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.

NOVA Acquires New Cybersecurity Status!
The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and National Security Agency (NSA) have just designated NOVA as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance 2 Year (CAE2Y). This institutional designation results from a rigorous application process of NOVA’s Cybersecurity program to DHS/NSA standards for academic institutions. NOVA is the first community college within the VCCS to obtain this designation. NOVA serves on the Leadership Team of the National CyberWatch Center, an NSF-funded National Center. The grant enables NOVA to assist with efforts to advocate for community college cybersecurity programs and students and develop curriculum for use by NCC members. Other efforts ongoing under the grant include efforts to map curriculum to the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE), and develop a national repository and taxonomy of cybersecurity programs mapped to the NIST NICE Framework. Under the grant, NOVA will lead several monthly cybersecurity education webinars for community college faculty across the nation and is helping to plan the first Community College Cybersecurity Summit August 7 and 8, 2014. Congratulations to Margaret Leary (AL) and Paula Worthington (WO) for working to make this happen.

Perkins Application is Approved
NOVA’s Office of Grants Development submitted a Postsecondary Perkins Local Plan in the amount of $293,973.41 for FY2014, which is an increase of about $19,000 over the previous year. Postsecondary Perkins is intended to ensure continuous improvement of career and technical education programs offered at both secondary and postsecondary levels through the development, assessment, and continuous improvement of secondary to postsecondary career pathways. The Virginia Community College System (VCCS) is responsible for administering Perkins programs at the post-secondary level at all 23 community colleges in VA. NOVA and the other VCCS colleges receive an allocation each year based on the number of Pell recipients who are career and technical education (CTE) students. NOVA’s program this year will focus on providing CTE students with comprehensive advising services. For further information, please contact Deborah Rosen, Director of Grants and Special Projects, at drosen@nvcc.edu.

VCCS Awards for June!
VCCS professional development grants for the fall semester were awarded to the following faculty and their projects: Mihaela Chamberlin (AN) – “(The First) Online Biochemistry Course for VCCS,” Barbara Crain (LO) – “Culturally Responsive Teaching,” Nancy Crippen and Jennifer Sovine (WO) - Use of Massage Therapy in the Treatment of Fibromyalgia,” Walerian Majewski (AN) – “Professional Development in Discipline Through Undergraduate Research with Students,” Lucinda Miller (AN) – “A Pilot Project in Professional Development through Course Development and Instruction in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) Education,” and Robert Thornett (AL) – “Exploring Geography of Innovation in Medellin, Colombia.” Congrats!

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

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NOVA in West Africa

NOVA Quilting Instructor Sharon Tindall returned on June 28 from a visit to Monrovia, Liberia where she met with Master Weavers, Heritage Skills Training Center personnel, students, and workers in textile manufacturing. Sharon was also completing research on her manuscript Quilt Codes and the Underground Railroad: Fact or Fiction (working title) which explores the cultural roots and artistic traditions behind African American use of symbolic codes derived from pre-colonial West Africa. Sharon was also exploring the centuries old weaving techniques of Liberia, the modern color pallets that have been influenced by synthetic dyes, and the fascinating repatriation history of quilting which was entirely influenced by freed slaves from the United States, starting in the 1820s.

Sharon’s visit was facilitated by the Heritage Skills Training Center in Congotown, a small river port city near Monrovia, and the Liberia Opportunities Industrialization Center (a vocational skills training center) in New Matadi Estate. She was hosted by Tryptetus E. Cooper Padmore of the Hinds Feet Ministry. Her travel was supported in part by Dr. Robert Templin, Jr., NOVA President, through an award from the Northern Virginia Community College Educational Foundation. She is also the recipient of a VCCS professional development grant in 2011.

NOVA Field Research into Tick Populations

Drs. Greg Perrier and Fred Obenchain of the Biology Program at the Manassas Campus recently completed a study on tick populations for the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Funds for the study were provided by the U.S. National Park Service. Ticks actively seeking a host were collected along two 100-meter transects in three different habitats (hayfield, pine-cedar forest, and oak-hickory forest) during 2012. Three tick species were collected – the deer or black-legged tick, *Ixodes scapularis*, the lone star tick *Amblyomma americanum*, and the American dog tick, *Dermacentor variabilis*. The first two species are known carriers of Lyme disease.

In recent years, the magnitude of the perceived threat of tick bite and subsequent infection of students to zoonotic diseases (including Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever) on the NOVA Manassas Campus prompted the Biology Department to abandon its use of a Campus Nature Trail during spring laboratory field trips. Similar concerns exist with respect to the seasonal exposure of Manassas National Battlefield Park visitors. The study sought reliable seasonal data and the quantification of tick populations in those areas frequented by park visitors. The collected ticks were frozen to allow for future analysis of the presence of the bacteria that cause Lyme disease. Results of the study are expected to be used to better manage tick populations at the battlefield. For further information, contact Dr. Greg Perrier (MA) at gperrier@nvcc.edu.

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