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.

NOVA receives $12 million grant from Department of Labor

On Sept. 19, U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis announced $500 million in grants to community colleges and universities around the country, including $12 million to a consortium led by Northern Virginia Community College for an initiative called “Credentials to Careers.”

The grants are part of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Community College and Career Training initiative which promotes skills development and employment opportunities in fields such as advanced manufacturing, transportation and health care, as well as science, technology, engineering and math careers through partnerships between training providers and local employers. The U.S. Department of Labor is implementing and administering the program in coordination with the U.S. Department of Education.

“NOVA is partnering with six community colleges across the nation, as well as a number of national nonprofits, in an initiative to help foreign trade-impacted and other adult workers find meaningful employment in STEM careers,” said NOVA President Robert G. Templin Jr. “We are thankful for the funding from the U.S. Department of Labor that will make this important effort possible.”

The consortium will develop the capacity of participating community colleges to deliver STEM education and career training programs to TAA-eligible workers in each of seven regions which currently rank among the top high-tech employment centers. The initiative will also enhance, expand and create replicable best-in-class practices and strategies designed to prepare TAA-eligible workers and others for high-wage, high-skill jobs and credentials in STEM industries. In addition, the program will serve as the catalyst for innovation and economic growth in the regions and beyond.

Three of the consortium members are located in STEM growth regions: Northern Virginia (NOVA), Austin (Austin Community College) and Seattle (Shoreline Community College). The additional consortium members are located in regions battered by trade-displaced layoffs that also have regional industry needs for a skilled and educated STEM workforce: Los Angeles (Los Angeles Trade Technical College), Southwest Virginia (Virginia Western Community College), and the Michigan communities of Muskegon and Flint (Muskegon Community College and Mott Community College). The consortium will also be working with important national strategic partners.

Credentials to Careers will show how community colleges working with nonprofit workforce development partners and local STEM employers can quickly scale-up high-performing education and training programs to prepare TAA-impacted workers and other adult workers for fast-growing STEM occupational clusters.

For further information please 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
NOVA’s Workforce Development is Awarded Three Grants from VCCS

Congratulations to the Workforce Development team at NOVA which recently was awarded three “Institutes of Excellence” grants totaling $11,333. Grants under this program, issued by the VCCS Office of Workforce Development Services, support the Chancellor’s July 2012 to June 2013 Goals for workforce development. The three awards received by NOVA are for 1) a bridge to early childhood certificate program for ESL, 2) an administrative professional certification training program, and 3) a certified recovery audit program – RAC Audit Certification.

What the Office of Grants Can Do for You

The Office of Grants Development is a full service division for the College with professional expertise in grants development and program management. Recently, one program found itself in difficulty meeting a renewal deadline. The Office of Grants was able to fix the renewal application, work with the funding agency program officer on re-submission and revise the budget and accompanying narrative. And, the bottom line is that NOVA has been awarded another year of funding!

This last minute “fix” could have been avoided by closer coordination on the technical requirements of reporting and renewal. But the good news is that as a NOVA professional you have access to technical expertise in the Office of Grants that can help sort through the myriad details that encumber any funds some other organization is giving to NOVA to advance our strategic plans and our work on a daily basis.

And What About the Grant Closeout Process?

As defined by Grants.gov, “closeout is the process by which the awarding agency determines that all applicable administrative actions and all required work of the award have been completed by the recipient and the awarding agency.” In other words, has the contracted work, as outlined in the original contract and any amendments, been completed? Have all required reports been submitted? Has all the award money been spent? The closeout process is usually initiated by the grantor about 60 days prior to the grant’s termination date, but in reality the process begins on Day 1 of the award notification. The closeout activities are just the closing act.

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