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.

NOVA Submits ACE/Walmart Grant on Behalf of Veterans

Thanks to Frances Villagran-Glover (AL), Michael Turner (WO), and Deborah Rosen (CS) for their tireless work on behalf of veterans via the submission of a proposal to ACE/Walmart under the Serving Those Who Serve program. The College will request $100,000 over the grant period to enhance existing services to veterans. This will include the expansion of an informal mentoring program that will provide support from enrollment to graduation; an expansion of our orientation program specifically targeted to student-veterans; the expansion of programs for student-veterans with disabilities; and the development of expanded services for the families of student-veterans. NOVA will use the metrics of retention, persistence, course completion, and graduation as benchmarks to gauge the success of this program. It is expected that these enhanced services will create a model that is sustainable and duplicable in other institutions imbedded in other areas with a strong military presence. Additional thanks to others who offered support including Harriet Zimmerman (MEC), Gail Jackson (MEC), Joan Zanders (CS), Sharon Robertson (CS), and Beth Harper (CS).

NOVA’s MEC Submits Proposal to Northern Virginia Health Foundation

The Medical Education Campus submitted a letter of intent to the Northern Virginia Health Foundation to continue serving low-income patients in the Restorative Dental Clinic. The Restorative Dental Clinic assists in providing restorative dental services to patients who need restorative dental care before the College’s dental hygiene students can provide care to them. The Clinic staff will continue to work with the region’s non-profit organizations and providers of dental care to identify and recruit patients. If selected to submit a proposal, the MEC will request funds to continue these services.

MA Campus to Receive Summer Camp Award through CVCC

Dr. Dee Martin (MA) has received word that the campus will receive a small grant through Central
Virginia Community College to operate a summer camp, in conjunction with the Woodbridge Campus. NOVA and Prince William County Schools are interested in providing the basic applications of Engineering and Robotics to rising 7th and 8th graders. They will use “Project-Lead-the-Way” curriculum to introduce and enhance this Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program with hands-on Lego League Modules (components). This cross-disciplinary approach will allow students to understand basic engineering concepts, mathematic principles, robotic programming methodology, as well as the design/development theory, and laboratory techniques used in the construction of robots and their operation. This summer camp will open a pathway for motivated students with STEM curricula in the Middle Schools, and leading to intermediate and advanced Engineering/Technology programs in High School. This would allow students to earn AAS/AS degrees at NOVA in Computer and Electronics Technology and Engineering. Congratulations, Dee!

Stimulus Frenzy Grips Academia

As the economic downturn recovery efforts by the federal government emerge, a swarm of ideas have flown across the six campuses and two centers of NOVA. Unfortunately, the urgency of the financial crisis and the pace of government funding do not always coincide.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act requires federal agencies to develop expedited plans for distribution of discretionary funds. A number of agencies, including the National Endowment for the Arts, simply put up a program that allows grantees from the last four years to renew program personnel expenditures. Most other agencies and departments are mobilizing stimulus funding efforts through the states, utilizing existing formulae for disbursement of monies.

Agencies with discretionary funding for grants are scrambling in March to publish RFPs in their comfort zone. See below for a number of National Institute of Health STEM proposals that might be of interest to community colleges. The message your Office of Grants takes from all of this is to not ignore the annual and semi-annual awards while this frenzy moves through the system. We stand ready to help anyone in the College who would like to pursue emerging or established opportunities.

The Office of Grants strongly encourages anyone with an interest in these NIH or other agency quick hitting opportunities to meet to test the level of intent and willingness to engage in a serious hunt—$500k/yr for 2 years. The deadline is April 27 and the applications are technically challenging:

12-AG-101 Efficacy of educational approaches toward promoting STEM competencies.
12-DK-102 Expanding Biomedical Research Opportunities at the Undergraduate Level.
12-ES-102 Professional development in issues in Environmental Health.
12-ES-103 Engagement of scientists in Environmental Health science education.
12-GM-101 Novel interventions to improve development of research scientists from underrepresented groups.

Acres for America Request for Proposal

Acres for America was established by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to provide urgently needed funding to conserve large, landscape-level areas important for fish, wildlife, and plant habitats through acquisition of interest in real property. Acres for America was launched with Walmart Stores, Inc. (www.walmart.com) in 2005, as the founding partner to offset the footprint of domestic facilities through permanent conservation of important wildlife habitats. Applicants are encouraged to contact the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation regional director to discuss project ideas prior to submitting pre-proposals. This RFP is offered semi-annually with application due dates of April 1, and September 1. $2.5 million is available for the program each year and matching funds are required.

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