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.

College Awarded Funding through Statewide Department of Labor Grant

NOVA was included as a member of a VCCS consortium put together last year to apply for a U.S. Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant. The state’s project is titled, “Virginia RETHINKS Health Sciences Education.” Tidewater Community College will lead a statewide consortium to implement seven strategies that will contribute to the realization of the Achieve 2015 Strategic Plan and the RETHINK reengineering plan, culminating in the overall increase in the number of students graduating, transferring, or completing a workforce credential. Using a new Health Sciences Career Studies Certificate at the statewide level to demonstrate this, colleges will implement four new enterprise-wide technology tools and provide enhanced retention services through a new model to hire, train, and certify Adult Career Coaches and Experimental Learning/Job Placement Coordinators. At NOVA, this project will operate out of the MEC.

College Receives Another Award from the U.S. Department of State

NOVA is the proud recipient of another $2,250,000 award from the U.S. Department of State to continue the Community College Initiative. The College, in conjunction with other members of the Community College Initiative, will host students from Brazil, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Pakistan, Panama, South Africa, and Turkey in such fields as allied health, applied engineering, business administration and management, information technology, and hospitality management. In addition, students will receive intensive English instruction as needed, and will learn about American culture and society. Students will be prepared to return to their home countries with a better appreciation of American culture, and with practical skills to help them participate productively in the economic life of their home countries. Congratulations to the College and to Dr. Syedur Rahman.

NOVA Invited to Apply to TG Grants Program

The TG Public Benefit Program in Round Rock, Texas, invited NOVA to submit an application asking for $210,000 over three years to support the Adult Career Pathways (ACP) program. Bill Browning, project director, worked with Susi Mattheisen, college grant writer, to prepare the application and submit the request. A decision will be made in June. The invitation was the result of a letter of inquiry that we submitted in January – a total of 373 requests were received by TG and only 155 were invited to continue. TG is a new prospect for NOVA. The TG grants program supports efforts to improve student persistence and completion in postsecondary education, particularly those from low- to moderate-income families and, secondly, Latino/Hispanic students.

Helping to Secure Funds for “Gabriel’s Rebellion” Documentary

Susi Mattheisen, college grant writer, is working with Dr. Jim McClellan, Lucy Gebre-Egziabher, and Lucy Gebre-Egziabher.
Meredith Aquila, and an inter-disciplinary team of faculty at the Alexandria campus to develop funding for a unique project – to research, script, and produce a documentary on Gabriel Prosser, a Virginia slave who led a failed revolt in 1800. Students in the liberal arts will have the opportunity to work alongside historians, film makers, and others to participate in this project and learn about this defining event in antebellum society. A professional development application was submitted to the Virginia Community College System this spring. A request is also being prepared to submit to the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities for start-up funds.

NOVA Teams Returns Triumphant from South Africa

On March 10, 2012, a fourteen person NOVA Technical Assistance Team completed a nine month effort to deliver support, training, and development help to the Further Education and Training Colleges (FET Colleges) of South Africa. This intensive program of international assistance was conducted in partnership with the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits). This effort, led by Alexandria Provost Dr. Peter Maphumulo, and strongly supported by the Vice President for Global Studies Dr. Paul McVeigh, was sponsored by USAID through a grant to the American Council on Education (ACE) to fund a Partnership for Skills Development in South Africa. NOVA’s work on the project began with a series of high level consultations in 2010, followed in September of 2011 with a weeklong Program Managers Workshop at the Alexandria Campus for senior managers from 12 counterpart institutions in South Africa that introduced how student success is generated at NOVA.

The September 2011 immersion in the NOVA Way led to the deployment in November of 2011 of a leadership team to South Africa to negotiate terms of an assistance award to Wits, a leading institution of higher education on the continent of Africa, to advance developmental mathematics and English courses for the FET Colleges. Milan Hayward, Special Assistant to the President for Adult and Experiential Education, and Rob Henderson, Assistant Director of the Office of Grants Development and Special Projects, worked closely with ACE personnel to establish the timing and identify the subject matter for delivery during the technical assistance program designed for the FET Colleges.

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

September 2011

The November Mission concluded the framework for the agreement between NOVA and Wits. This unique collaboration between an American Community College as fiscal agent for a grant to a research University led to the formation of teams of specialists in developmental Mathematics and English. When combined with NOVA’s world class Student Support Services personnel, the results were clear and compelling.

In January 2012, a team from the Education Policy Unit (EPU) of the Wits School of Education and a representative of the South African Government Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) visited NOVA to begin the drafting of Resource Training Manuals that focused on the three project areas and the critical linkages that should exist among them: Development Math, Developmental English, and Student Support Services (SSS). These Manuals would form the heart of the technical assistance materials and lessons to be delivered to the FET Colleges. We refined the manuals continuously from January through early March.

January 2012

In February a five person Advance Team, composed of Rob Henderson, Office of Grants, Alice Hedley (AL) SSS Counselor, Raymond Orkwis

Office of Grants Development

www.nvcc.edu/grants

Deborah Rosen
director of grants and
special projects
drosen@nvcc.edu
(703) 323-3440

Robert Henderson
assistant director and
special projects
rhenderson@nvcc.edu
(703) 323-3493

Susi Mattheisen
college grants writer
smattheisen@nvcc.edu
(703) 323-3541

Sara Stoller
manager, grants over-
sight
sstoller@nvcc.edu
(703) 323-3056
(AN) Professor of English, Joyce Samuels (LO) Professor of Mathematics, and Dean Frances Villagran-Glover (AL) IT Services, arrived in South Africa to work with the Wits EPU to prepare the FET Colleges for the arrival of the main body of NOVA technical assistance professionals in early March. This preparation took the form of a Materials Preparation Workshop held February 19-22 in the Centre for Research and Development in Mathematics, Science and Technology Education Research (RADMASTE) at the Wits School of Education. Participants included the full Wits team of English and Mathematics specialists from the EPU, representatives of USAID, ACE, and select Heads of Departments in Math and English, senior lecturers, and administrators from the 12 FET Colleges.

The Materials Preparation Workshop launched the Advance Team from NOVA on an extended “testing of Materials” that involved taking the draft Manuals to two of the most challenged FET Colleges in the system, Lethaba and Vhembe in Limpopo Province, to ensure success of the main event in March. The results of that fact testing exercise fully engaged the Advance Team with the Wits specialists for the remainder of the following week, finalizing the Resource Training Manuals, prior to the arrival of the full NOVA team.

On March 2, 2012, nine NOVA faculty members and counselors arrived at the Oliver Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, bringing the team to full strength. In English, Will Schutz (AN), Breanna Swetland (AN), and Jarrod Waetjen (AL), joined Ray Orkwis. In Mathematics, Martin Bredeck (AL), Tonia Vaughn (AL), and Camisha Parker (WO) joined Joyce Samuels. In Student Support Services, Tasha Slay (AL), Shannon Nieves (AN), and Richmond Hill (WO) joined Alice Hedley.

On March 4, with the Resource Manuals intact, the full NOVA/Wits team deployed to four Provincial Workshop Training Sites. These combined teams conducted full-scale training for over 120 FET College professionals in interactive subject area workshops. Moreover, these teams helped the FET personnel reassemble into college-specific concluding planning sessions to review the implantation strategies for the ideas, methodologies, and techniques gained during this intensive week of exchanges. Finally, the exhausted NOVA teams regrouped in Pretoria, and returned to the U.S. on March 10.

This was a successful mission, concluding an initiative that has been singled out in international conferences as an example of how to conduct international assistance activities that “change people’s minds about Community Colleges.” NOVA’s technical assistance mission has been publically praised by the leadership of Wits University, ACE, USAID, and the FET Colleges. This was also hard work. Teams of your NOVA colleagues travelled over 4,000 kilometers across South Africa. But, in doing so, participants also grew. Each person reported that this trip was among the most challenging education experiences of their professional lives. Each one also said, “If there is another chance to make a difference like we did in South Africa – sign me up!” That spirit and that willingness to grow and help others represents the very best of our College, NOVA.