Achieving the Dream Through Learning Communities

Creating Learning Communities is one of the strategies identified in NOVA’s Achieving the Dream Implementation Plan for increasing student success. To see the plan, visit http://www.nvcc.edu/depts/AtD.

Learning Communities combine the content of two or more courses. A group of students with common interests are enrolled in the linked classes, and faculty work together on shared assignments and learning opportunities. The goal is to build community relationships, foster connections among students and their professors, and among disciplines. Learning Communities provide an opportunity for students to build a supportive academic network and to make connections with NOVA.

If you would like to form a Learning Community for fall 2009, a description of the process, along with resources about Learning Communities, is provided at http://www.nvcc.edu/home/jserbousek/learningcommunities.html.

Do not delay. The deadline for submitting the fall 2009 Schedule of Classes is rapidly approaching! Teaching a Learning Community is a truly enriching experience for faculty and students alike.
Medical Education Campus Granted 10 Year Reaccreditation in Physical Therapist Assistant Program

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program at the Medical Education Campus was granted reaccreditation from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) this past year. The Commission reaffirmed the status based on the program’s compliance with the evaluative criteria and was granted accreditation until 2018.

“The highest a program [at an institute] can get is 10 years, which we got,” said Patricia Ottavio, assistant dean of Physical Therapy, “We are very happy with the results.”

The accreditation process included a 100-page report, an on-site inspection and meetings with faculty, alumni, students, administration and clinicians conducted by CAPTE members.

Amongst the programs strengths during the inspection were their qualified faculty, state-of-the-art equipment, which includes a therapeutic pool, hydrotherapy room and new student laboratories. In addition, CAPTE members were impressed with the diversity of the students in the program, the high licensure examination pass rate and the high employment rates after graduation.

The PTA program is one of seven associate degree programs and six certificate programs offered in the Allied Health Division. The purpose of the PTA program is to prepare students to become skilled technical health care providers who work to provide selected components of physical therapy treatments under the supervision of a physical therapist. The curriculum is offered as an integrated, two-year course of study in which students that complete the program requirements graduate with an Associate of Applied Science degree.

Congratulations to the PTA program!
NOVA Announces New Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations

NOVA recently announced the appointment of Dana Kauffman as the new director of Government Affairs & Community Relations, effective immediately. In his new role, Kauffman will be focusing on expanding NOVA’s working relationship with members of the general assembly and the congressional delegation.

Prior to this role, Kauffman served the College as special assistant to the president for Community Outreach where he strengthened NOVA’s working relationship with local governments, reviewed options for future campuses and existing campuses, pursued workforce development opportunities and expanded transit options for campuses and students.

Before joining NOVA, Kauffman served as a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Directors. During his tenure on the county board, he worked to attract the Medical Education Campus to Springfield and helped guide the development of Kingstowne and the redevelopment of the Route 1 corridor. As chairman of the Metro Board, he established the Authority’s first-ever Rider’s Advisory Committee and initiated several “sunshine” initiatives to open the workings of the Authority to the public.

Kauffman earned his bachelor’s of science degree and master’s of public administration from George Mason University. Kauffman has received recognition and numerous awards including being a torch bearer for the 2002 Olympics, outstanding service honors from the American Legion, the Virginia Transit Association and various academic and community service awards. In his free time, Kauffman enjoys woodwork with his son and has recently led a successful community fundraising effort to build a treehouse for children with disabilities.
NOVA Welcomes the New College-Wide Student Activities Coordinator

Brian Anweiler comes to NOVA from Tallahassee Community College (TCC) in Tallahassee, Florida. Anweiler held several positions at TCC throughout his 17-year tenure at the College. He first worked with the men’s basketball team as a student assistant and subsequently worked his way into several leadership positions. Most recently, Anweiler served as director of Athletics, overseeing TCC’s four sports teams. His tenure as athletic director brought many exciting opportunities. In 2006, the TCC’s men’s basketball team played in the National Junior College Athletic Association national championship game. In 2008, the TCC Lady Eagles softball team was invited to the national championship tournament.

In addition to his experience directing a two-year college athletic program, Anweiler served for over nine years in the TCC Communications Office. He worked closely with the media, covered countless college events and, during a period of transition, served as the interim communications director.

Anweiler is a 1994 graduate of TCC. He earned his bachelor’s degree in media communication from Florida State University (FSU) in 1997. Anweiler returned to FSU in 2000 to complete a master’s degree in Physical Education (Sport Administration).

He noted, “I am excited to join the NOVA family. There is tremendous enthusiasm for growing student activities and programming, and I am eager to take on my new responsibilities.”

Anweiler will reside in Alexandria, Virginia and looks forward to enjoying all the cultural and athletic events in the region. He is also excited to explore a few of the area’s golf courses!
In the Spirit of the Season Door Decorating Challenge, staff in 14 administrative offices in the Reynolds Building of the Loudoun Campus used their creative ideas and talents to decorate office doors in December. Faculty, staff and students were the judges and ribbons were presented at the annual campus holiday potluck on December 17. Every door was awarded a ribbon ranging from Grand Champion and placement awards to Spirit Awards and Great Effort awards. The Loudoun Campus family enjoyed coming together to infuse the Spirit of the Season with all who work and learn there.
Virginia Retirement System Group Counseling Sessions and Retirement Education Seminars

The Virginia Retirement System has announced their Group Counseling Sessions and Retirement Education Seminars for spring 2009, and NOVA’s date is March 4. The Retirement Education Seminar runs from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. followed by the Group Counseling Session from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sessions will be held at the Annandale Campus in the Ernst Community Cultural Center. Space fills up rapidly so register early. You may also access the VRS Web site at http://www.varetire.org by clicking on “Member Education,” then the session name followed by a click on “Register.” This will bring up name, telephone number and/or paper form to be used for registration. You may register for both sessions or only one.

Optional Life Premium Changes

Employees participating in the Optional Life Insurance program may see a change in premium amount starting with the January 16 pay. The Optional Life premiums are based on salary and age; e.g., age 50 or age 65, as of December 31, 2008. Employees who had a salary adjustment in 2008 could see a rate change due to the salary and age of either employee and/or spouse if spousal coverage selected.

Please check your deductions. If you have any questions about your premium deductions, contact Eileen Sorenson at 703-323-3396 or Janice Cottingham at 703-323-3336 in Human Resources.