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.

Spring Arrives With Another Round of Successful VCCS Grants

The Office of Grants Development is pleased to announce the latest round of VCCS Professional Development grants, awarded to six out of eleven applicants this spring:

Amy Harding (AL), Student Engagement through Team-Based Learning: Incorporating Team Assignments into the Curriculum.

Rebecca Kamen (AL), Making the Invisible, Visible: A Visual Dialogue between Art and Science Lecture Tour.

Wendy Matthews and Jonathan Kolm (AL), Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War Through Music.

Lucinda Miller (AN), Facilitating a Community of Practice for Biology Instructors.

Memuna Sillah (AN), Create a Website for Storing Best Practice Teaching and Learning Materials Specifically Geared Towards Gen 1.5 Students.

Sharon Tindall (AN), The Underground Railroad Quilt Codes, Fact or Fiction (read more about this grant below).

The next VCCS deadline for applications is October 1, 2011 for activity in the spring of 2012. This is your chance to fulfill the dream of developing a new curriculum or project! Congratulations to our NOVA team for another strong VCCS showing!

This Month’s Spotlight – Master Quilter and VCCS Grantee Sharon Tindall

Sharon Tindall exemplifies the spirit behind a successful grant – that, and a good idea. As a classified employee, Sharon was sponsored by Elizabeth Tebow, Professor of Art History at the Annandale campus. The ball got rolling last fall when Sharon approached one of our grant writers, Rob Henderson, with a proposal to explore the connections between Civil War quilting and Underground Railroad Quilt codes. Some of you may have seen her fabulous talent on display in 2009. We heard from Sharon again this spring when she decided to submit a VCCS Professional Development application – and worked closely with the Grants Office to develop a request. We are delighted that Sharon received her first VCSS grant in June. These funds will be used toward costs while in Charleston,

Submit items of interest for publication in the Grants Newsletter via e-mail to drosen@nvcc.edu
South Carolina to collect oral histories from slave descendants still practicing traditional crafts. The grant will also support the creation of a quilt that embodies the codes from the Civil War and Underground Railroad period, by asking the question, “Fact or Fiction?” A quilt, similar to the one shown at the left with Sharon’s son, Abraham, and Rob Henderson, will be used as a visual learning tool at NOVA, local schools, and other in other educational venues.

Collaboration for the Sesquicentennial

Dean Jimmie McClellan and Dr. Jean Braden of the History Department (AL) are pulling together a conference entitled At the Crossroads of History: Bailey’s through the Centuries to complement celebrations of President Lincoln’s review of the Army of the Potomac on November 12, 1861, at Bailey’s Crossroads. The history conference will feature a gallery of photographs assembled by NOVA students and faculty. Commissioned papers will be presented at the conference. Dr. Wendy Matthews, Assistant Dean of Music, and Dr. Jonathan Kolm, Faculty Member in Music, were awarded a VCCS Professional Development grant to transcribe out-of-print or previously lost Civil War era sheet music for modern bands. They will lead NOVA’s Alexandria Campus Band at a concert November 11, 2011. Another VCCS award winner, Ms. Sharon Tindall (AN), will display quilts modeled on the Civil War era in the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center. A period costume Ball will also be held. NOVA’s central role in the Lincoln at the Crossroads commemoration includes re-enactors mustering on the Alexandria Campus before marching down Leesburg Pike to the site of the original review.

Hey, I Applied for a VCCS Professional Development Grant. Why Didn’t I Get Funded?

The reasons for rejection are as varied as the seekers of grants. First, not submitting through the proper channels risks technical elimination. All submissions must go through the Grants Office to check for grammatical errors (yes, this may dis-suade a reviewer from funding you), to ensure that all instructions are followed, and to confirm proper approvals have been received. Mentioning the name of the college, the campus, the applicant, or where we are located (even once!) will automatically disqualify you. Proposals are considered through a “blind” peer review process to prevent favoritism. VCCS will pay for stipends for the summer semester only. College faculty may submit requests for reassigned time for the spring and fall semesters. Adjunct faculty may apply to be reimbursed for direct project costs, but cannot ask for reassigned time. Funding will not be considered for items provided by the College.

Green Corner

In each issue, the Grants Department communicates upcoming opportunities for building a greener, more sustainable world through NOVA’s course curriculum, class projects, and research activities – and you! Please let us know if you are interested in applying for one of these grants. TKF Foundation is inviting planning grants applications for Urban Green Spaces. The Foundation has partnered in the creation of over 130 Open Spaces Sacred Places across the Mid-Atlantic region in the past 15 years. Examples are the Georgetown Waterfront Park (with the National Park Foundation) and community parks at the Annapolis Maritime Museum and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. “Open Spaces Sacred Places” are public, outdoor, urban green spaces designed with a variety of purposes in mind: healing, and remembrance; peace and reconciliation; rest, respite and stress reduction; reflection, mediation and response to the natural world around. Funding will be enacted in two sequential phases: Applicants may apply for a planning grant of up to $50,000 by September 1. Following the planning phase, a second RFP will be issued in June 2012 for fully developed projects. More information can be found at http://www.opensacred.org/grants. Please contact the Office of Grants Development if you are interested. Remember that all submissions must go through the Grants Office to ensure application authority is in place and to give you and NOVA the best shot at winning awards. We are here to help!