



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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\$50K METLIFE GRANT TO HELP HIGH SCHOOL GRADS CLIMB HEALTH CAREER LADDER AT NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Northern Virginia Community College is the recipient of a \$50,000 grant, awarded by the MetLife Foundation, for the development, implementation and tracking of a pilot health care career bridge program designed for students needing supplementary academic preparation before enrolling in nursing or allied health classes. Under the auspices of the College's Medical Education Campus in Springfield, the program will prepare high school graduates, through five weeks of an intense, customized course of study, to excel in the curriculum.

Expected to launch next summer with an enrollment of more than two dozen students, the bridge program represents just one of several actions undertaken by the College recently to help alleviate the region's critical health care manpower shortage. The need for more nurses and allied health professionals in Northern Virginia was documented last month by a PricewaterhouseCoopers study conducted on behalf of NoVaHealthFORCE (www.novahealthforce.com), a coalition of business, academic and community leaders chaired by NVCC President Robert G. Templin, Jr.

Currently one job out of eight is unfilled and, unless the problem is addressed, that shortage is projected to mushroom to more than 16,000 unfilled health care jobs in the region by 2020.

Medical Education Campus

6699 Springfield Center Drive Springfield, Virginia 22150-1913 Phone: 703-822-6699 www.nvcc.edu/medical

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“Future needs may not be served due to the simple fact that there are too few people to provide health services,” Templin stressed when announcing the PricewaterhouseCooper findings.

NVCC’s award is part of a \$500,000 initiative by the MetLife Foundation’s Community College Connection Program, established in 1976 to carry on the company’s longstanding tradition of community involvement and contributions. Working in tandem with the Foundation’s Community College Excellence Awards and Initiative on Student Success, the program supports educational, health-related, civic and cultural initiatives throughout the United States. NVCC was among 11 community colleges selected for grants ranging from \$30,000 to \$50,000 for proposals designed to (a) increase interaction between colleges, people and institutions in the community; (b) expose the resources of the community college to a broader segment of society; and (c) reach out to diverse students. For more information, visit the MetLife Foundation online at www.metlife.org. Information about the Medical Education Campus is available at www.nvcc.edu/medical or by calling 703-822-6500. To learn more about Northern Virginia Community College and its programs and services, visit www.nvcc.edu or call 703-323-3000.

Northern Virginia Community College is the largest institution of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the second largest community college in the nation. NVCC enrolls more than 64,000 students at its six campuses in Alexandria, Annandale, Loudoun, Manassas, Springfield and Woodbridge, and through its Extended Learning Institute. Information about the College and its programs and services can be found at www.nvcc.edu or by calling 703-323-3000.

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