NOVA Participates in Community College Survey of Student Engagement

Kudos to NOVA for participating in the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE). CCSSE results will help the College focus on good educational practices that promote high levels of student learning and retention. The College plans to use CCSSE results to recognize strengths in our academic community and to identify challenges or gaps that may require further consideration.

Many thanks to our campus representatives who administered surveys to over 100 classes. These colleagues devoted numerous hours toward organizing the process at their campuses, attending to details and meeting deadlines in executing this important college initiative. Their dedication in helping the College enhance its teaching and learning environment is commended.

Annandale Campus
Carol Sinwell
Christine Holt
Mary Atkins
Linda Wahn
Mark Delgado
Isha Haider

Manassas Campus
Tamatha Lambert

Medical Education Campus
Kathleen Odige

Woodbridge Campus
Tanya Kern

Alexandria Campus
David Williams
Kim Gross
Edythe Richards

Loudoun Campus
Renee McLaurin

Thanks to everyone for participating. Your involvement is truly appreciated.
NOVA SIGHTINGS

First Ice Hockey Team at NOVA

The first ice hockey team in NOVA history took to the ice on April 22 in Fort Washington, Maryland to compete against Johns Hopkins University. The NOVA hockey team was organized by Team President and Captain Robert Lucier, with funding support from the Annandale and Alexandria Student Activities Offices. Practices began in early February.

NOVA jumped right into competition by playing Johns Hopkins University, a top Division II contender in the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA). Johns Hopkins is a veteran team that competes in the Mason Dixon League of the ACHA. The Mason Dixon League is composed of club teams from Alvernia College, Gettysburg College, Salisbury University, Catholic University, American University, Bucknell University, Dickinson College, Mount Saint Mary’s University and Johns Hopkins University.

In this David vs. Goliath matchup, the young NOVA team came out noticeably nervous in the first period and Johns Hopkins took advantage of NOVA’s first game jitters. Hopkins scored just 54 seconds into the opening period and did not let up during the frantic first period. A few funny puck bounces did not work in NOVA goalie Mike Boileau’s favor and had Hopkins leading 4-0 after the first period. The Blue Jays of Johns Hopkins continued to barrage NOVA’s net with shots throughout the next stanza. Period two ended with Hopkins leading NOVA 8-0. After 40 minutes of play, the teams retired to their respective locker rooms while the ice was resurfaced for the final period.

The NOVA team was down but they were not out and the break in action is what was needed to turn things around. The NOVA team finally shook off the jitters and came out energized and buzzing in the third period, wanting to take the third period from the visiting Blue Jays. The NOVA team did just that, out shooting Hopkins during the third period and outscoring them, 3-2 over the final twenty-minute period. The first game ended in a 10-3 NOVA loss but the team came off the ice as victors. After just two months of practice and preparation, NOVA competed and won the third period over one of the better college hockey teams in the region. It was a great finish to a new beginning, and a great way to start a
Hermon Asberry (WO) opened the scoring for NOVA, 51 seconds into the third period with an assist going to Ray Leshynski (WO). Leshynski set up the second goal 10 minutes later on a shot from the point, tipped past the Hopkins goalie by Sylvester Selester (AN). Michael Richards (AL) gained the third period victory for NOVA with a rebound goal off a shot from John Daunt (AN), with just under eight minutes remaining in the game. NOVA goalie Ray Navorio (AN) shut down the Johns Hopkins offense the remaining eight minutes of the third period in goal. Mike Boileau (LO), Adam Ferguson (WO) and Navorio combined for 55 saves in goal for the NOVA team.

NOVA Hockey plans on staying in shape this summer and preparing for fall tryouts by playing in local men’s leagues and sending a team to Boston and Cleveland to compete in a series of summer tournaments.

NOVA Hockey is coached by Barrett Haga, a governmental consultant, Trevor Blair (AL), counselor, and Michael Donnelly (AL), counselor. If you know of a student who might be interested in playing/trying out for NOVA Hockey, they may contact team president, Robert Lucier at rslucier@hotmail.com.
Annandale Campus Faculty Nominated for Faculty of the Year Award

Nineteen Annandale Campus faculty members were nominated for the Faculty of the Year Award. Those pictured from left to right, bottom row are: Constantin Frasinel, biology; Michael Heslop, economics; Judith Grant, accounting; Steven Drasner, information technology; Callan Bentley, geology and Barbara Saperstone, provost. Top row: Charles Poland, history; Wallace Hutcheon, Jr., political science; Elaine Wolin, English as a second language; Jacintha Jayatilake, sociology; Darlene Van Every, psychology; William Kinsella, history; Howard Reichbart, hospitality management; Douglas Neal, political science; Richard Semmler, mathematics; Jack Partlow, business management/marketing; Ben Wang, chemistry and Brian Leffler, American sign language. Not pictured is Richard Pellerin, mathematics.

Congratulations to each and every one for this exceptional recognition!

Professor Jo Smith Presents Cyberliability Paper at Oxford Round Table

Alexandria Campus’ Yolanda (Jo) Smith was invited to present a paper on Cyberlaw at the Oxford Round Table March 23 to 28 at Pembroke College, Oxford University, Oxford, England. The topic of the discussion was “The Regulation of Cyberspace: Balancing the Interests.” Participants represented mainly the disciplines of business, law, sociology, criminal justice, computer science, communications and journalism. The 27 attendees were from Australia, India, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic and 16 states of the United States of America. CyberWATCH funded her presentation "A Summary of Legal Limitations in Cyberliability" that addresses, in part, legal issues raised with the recent massive loss of credit card information by TJX. Presently, CyberWATCH is developing modules for a Cyberlaw course that partner institutions can implement at their colleges.
NOVA students participated for the first year in the Collegiate CyberDefense Competition (CCDC), earning both experience and college credit as a part of their ITN 293 requirements. This is the third year that CyberWATCH sponsored participation in this national competition that pits professional hackers against two and four-year college students. Due to the increase in participation, there were two qualifying rounds held January 12 and 19, 2008 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The top two teams from each round advanced to the Regional CCDC, and then those winners on to the National CCDC.

A total of 55 students participated from nine CyberWATCH schools, which includes NOVA. Led by Alexandria network security professor, Ryan Trost, NOVA made an impressive showing in its first year. While not earning sufficient points to move into the Regional competitions, NOVA network security students placed third, ahead of George Mason University, during the qualifying rounds. The see the first NOVA CyberWATCH Faculty Newsletter go to www.nvcc.edu/home/mleary/cyberwatchFaculty.doc.
Two deserving staff members in the LRS/ISSL unit received the student-sponsored Golden Apple Award at an awards ceremony on April 24. Kevin Simons, instructional services librarian in the Annandale Campus Library, received the nod from a student who appreciated the extraordinary service rendered on several occasions while the student worked on a class presentation. Simons’ dedication can be seen in the frequent one-on-one appointments that he offers students when they need more of his time.

Bang Nguyen, IT network engineer, also received the award for his persistence and dedication in solving technology problems on the Campus. He works diligently to solve all the printing and computer problems in the library and helps his co-workers solve IT issues across the Campus. Not only is he available to provide guidance and help to his colleagues, Nguyen will often stop to help students with directions. Often working behind the scenes, his contributions and competence are invaluable.
Over 100 mathematics and computer science faculty from community colleges across Virginia, including more than a dozen faculty from NOVA, recently attended a conference of Virginia Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (VMATYC), which was held at Piedmont Virginia Community College. The conference is also recognized by VCCS as the peer group meeting for math and computer science faculty. There were two days of presentations and workshops, as well as a banquet and guest speaker. VMATYC’s purpose is to promote mathematics and mathematics education by (a) encouraging the development of effective mathematics programs, (b) providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and (c) promoting the professional development and welfare of its members.

Among the highlights of the conference was the formal recognition and presentation of the certificate to the recipient of the 2007-2008 Glenn Fox VMATYC Mathematical and Computer Science Scholarship. NOVA student Beihua (Endy) Yan was honored and has received $800 during the current academic year toward her college expenses. She is a student at the Manassas Campus and was sponsored for the scholarship by Ed Anderson (MA), associate professor of mathematics. The VMATYC Scholarship plaque with the recipients’ names engraved has been displayed this year at the Manassas Campus. Presenting Yan with her certificate at the conference was VMATYC Past-President and Scholarship Chair Linda Taylor (WO), instructor of mathematics. Yan is to receive her Associate of Science degree in mathematics and hopes to continue her education in mathematics at the University of Virginia, with a goal of becoming a university professor of mathematics.
The Table Tennis Club, a branch of the Sports and Recreation Club at the Alexandria Campus, held a ping-pong tournament for students on April 25. The club has four tables in the gym and one in the Student Activities Office. Faculty and students from around NOVA come to Alexandria to play on Friday and Saturday afternoons.
On April 23, under a clear blue sky, the Annandale Campus Visual and Performing Arts Association, known as VAPAA, hosted its’ fourth coffeehouse event (which was a part of a series) in the outdoor Plaza. Student singers, dancers, guitarists, poets, jazz and rock bands performed from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Campus audience enjoyed the show while sitting in the grass or atop the low stone walls of the Plaza, sipping coffee and eating snacks provided by VAPAA. VAPAA has been a student club on the Annandale Campus since 2004. Its’ members are students who enjoy the arts and enjoy hosting arts events on Campus. This year the club received Annandale’s Outstanding Student Organization Award.
NOVA Students Recognized at All Virginia Region Academic Team Ceremony

Students from several campuses were recognized for their academic, leadership and service achievements on April 16 at the annual All-Virginia Regional Academic Team ceremony, held in Richmond, sponsored by the Virginia Region Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. The Virginia Community College System (VCCS) Chancellor presented medallions and certificates to all community college students from across the state who had been nominated previously for the All-USA Academic Team competition, sponsored by USA Today, Phi Theta Kappa and the American Association of Community Colleges.

Student Cynthia Spencer (LO) was awarded First Team recognition in the All-Virginia Regional Academic Team and received a special award from the NVCC Educational Foundation.
Alexandria Honors Students at Brunch

Pictured from left to right: Joseph Windham, history professor; Geeta Kumar, marketing professor; Robert Brunner, English professor; Ted Sawyer, Colin McKeague, Ravileen Singh, Alan Holloman (standing), Hannah Juricic (standing), Ben Oster, Rachel Overstreet, Kim Loraine-Grews and Arlen McKeague.

Honors students enrolled in the linked Honors English 112 and Honors 122 classes at the Alexandria Campus met at Robert Brunner’s house for a semester-ending brunch—and an evaluation of the courses.

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. Send your news!

REMINDER: In the summer, the Intercom is published EVERY OTHER WEEK.
Next editions: May 16 (Deadline: 5:00 p.m. on May 9) and May 30 (Deadline: 5:00 p.m. on May 23)
Fall Event: Integrating Civic Responsibility into the Curriculum

This event will be an interactive workshop sponsored by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) for Achieving the Dream Institutions and Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). It will take place on August 19 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Schlesinger Center (AL). Registration is required. For more detail, please see the information and registration form in the attachment section. For questions, contact Nan Peck at 703-323-4140 or e-mail npeck@nvcc.edu.

A Letter from the Executive Vice President

Colleagues:

The 42nd Northern Virginia Community College Commencement promises to be a very special event.

Based on much feedback, extensive review and careful planning, the Commencement Committee has made a number of enhancements to the program, all designed to put the focus on our graduates. Some non-essential items have been eliminated, some new features added and the overall process expedited—while still giving each graduate his or her special moment and preserving the ceremonial dignity of the occasion.

Mr. James W. Dyke, Jr., an active leader in the Northern Virginia business and education community and a longtime advocate of NOVA, will be awarded the honorary Associate Degree of Humane Letters. Mr. Ray Suarez, well renowned Senior Correspondent on the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, will be the speaker.

See further information at http://www.nvcc.edu/current-students/graduation/ceremony.html. I look forward to seeing you and our graduates on Tuesday, May 13, at the Patriot Center of George Mason University. The event starts promptly at 7:00 p.m., so please arrive early.

Many thanks,

John

Executive Vice President John Dever
NOVA Disability Services
-A Word to the Wise-

A reader on the Annandale Campus writes:
“What should we do if we have a student who agrees to speak to a counselor for perhaps as of yet an undiagnosed need? Are we free to send students to you?”

This is a great question. It is always a good idea to include a statement on your syllabus, letting students know that if they have a disability and would like to apply for accommodations, they should call the counseling/student services center on their campus of record. This way it provides information to the student without requiring him or her to disclose a disability to you. However, students still frequently choose to approach their professors. If a student tells you that they have a disability, you will want to refer them to the Disability Services Web page (http://nvcc.edu/current-students/disability-services/index.html), which provides all the information regarding applying for services or have them call the counseling/student services center and ask to speak to a disability counselor for information on applying for accommodations.

If you suspect a student is struggling due to a disability you may wish to arrange for a confidential meeting with the student. You will probably want to discuss your concerns about their academic progress so that they are aware that they are not making satisfactory progress. You should not put them on the spot by asking them directly if they have a disability since students are not required to disclose. However, you may tell them that if they think they may have a disability or if they have been diagnosed in the past they may wish to speak with one of the disability counselors. NOVA does not pay for medical or psychological assessments. We provide equal access for those students that request accommodations and provide documentation to support eligibility. However, counselors can talk with the students and provide some ideas and/or resources for obtaining current documentation.

Do you have a question regarding working with students with disabilities? If so, e-mail Carol Sweetser, special assistant for college-wide Disability Services, at csweetser@nvcc.edu. Anonymity will be respected, but please provide your Campus. Check out future editions of Intercom for answers.
Integrating Civic Responsibility into the Curriculum

Community service and academic learning are central to the community college mission. When connected to academic instruction, teaching civic responsibility is a critical part of our role in higher education. This participatory workshop is designed to explore ways to help faculty, staff, and administrators prepare students for effective involvement in a diverse democratic society and to examine the role and obligation of higher education to produce good citizens. The workshop will use activities and tools from the American Association of Community Colleges’ best-selling publication, A Practical Guide for Integrating Civic Responsibility into the Curriculum. Workshop activities will focus on using service learning to promote civic engagement; integrating civic responsibility components into course syllabi; encouraging student dialogue and critical thinking on civic issues; and increasing meaningful involvement between colleges and communities. There is no fee for this workshop. Participants receive a complimentary copy of the Guide and benefit from hands-on work with experienced facilitators.

Date: Tuesday, August 19th
Time: 12:00-2:30pm (lunch will be provided)
NVCC, Schlesinger Center, Alexandria Campus

Registration is required. Return this registration form to Gail Robinson at AACC by Friday, August 1st via fax (202/728-2965) or e-mail (grobinson@aacc.nche.edu). AACC will confirm your registration via e-mail with details about the workshop location.

This workshop is made possible through the American Association of Community Colleges’ national project, Community Colleges Broadening Horizons through Service Learning, funded by the Learn and Serve America program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, and through the support of the Lumina Foundation for Education. It is also supported by NOVA’s Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.
Integrating Civic Responsibility into the Curriculum
An Interactive Workshop Sponsored by the
American Association of Community Colleges
for Achieving the Dream Institutions

Tuesday, August 19, 2008
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
Schlesinger Center
Northern Virginia Community College – Alexandria, Virginia

Community service and academic learning are central to the community college mission. When connected to academic instruction, teaching civic responsibility is a critical part of our role in higher education. This participatory workshop is designed to explore ways to help faculty, staff, and administrators prepare students for effective involvement in a diverse democratic society and to examine the role and obligation of higher education to produce good citizens.

The workshop will use activities and tools from the American Association of Community Colleges’ best-selling publication, A Practical Guide for Integrating Civic Responsibility into the Curriculum. Workshop activities will focus on using service learning to promote civic engagement; integrating civic responsibility components into course syllabi; encouraging student dialogue and critical thinking on civic issues; and increasing meaningful involvement between colleges and communities.

Complete the attached form to register; there is no fee for this workshop. Participants receive a complimentary copy of the Guide and benefit from hands-on work with experienced facilitators. Registration is limited to 40 participants. For more information, contact Gail Robinson at 202/728-0200, ext. 254, or grobinson@aaac.nche.edu.

Workshop Facilitators:

Richard Faircloth
Professor of Biology
Anne Arundel Community College
Arnold, MD

Gail Robinson
Manager of Service Learning
American Association of Community Colleges
Washington, DC

This workshop is made possible through the American Association of Community Colleges’ national project, Community Colleges Broadening Horizons through Service Learning, funded by the Learn and Serve America program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, and through the support of the Lumina Foundation for Education.
Registration Form

*Integrating Civic Responsibility into the Curriculum*

**Tuesday, August 19, 2008**

12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Northern Virginia Community College – Alexandria, Virginia

*Registration Deadline: Friday, August 1, 2008*

Yes, I will attend the August 19 workshop.

Name: ________________________________

Title: ________________________________

College/Organization: __________________________

Address: ________________________________

City/State/Zip: ______________________________

Phone: __________________ Fax: __________________

E-mail: ________________________________

I am familiar with service learning: Yes ______ No ______

I teach using service learning: Yes ______ No ______

*Hotel information:*

Participants are responsible for making their own lodging arrangements. Northern Virginia Community College recommends two hotels near campus:


**UPDATE:** Crowne Plaza, 50 Morgan Street, [www.cphartford.com](http://www.cphartford.com). Contact Jennifer Tripp at 860/502-1327 or 860/549-2400 (offering a group rate of $109 until October 6).

**Agenda:**

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm  Registration and check-in

12:30 pm – 2:30 pm  Workshop

**Special needs:**

Please specify any special needs you may have: ________________________________

Return this registration form to Gail Robinson at AACC by **Friday, August 1, 2008,** via fax (202/728-2965) or e-mail (g robinson@ aacc.nche.edu). AACC will confirm your registration via e-mail with details about the workshop location. Thank you!