A Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, Northern Virginia Community College is participating in the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE). In conjunction with the CCSSE administration this spring, we also have the opportunity to conduct the Community College Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (CCFSSE). The CCFSSE instrument was designed to mirror the Community College Student Report in an effort to facilitate discussions about student and faculty responses.

We plan to use the CCSSE results to promote institutional improvement, and it is vital that our faculty have a voice in these efforts. We feel that being able to view faculty expectations and perceptions of student engagement (in the aggregate) alongside 2008 student responses will not only help us identify areas of strength, but will also enable us to recognize challenges or gaps that may require further consideration.

I am requesting that all full-time and part-time faculty members participate in the faculty survey. By now, you should have received an e-mail from CCSSE with a link to the survey, which you can complete online. The window of time for completing the survey is from **April 4** to **May 21**.

Upon completion of the online administration period, CCSSE staff will analyze the results, and we will receive an electronic report of results when we receive our CCSSE Institutional Report in July.

Your survey responses will **not** be linked back to you as an individual faculty member. Please be completely candid in your responses.

I appreciate your cooperation and participation in this exciting initiative.

Sincerely,

Bob
President Robert G. Templin, Jr.
Northern Virginia Community College
NOVA's Own Recognized for Years of Service with the Women of Alexandria

Eula Miller, program head for the Early Childhood Development program at the Alexandria Campus, was recently named one of the Outstanding Women in Alexandria by the Alexandria Office on Women and the Alexandria Commission on Women. She received the Career Development and Education/Training Award for her lifetime work of providing teaching and mentoring to literally thousands of women over the years. Miller was nominated by Marjorie Kinnaman (AL), counselor, with letters of support sent by Jimmie McClellan (AL), dean of humanities and social sciences division; Connie Elsberg (AL), sociology; and Mary Hanrahan (AL), early childhood.

IN THE NEWS

Loudoun Campus student Cynthia Spencer is featured in a VaHigherEd podcast as a member of the “First Virginia Team.” To see the podcast, episode 13 titled “Outstanding Students Find Outstanding Opportunity,” go online to http://VaHigherEd.com.
The Loudoun Campus Achieving the Dream Team speaks with interested faculty, staff, and students about upcoming interventions and strategies. The Campus team hosted four “Lunch and Learn” sessions all aimed at fostering informal discussions on the initiative and its benefits. The last session was scheduled for May 1.

First Career Studies Certificate Candidate in Theatre at Manassas Campus

There is a correction to the April 18 article, “First Career Studies Certificate Candidate in Theatre at the Manassas Campus.” The Certificate was created in 2007 by NOVA theatre faculty Natalie Safley (LO), Kathryn O’Sullivan (MA), Eric Trumbull (WO) and Brenda Lewis-Holmes (AL).
Seventy-six faculty and staff from NOVA attended the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) New Horizons Conference 2008: Partnerships for Learning. Special thanks to Rosalyn King for co-chairing the conference.

Congratulations to NOVA’s Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) for the Celebration of Excellence award for the Faculty-Led Power Up Your Pedagogy Mini-Conference held in January 2008. CETL’s Nan Peck accepted the commendation. Also, Connie Elsberg received a Celebration of Excellence award for her fellowship award, the Chancellor’s Commonwealth Professorship for 2007-2009.

Thirty-seven representatives from NOVA made presentations including:

- Monica Mulholland - “Motivating and Creating through Multiple Intelligences and Technology”
- Nan Peck and Cathy Simpson - “Using Blogs, Wikis and Podcasts to Engage Faculty”
- Patricia Daron, Mary Gregory, Donald Gregory and Sherry Chi - “Every Course Takes a Critical Path”
- Margaret Leary - “Effectively Serving Two Masters: Winning Models for Educator Externships”
- Roger Hill - “Using Memorials and Historic Buildings to Facilitate Learning History”
- Laura Jean Bhadra - “Unplugged: Reducing Technology and Increasing Connectivity in the Classroom”
- Edward Gbago Creppy - “What Makes Success More Likely at Virginia’s Community Colleges?”
- John Dever - “The SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award and Chancellor’s Award for Teaching Excellence: Tips and Techniques for Preparing Your College’s Nominations”
- Donald Goral - “Mathematical & Linguistic Threads: China’s Silk Road & Beyond”
- Joan Trabant - “Strategies for Distance Learning Retention”
- Rosalyn King - “Planning and Developing an Online Learning Strategies Education Portal for Community College Students”
- William Gary - “Workforce Reform and Opportunities for Virginia’s Community Colleges”
- Kelli Wilkinson - “A Neo-Luddite Embraces the Cutting Edge of Digital Humanities”
- Lori Johnson - “Juggling School and Work: Innovative Online Support Services to Help Students Succeed”
- Takako Shigehisa - “From Silence to Confident Speaker: Using Free Software to Transform Your Students”
- Lisa Hill, Rebecca Kamen and Julia Turner - “Nokia Only Planet Project: Designs for a Global Society by NOVA Students”
- Wanda Dooley - “Service Learning for Peer Mentoring as a Career Ladder Tool”
- Robert Brown - “You Too Can YouTube: Or How to Use Flash and Other Available Software to Create and Implement Video Online”
- Kevin Simons - “Optimizing Library Instruction Sessions”
- Laura Franklin - “Virginia Foreign Language Classroom: Teaching Well Online”

The LRS group from Alexandria and Woodbridge left to right: Hector Revollo (WO), Abid Mahmood (AL), Dave Williams (AL), Sally Cool (WO), Dave Lavis (AL) and Steve Cool (WO).
NOVA SIGHTINGS

NOVA Well Represented at the New Horizons Conference (continued)

- **Edith Kennedy** - “Assessing to Achieve the Dream”
- **Barbara Crain** - “Transforming Travel Experiences into Teachable Moments”
- **Shaoyu Chi** - “Tools and Shortcuts for You”
- **Paul McVeigh** - “Leaders’ Panel: Innovative Thinking on Learning Partnerships”
- **Satarupa Das** - “Integrating Internet Content into Classroom Teaching”
- **Laura Young** - “Library Research Film-Making Project”
- **John Min** and **Abid Mahmood** - “Global Capital Trading Room at Our Campus”

Alexandria Campus Job and Internship Fair

The Alexandria Campus hosted a community job and internship fair on April 22. A diverse range of companies participated, representing auto care, the airline industry, accounting, finance, business, marketing, security, administrative, customer service, childcare, education, electrical construction, information technology, government, engineering, graphic design and catering fields. The fair was very well attended by NOVA students and community members.

Pictured above: Alexandria Campus Job Fair employer check-in table: **Alice Hedley** (standing far left), coordinator of Student Services; **Robtrice Brawner** (behind table on left), counselor; **Edythe Richards** (behind table on the right), counselor, and **Laura Hatfield** (Arlington Center; standing to the right), counselor.

Pictured left: Employers discussing job opportunities with students in the Bisdorf Cafeteria.
The Alexandria Campus IT Gaming Club participated in this year’s Science Fair at Wakefield High School on April 17 and hosted an onsite IT gaming competition. The club participation was organized and supported by Mohamed Sidatt and Fareed Ahmad of the BTD IT Lab Instructors. The IT gaming competition was a big success. The Gaming Club members wore their blue club shirts and provided information on NOVA IT programs to Wakefield High School students.
Alexandria Campus IT Hosts the George Lucas Foundation

The Alexandria Campus hosted visitors from the George Lucas Foundation on April 18. Ali Soleymani, IT professor, conducted a workshop from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for local K-12 students who wanted to learn more about IT gaming design and programming. The representatives from the Foundation were impressed by the level of excitement generated by the workshop. Based on this success, the Institute for Teaching Through Technology & Innovative Practices, based in Virginia, asked Soleymani to conduct a follow up seminar on IT gaming design to Virginia State University faculty in May.

IN THE NEWS

NOVA’s Butterfly Memorial Garden was featured in the April 24 edition of The Washington Post’s Fairfax Extra - the 2008 community guide. Shirley Nuhn, ESL instructor in Languages and Literature at Annandale, suggested the garden as a notable spot in Fairfax County. The garden, begun in 2005, is located at street level between the CT and CC buildings. Nuhn mentioned the appearance of a sculpture, the copper metal butterfly, signaling that a new garden was in the works. In May 2006, NOVA’s Annandale Campus was certified as a Backyard Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. The piece can be found at The Washington Post online at: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/04/23/AR2008042301457.html.
Loudoun Campus Professor Publishes and Shares Her Success

Susanna Ferrara, adjunct professor of English, recently published two essays in the collection “Voices Rising,” a post-Hurricane Katrina project conducted in and around New Orleans. Beverly Blois (LO), dean of humanities, speaks about Ferrara’s accomplishment, “We are quite proud of Susanna’s work in the classroom and in this important publication.” Ferrara presented a copy to Provost Anthony Tardd as a gift to the Loudoun Campus Learning Resource Center. It will be cataloged into the Campus collection.

Medical Education Campus Celebrates National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week

The week kicked off with a party for the Medical Laboratory Technology Program. Medical Education Campus students, faculty and staff enjoyed pizza, ice cream cake, music and time away from a hectic class schedule. The rest of the week featured an informative display on medical laboratory professionals. Daily demonstrations included blood typing, identification of microorganisms, identification of white blood cells, phlebotomy (drawing blood), urine and stool testing.
Annandale Library Supports IB Programme in Area High Schools

During the spring 2008 semester, Librarian Kevin Simons of the Annandale Campus made presentations concerning college level research in support of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme offered at several Northern Virginia high schools. The IB Programme presents amazing opportunities to “develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world” (http://www.ibo.org) for students at over 2,000 qualified schools in 127 countries.

Simons’ presentations, given with the assistance of fellow Librarian Bill Fleming (AN), were aimed at those students aged 16 to 19 enrolled in the IB Diploma Programme. The sessions were included in workshops intended to prepare students for work on their “extended essay,” a project requiring in-depth research and analysis of a topic of the student’s choosing. The library presentations focused not on specific research tools, but rather on life skills that reach beyond the school setting, such as establishing trust and credibility, learning how to operate efficiently and confidently in new environments and engaging in a research process defined by discovery and careful observation where patterns and relationships reveal themselves.

The coordinators of the high school IB programs feel that presentations such as these given by college or university representatives not only impress upon their students the importance of learning research skills early, but also support and validate each school’s library resources and instruction. Through these presentations, the Annandale Campus Library has established significant connections with teachers, librarians and administrators at six different Fairfax County Public high schools and has directly supported student learning by reaching out to over 350 students this semester.
Alexandria Campus Concert Band and NOVA Community Chorus to Perform

The 80-member Alexandria Campus Concert Band and the 80-voice NOVA Community Chorus will present a Spring Concert on **May 9 at the Schlesinger Concert Hall at 8:00 p.m.** The chorus will perform selections from “West Side Story” and the Band will perform Tchaikovsky’s “March Slave,” music from Ben Hur and a medley of Beatles tunes with a jazz combo from the 257th Army Band. Contributions are encouraged.

The Intercom Wants to Hear from You!

The Intercom is for and by the faculty and staff of NOVA. So you are welcome to e-mail your articles and news to intercom@nvcc.edu! The deadline is EACH **Friday at 5:00 p.m. for the following week’s edition** (note: as usual during the summer, the Intercom is published every other week).

For complete submission guidelines, go to: [http://www.nvcc.edu/plp/guidelines.htm](http://www.nvcc.edu/plp/guidelines.htm). Send your news!

The College for Kids Program

The College for Kids program at the Annandale Campus will be hosting its 2008 camps starting on June 23 and running until August 15. This year, our camp offerings will be Cyber Experience, Digital Photography, Web Publishing, Theater, Soccer and more.

For more information please visit [http://www.nvcc.edu/annandale/continuing/kids/index.htm](http://www.nvcc.edu/annandale/continuing/kids/index.htm) or call 703.323.3281 to register.
NOVA is getting greener, and it is not just because spring is here. Conservation and recycling efforts are part of current college practices, and new initiatives are being made to intensify those efforts. Here are some of the actions that your NOVA colleagues have already taken. We welcome your contributions in making NOVA a greener place too.

Organizing our efforts
For the past two years, the ad hoc Committee for Environmentally-Friendly Construction, known informally as the “Green” committee, has been collecting information about college practices and promoting awareness of environmental considerations in decision-making about construction, maintenance and operations. Now that the committee has been established as a college standing committee, the Environmental Concerns Committee. Membership of the new committee will include nine teaching/professional faculty, three classified staff and one student. Please consider volunteering to serve on the new committee.

Energy efficiency is now a priority
Energy efficient fluorescent lights have been installed throughout the College. Energy efficient HVAC systems are being installed to reduce utility costs and the impact on the environment in all new construction and all HVAC repair and replacement projects. Since 2006, major HVAC equipment and Control Systems have been replaced with more energy efficient items at the Manassas, Woodbridge and Annandale Campuses as part of our effort to meet the Governor’s Energy Reduction Goals for State Agencies.

Thermal pane windows and plenty of insulation in the exterior walls and roofs of our buildings have been included in all new construction and all re-roofing projects.

Revised campus Master Plans include more green features
The Loudoun Science Building (recently completed) includes a rain garden to filter out contaminants. Alexandria Phase III has exceeded the current minimum storm water treatment and storage regulations and will also include a rain garden.

Sustainable design reviews have identified those LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) criteria that we intend to achieve in the design of the Annandale Phase VI and Loudoun Phase III projects.

Manassas Phase III is being designed to meet criteria for LEED certification.

Recycling is under way
The College Vehicle Repair Shop and the automotive programs at Alexandria and Manassas recycle fluids, like oil, transmission, power steering, hydraulic, brake, diesel, gasoline and anti freeze/coolant, oil based and/or automotive paints, batteries, tires, scrap metal and miscellaneous “hard parts” (items such as water pumps, alternators and window motors).

The Alexandria photography program annually does silver recovery/recycling.

Other recycling efforts
Fluorescent light tubes are classified by EPA as universal wastes, along with electronics, lead batteries and aerosol cans. Spent bulbs are recycled through USA Lights, a company in Hyattsville, Maryland. Staff at NOVA bulk package the bulbs as they are replaced during the maintenance process, after which they are shipped to USA Lights. There, the bulbs are crushed under controlled conditions to extract the mercury, which is recycled along with the aluminum end caps. Ballasts are significantly less toxic than in past years, when ballasts contained polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Non-functioning ballasts are also recycled by USA Lights.

White paper and cardboard recycling is also important. This program has been in effect for many years but needs to be made more reliable and efficient.

And finally, did you know?
Toner cartridges from photocopy machines can also be recycled. All new HP toner cartridges contain a USPS-ARS label inside the carton with the new cartridge. When employees are replacing an empty cartridge with a new one, all they have to do is pull out the UPS-ARS label, put the old cartridge back in the carton, tuck the flaps, place the USPS-ARS label on the outside of the carton and send it to the P&DS operation at the warehouse. UPS will return the old cartridge to HP at no charge to NOVA.
KRISPY KREME
FUNDRAISER FOR RELAY FOR LIFE

Order delicious, fresh, melt in your mouth Krispy Kreme glazed doughnuts from the Office of Student Activities (CF 226 or 703-323-3147 or 703-323-3484). Doughnuts are $6 per dozen and must be paid in advance. Cash or check only. Checks must be made out to Northern Virginia Community College.

Pick up doughnuts from the Office of Student Activities (CF 226) at the following days and times:

Wednesday, April 30, 8:30 - 12:30 p.m. & 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 1st 8:30 - 12:30 p.m.
WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!
ARE YOU AVAILABLE FRIDAY, MAY 2ND?

We need help with the following areas:

- Ushers
- Ballot counters
- Concession stands
- Stage crew/Set-up
- Hosts to judges

Please contact Shonta Woodbury at 703-933-5041, via email at swoodbury@nvcc.edu or stop by Room 148.