leadership of Dr. Paul McVeigh, of which the Brazil Initiative is but one example. See http://www.nvcc.edu/academics/global-studies/index.html for more information on how to become involved.

Callan Bentley Works with Intercollegiate Team on NSF Proposal

Callan Bentley, Assistant Professor of Geology (AN), lent his time while on sabbatical recently to work with a group of faculty headed up by Old Dominion University (ODU) professor Declan De Paor to submit a proposal to the National Science Foundation. A decision on whether to fund the proposal should be made by this summer.

The proposal addresses the need to train students in skills using auto-scoring, and allows them to have authentic research experiences by data-mining large data sets. The geoscience students will use Google Earth as a base for a virtual Grand Tour of places geoscience students would appreciate. Tours would include student interaction with GigaPans, virtual specimens, virtual outcrops, and game-style interactions. Secondly, the project will leverage the Google Earth Engine to link big, mainly federally-funded, data sets to Google Earth for an authentic undergraduate research experience. Thirdly, the project will run faculty professional development workshops in every region of the Geological Society of America (GSA), as well as at the GSA Annual Meeting, American Geophysical Union’s Fall Meeting, and online, and will follow-up via social media and a new James Madison University-based website that will host crowd-sourced digital geology content.

Submit items of interest for publication in the Grants Newsletter via e-mail to drosen@nvcc.edu
In this project, an emphasis will be placed on equally serving 4-year universities, 2-year colleges, and distance education curricula. The project will stress the training of pre-service teachers so that the next generation of students will have been instructed by teachers who themselves had a rich, engaging geoscience education at undergraduate level. Professional development of pre-service teachers and early-service college instructors is key to transforming science education for undergraduates.

This is an exciting proposal, and we wish them well in their quest for funding.

Pending Proposals

There are many pending proposals submitted by NOVA to a number of agencies and funding sources. Many faculty members worked long hours with the Office of Grants Development in the preparation of these proposals. We hope to report soon on the results of these requests to the National Science Foundation, the National Security Agency, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Labor, and others. In the meantime, kudos to the many faculty and staff at NOVA who worked diligently with us to prepare these submissions. We will name some of these people in the next issues.

VCCS Professional Grants Deadline

Grants are available for full-time or adjunct faculty at Virginia community colleges for new or ongoing professional development. Activities may include building knowledge and skills within your academic discipline; improving classroom teaching, learning, and assessment techniques; or enhancing administrative and leadership skills to fulfill the institutional mission of the college. The next deadline for this grant program, offered three times per year, is February 15 for activities taking place during the 2013 Summer Semester. Pending review by the Office of Grants Development, faculty may apply individually or collaboratively for time and expenses. Summer funding is a flat $2500 stipend. See details on the VCCS Professional Development Grants page. All applications MUST be reviewed by the Office of Grants and Special Projects prior to submission. If you are interested in applying, please contact Deborah Rosen at drosen@nvcc.edu or 2-3154.

For more information on any of the programs mentioned above please contact Deborah Rosen at drosen@nvcc.edu.