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 Sue Gossman, grants writer, at sgossman@nvcc.edu or at 703-323-3154.

VETERANS UPWARD BOUND PROPOSAL SUBMITTED

The SkillSource Group, in partnership with Northern Virginia Community College and Fairfax County Department of Family Services, has submitted a proposal to the U.S. Department of Education for a Veterans Upward Bound grant.

The proposal focuses upon a pressing need affecting significant numbers of low-income veterans of the United States Armed Forces residing in Northern Virginia, who have minimal educational achievements, and whose families have not completed postsecondary education. These veterans suffer economically because they are minimally employable. Their plight is dramatically apparent in this region where employment in high-growth industries is plentiful. The most basic need is, therefore, to develop, enhance, and sustain significant improvements in their educational outcomes, gaining knowledge and skills suitable for eventual employment in multiple high-growth industries throughout Northern Virginia.

If the project receives funding, NOVA will provide educational and supportive services to eligible veterans. This will increase the already large number of veterans currently served by the College.

Thanks to Dr. Sam Hill, Bill Browning, Carol Mowbray, Guy Gibbs, and Carol Sweetser, who provided significant amounts of information for this proposal.

Please contact Deborah Rosen, director of grants and special projects, at 703-323-3440 or email at drosen@nvcc.edu for more information.

Submit items of interest for publication in the Grants Newsletter via e-mail to drosen@nvcc.edu
**THE WOW! FACTOR IN GRANT DEVELOPMENT**

This was the title of a presentation at the annual Council for Resource Development Conference in Washington, D.C. early this month. The presenters tried to answer the question—"What does it take for a reviewer of a grant proposal to say “wow!”?

The following list constitutes what the presenters considered factors that would make a proposal stand out in a crowd:

- **Inspiration**: Is this a project that will generate follow-up projects?
- **Innovation**: Is the project transformative for the institution, the discipline, higher education, or the community?
- **Collaboration**: Does the project build strong partnerships?
- **Contribution**: Is there evidence of resource leveraging?
- **Fashion**: Does the project represent what is “hot” among grantor interests?
- **Competition**: Does the project illustrate the advantages of a community college?
- **Integration**: Does the project integrate two or more ideas into a seamless activity?
- **Continuation**: Does the proposal have a clearly demonstrated plan to continue the project after the grant funding ends?
- **Presentation**: Does the proposal make effective use of data, tables, graphs, boldface type, bullets, or diagrams?
- **Perfection**: Is your project an absolute fit for what the grantor wants to support and do the pieces fit together?

Many thanks to Linda Mesics, Lehigh Carbon Community College, and Susan Rapp, Delaware County Community College for these ideas.

**TWO NOVA PROJECTS ARE SUBMITTED FOR BELLWETHER AWARD**

The Bellwether Award is a prestigious award given to community colleges for innovative and cutting edge program activities that can serve as models for successfully leading community colleges into the future. NOVA has submitted two applications for the Bellwether Award, which will be announced in January 2007.

The first application is from the MEC for the NoVaHealthFORCE initiative. The second application is from AN for the Pathway to the Baccalaureate program. Each application had to demonstrate how our innovative activities are addressing one or more of these critical issues: improving the quality of teaching and learning; creating a culture of high expectations; increasing student engagement and retention; developing new pedagogies, curricula, and technologies to improve learning; increasing the skills of students who earn their certificate or degree; measuring and reporting meaningful student learning outcomes; creating a culture of accountability and transparency; increasing access and aid to low-income students; addressing non-academic barriers; measuring and managing costs and institutional productivity.

Thanks to Gerry Hofler and Kerin Hilker-Balkissoon for their efforts in putting together the Bellwether applications. For more information contact Deborah Rosen, director of grants and special projects, at drosen@nvcc.edu.

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