Spotlight on Health e-Workforce, a Consortium Grant at the MEC

In 2012, NOVA was the recipient of US Department of Labor funds in the amount of $1 million over four years as part of a consortium led by Bellevue College in Washington State. The nine-college Health e-Workforce (HeW) Consortium serves to leverage recent federal investments in community college Health IT, amplifying and extending these funds, and provide a technology-intensive infrastructure for community college Health IT program development across the nation. In addition to funding the development of various certificate programs and apprenticeships, this grant will train over 2,000 veterans, Trade Adjustment Assistance -eligible individuals, and others in high-demand, high-wage Health IT and Allied Health professions.

At NOVA, the focus is on infusing Electronic Health Records training into established disciplines benefiting the employability and advancement of medical students in the fields of Nursing, Medical Assistance, Health Information Technology/Career Studies Certificate, and Respiratory Therapy. Changes in NOVA personnel in the first two years had led to a slow start to the project but now, under the leadership of the MEC’s new Provost, Dr. Anne Loochtan, the numbers of participants have jumped. Dr. Loochtan has taken a strong role in guiding the work of the new project team, led by Rob Henderson, Assistant Director of Grants (and serving as Project Director), with Chloe Nixon, Program Associate, and John Bird, interim Program Manager. Nursing and Medical Assistance have seen considerable growth in the numbers of students enrolling in this DOL-funded program – from 5 to over 290 students in Nursing alone. Respiratory Therapy is a new discipline for this project at NOVA, and efforts are currently focused on completing Curriculum Infusion materials before the grant winds down. The project team is confident this additional training for RT students will begin shortly.

Faculty and administrators instrumental in this process have been Mr. Andrew Cornell (Dean of Allied Health), Dr. Mandy Milot (Dean of Nursing), Dr. Mary Moseley (Associate Dean of Nursing), Ms. Katherine Jennings, Instructor (Loudoun campus-Medical Workforce Development), and Dr. Donna Freeman, Professor (Respiratory Therapy). At the end of September, the project team (Henderson, Bird, and Nixon) will be joined by the new Student Navigator, Ms. Erika Coddington, for an annual visit to Bellevue College for Program Management Training and Student Navigator consultations with the other members of the consortium. The HeW program at NOVA is building a capacity for program management of grants that will write a new chapter for the MEC, and strengthen NOVA’s national reputation for excellence in service to our community and students.

September “Lunch and Learn” Held at MEC

The 4th Lunch and Learn in the series was held at the Medical Education Center (MEC) on September 25. This monthly session is intended to bring together people at NOVA working on grant-related activities and to feature speakers who operate and manage grant-funded programs. Cynthia Knight and Chloe Nixon (see above) provided an overview of two current Department of Labor grants, the Tidewater Community College-led Health Information Technology consortium and the Bellevue College-led Health e-Workforce consortium, respectively. NOVA is a consortium member of both. In addition to the Grants staff, representatives from Workforce Development and Health Information Management attended and asked questions of Cynthia and Chloe about grant activities. The next two Lunch and Learn sessions will be taking place on the Annandale and Manassas campuses.
The Virginia Community College System (VCCS) offers professional development grants for faculty and adjuncts three times a year. The next deadline for applying is November 1. The VCCS Paul Lee Professional Grants Program promotes faculty development, i.e., builds knowledge and skills within the academic discipline or professional specialty; improves classroom teaching, learning, and assessment techniques; provides tools for effective personal planning to improve the quality of work and life; and enhances administrative and leadership skills to fulfill the institutional mission of the college. Grants range from $1,500 to $5,000. VCCS also accepts applications for Workshop Mini-Grants for a maximum $1,500. The Grants Office will work with you to develop your project and provide technical assistance. Information on both opportunities can be found at http://www.vccs.edu/careers/office-of-professional-development/. Please note that all applications from NOVA faculty must be reviewed by the Grants Office staff before submission.