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.

More Than $1.1 Million is Requested from NSF to Support NOVA’s Technology Initiatives

Two exciting proposals were submitted in November to the National Science Foundation’s Advanced Technology Education (ATE) program, which focuses on the education of technicians for high-tech fields. One request would expand NOVA’s Biotechnology Program, and the other request would create a brand new Physical Science Technology Program in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Society (USGS). Both initiatives would take place over three years.

The Biotechnology Program builds on a prior NSF ATE grant, awarded in 2011, that led to establishing new courses, an application process, and a biotech module at two campuses. This time around, Dr. Ia Gomez (who heads the Biotech program) and Dr. Alias Smith, both at the Manassas campus, plan to expand these efforts by increasing the diversity of the local biotechnology workforce, expanding the transferability of courses and increasing job placement, and through curriculum development.

The second proposal was initiated by Professor of Geology, Shelley Jaye, at the Annandale campus, with the assistance of the Grant Office’s Susi Mattheisen. Jaye proposes to develop a curriculum and courses in Physical Science Technology, and roll the program out by year three. Parallel to this activity will be the development of an employment pipeline by working with USGS and other federal agencies and with regional geotechnical companies to provide internships and entry-level positions. NOVA was approached by the USGS to train students in the physical science field due to a projected shortfall of skilled workers. Students enrolled in the program shall also be trained on sophisticated equipment at the USGS headquarters in Reston, VA.

Good luck on both of these great initiatives!

NOVA to Receive Funding Through Virginia Commonwealth University

Dr. Laura Franklin, AL, worked diligently with Virginia Commonwealth University on a Title IV proposal to the U.S. Department of Education for a French West Africa Elementary Education Project. Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) will increase, through the undergraduate major in Liberal Studies for Early and Elementary Education (LSEE), the number of students preparing endorsements in French while pursuing licensure in history and social science.

All LSEE students will expand cultural knowledge of French West Africa by taking courses revised or developed for this project. Five students chosen from a Bambara language and culture class will participate in 3-week internships in a NGO and in a homestay with a Malian family; they will share their experiences with other students now and with students in their classrooms in the future. LSEE students will use the MERLOT African Network (MAN) and discipline-specific websites. All

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LSEE students will be advised on courses with African and French West African content appropriate for history, social studies, or French licensure, including those developed by project faculty. They, along with in-service teachers, will learn how to use online materials in the classrooms. Community-funded co-curricular activities will bring performers and speakers to both the NOVA and VCU campuses, and will expand existing ties with Virginia Friends of Mali. Congratulations, Laura!

NOVA Teams Up with Harford Community College on a NSF Proposal

Chris Applegate, Director of the Arlington Center of NOVA, is Co-Project Investigator on a National Science Foundation ATE grant proposal with Harford Community College. If funded, this project would enable Harford and NOVA to strengthen curricular offerings in energy-related courses across the VCCS and nationally. NOVA will organize and facilitate the mapping of instructional content across subject area modules, provide venues for discussions of the equivalency of credit between institutions and programs, and pilot versions of these new courses in high schools and community colleges for undergraduate and occupational training programs. Good luck to Chris on this important undertaking!

The VCCS Chancellor’s Innovation Fund (CIF) Attracts Multiple Submissions

Seven faculty members at NOVA worked with the Grants Office to submit applications to VCCS’s Chancellor’s Innovation Fund, an annual competition through the VCCS. Faculty included Wayne Barbour, Abe Eftekhari, Susannah Givens, Wal erian Majewski, Joan Osborne, William Preston Davis, and Arthur Schuhart. As with VCCS’s Paul Lee Professional Development and Workshop Mini Grants, submissions are made through the Grants Office to ensure that proper procedures are followed. Awards will be announced by November 12. Good luck, everyone!

Latest Round of VCCS Applications by NOVA Faculty

The October 15 deadline for VCCS Paul Lee Professional Development and Workshop Mini Grants drew eight applications from NOVA faculty. Congratulations to everyone who worked hard to submit projects – Rebecca Kamen, Jonathan Kolm, Michael Mengason, Cindy Miller (two applications), Joan Osborne, Jay Steere, and Robert Thornett. Awards will be announced in mid-December.

VCCS Support Advances NOVA’s Reputation for Leadership in STEM Education

Professor of Art, Rebecca Kamen, (AL) welcomed more than one hundred participants on October 19 to the first Invigorating STEM Education in the Commonwealth of Virginia Symposium, held at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center on the Alexandria Campus. The keynote address by Drs. Michele and Robert Root-Bernstein framed new approaches to teaching and learning creativity and the importance of wonder to both art and science.

President Templin opened the event by highlighting how new approaches to STEM education are driving student success during and after college and the increasing importance of STEM fields to employment in Northern Virginia. Professor of Music Jonathan Kolm (AL) opened the morning session with a well-received performance of an original composition for piano and cello, The Art of Water. Professor Kamen spoke to the group about how her art was inspired by historical scientific manuscripts and a continuing dialogue with scientists from all fields.

Executive Vice President Mel Schiavelli said of the Symposium “…this is the sort of event that can drive interest in STEM education and place NOVA at the forefront of change in the paradigm of science education.” Kerin Hilker-Balkissoon, Director of NOVA’s Pathway to the Baccalaureate, spoke of the work with local jurisdictions to drive STEM field enrollment while Dr. Jim Egenrieder of the Washington Academy of Sciences and the Arlington Public Schools provided a classroom teacher perspective on STEM education in a workshop moderated by Dean Bruce Bowman (AL).

This workshop was funded by the VCCS, the NVCC Educational Foundation, and the College.

For more information on any of the programs mentioned above please contact Deborah Rosen at drosen@nvcc.edu.

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