Financial Aid Expands as Part of the New Face of Student Services

The reorganization of student services paved the way for increasing the visibility of financial aid through the designation of financial aid specialists at each campus. These individuals (pictured at left and right) are available to help students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), apply for student loans, discuss the appeal process, find work-study positions, correct application mistakes, identify scholarship opportunities, navigate to financial aid on NovaConnect, answer questions about application results and conduct presentations.

These specialists form the core of the financial aid leadership team which meets monthly to discuss issues and mechanisms for promoting financial aid at the College and within the community. They work closely with the College Financial Aid Office staff to respond to student inquiries.

As a result of the reorganization, the College Financial Aid Office has implemented document imaging which allows easy access to financial aid documents and has led to streamlining the financial aid review and awarding timeline. During the next year, the two offices will implement instant messaging and electronic sign-in programs to speed up communication and to help serve students more efficiently. This office has also led the way within the VCCS in implementing a series of e-mail communications to students.

Upcoming activities include a workshop for high school guidance counselors at the Annandale Campus’ Ernst Community Cultural Center on December 1 and financial aid “SuperSaturdays” for students, parents and the community on February 10 and April 14. See the financial aid Web page (http://www.nvcc.edu/finance) for details.

MEC Establishes ESL Program for Healthcare Workers

The Workforce Development and Continuing Education office at the MEC has developed an ESL program for healthcare workers and anyone interested in employment in the field. Testing will take place on December 7 and 14 from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. ESL classes will begin January 22 and continue through April. The MEC is also offering Spanish for nurses and healthcare providers and accent reduction courses. The Spanish course will begin February 21 and will meet every Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Dates have not been set for the accent reduction course. Also new to the MEC is Reiki, a three-part course which will teach participants how to stimulate healing through energy flow. Each Reiki course is 12 hours and will be offered all day Saturday and a half day on Sunday.

Intercom is produced electronically every Friday for NVCC faculty and staff. Submit items via e-mail to Intercom@nvcc.edu by 5 p.m. Friday prior to publication. Photos should be submitted as digital files and attachments should be in MS Word or MS Publisher format. All submissions subject to editing for length and clarity. Editor: Melanie Martin. Phone: 703-323-3196. Back issues are available at http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/Intercom.htm.
Alexandria Diversity Committee to Re-launch Successful Project

The Alexandria Campus diversity steering committee recently announced the success of a pilot project that began this spring to initiate honest and open dialogue about Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transsexual (GLBT) issues. The committee sent letters to faculty members endorsing the idea of placing postcards on their desks labeled “Safe Person/Safe Space” to indicate that they are comfortable with listening to concerns and offering support for students dealing with GLBT issues.

The explanatory letters and postcards will be distributed again this spring. The committee is willing to share the letters and postcards with any person or group interested in implementing the project on their campuses. For more details, contact Denny May or Joe Windham, co-chairs of the Alexandria diversity steering committee.

Annandale Center Offers Opportunity to “Power Up Your Pedagogy”

On January 3, 4 and 8, concurrent sessions will be held at the Annandale Campus for all faculty interested in promoting teaching and learning. “Power Up Your Pedagogy” is a three-day conference sponsored by the Annandale Center for Teaching Excellence.

A schedule of events will be published in early December. All NOVA faculty (credit and noncredit, full time and adjunct, professional, teaching and administrative) are invited to attend. There are currently more than 50 programs on the schedule.

Contact Nan Peck at npeck@nvcc.edu for more information, or see the attachment to this edition of Intercom. This is a great opportunity to attend a three-day conference with no travel, no registration fees and a chance to “power up your pedagogy.”

NOVACard Offers New TireVan Benefit

One-third of us will need to buy new tires in the next year. Through an arrangement with TireVan (http://www.tirevan.com) NOVA employees can get new tires installed at work or at home. TireVan offers convenience when you buy a new set of tires – and many other free services even when you don’t.

Enrollment in the program offers employees other benefits, including a 20 percent discount off installation, a 30-day tire return guarantee and free services such as safety recall and service bulletin notifications, inflation check services, state vehicle safety inspection reminders, proper tire inflation information and tire wear tracking.

This program is free to all NOVA employees. To enroll, and for more information about TireVan, go to http://www.tirevan.com/AdvantageInfo.aspx and use enrollment code tv27nve. For information on other employee discounts from NOVACard, visit http://www.nvcc.edu/novacard/discounts-facstaff.html.

Human Resources Welcomes Tracey White

The human resources office welcomes Tracey White as its new human resource analyst working with the classified compensation team. White has several years of HR experience and obtained her PHR certification from the Society for Human Resource Management. Her education also includes an M.B.A. from the Johns Hopkins University and a B.S. in business administration from Virginia Union University. White can be reached in the HR office at 703-323-3021. Welcome, Tracey!

Reminder:
Intercom will not publish next week due to the Thanksgiving holiday.
Look for the next edition on December 1.
The submission deadline is Friday, November 24 at 5:00 p.m.
MEC Blood Drive is a Frightful Success

Faculty, staff and students at the Medical Education Campus came out in droves for this year’s Halloween festivities. A blood drive, sponsored by the Inova Blood Donor Services, ‘scared’ up some healthy donors. “At one point, we were so overwhelmed with donors that we actually had a line of people waiting to give,” said Jessica Hutsko, MEC student activities coordinator.

The blood drive wasn’t the only attraction, as the Dental Hygiene Club packed the halls with the frightfully tasty goodies offered at their bake sale. Hutsko would like to thank all her student helpers, who were eager and happy to promote, set up, help keep things organized and stay enthusiastic. “I couldn't have done it without them,” she said. Cheers all around for a job well done!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Valentine’s Day 2007 and get ready to give your heart to the next big blood drive.

It’s Not Too Late to Apply for the President’s Sabbatical Award

Remember all those times when you said that you could write that book or complete that academic project if only you could be free from your teaching duties? Why not take an hour or so over the Thanksgiving break to write your proposal for the President’s Sabbatical Award?

This grant will allow three faculty members, one of whom can be on a 12-month contract, to receive a semester of leave with full pay. Proposals will be awarded based on their excellence and the candidate’s potential to contribute to the long-term mission of the College. Those wishing to apply for the award for the 2007-2008 academic year will need to submit their proposal by December 1.

Proposals should be no longer than 1,000 words and specify how the leave will uniquely benefit both the individual and the College. The proposal and a 50-word executive summary should be placed on a disk and sent to human resources along with NVCC form 105-100. Faculty members on the personnel services committee (who are not eligible for the award) will evaluate the proposals. Award recipients will present a lecture on their sabbatical experience to the College community during the year following their leave. Questions concerning this professional development opportunity should be directed to Dr. Charles Errico, personnel services committee chair (WO), at 703-878-5639.

Orchestra Presents “Old World-New World” at Fall Concert

The NVCC-Annandale Symphony Orchestra will present its fall concert, “Old World-New World,” at the Ernst Community Cultural Center theater on November 17 at 8:00 p.m. The evening’s program will include the well-known Symphony No. 9 in E minor (“From the New World”) by Bohemian composer Antonin Dvořák, as well as works by Franz von Suppé and American composer Charles Ives.

Special guest Andrea Roane of WUSA-TV 9 News will narrate From Far and Away, a unique composition by conductor and composer Christopher Johnston. Tickets are $15 ($10 for seniors and students with IDs) and may be reserved or purchased at the theater. Children are admitted free. For more information, call the Annandale Campus music division at 703-323-3114 or 703-323-3489.
In case of inclement weather, the College will announce its plans to close
 or to delay opening through the following news media:

**AM Radio Stations**
- WAGE 1200
- WDCT 1310
- WFLS 1350
- WMAL 630
- WPGC 1580
- WTOP 1500

**FM Radio Stations**
- WAMU 88.5
- WETA 90.9
- WETH 89.1
- WFLS 93.3
- WHUR 96.3
- WINC 92.5
- WMMJ 102.3
- WPGC 95.5
- WRQX 107.3
- WTOP 103.5

**Television Stations**
- WRC Channel 4
- WTTG Channel 5
- WJLA Channel 7
- Cable News Channel 8
- WUSA Channel 9
- NVCC-TV Channel 19, 25, 37, or 59 (Check local cable listing for your area.)

In addition, the College will place a message on the Web site and on the College TV station if there will be a change from normal operating hours.

Check for weather announcements by calling the Call Center at 703-323-3000 or NovaConnect IVR at 703-323-3770 or in Prince William County 703-330-3770.

This is how to interpret closing announcements you hear on the media:

“Northern Virginia Community College is closed:” The College will be closed until classes begin on the following morning. When this announcement is made, it means no day or evening classes will be held.

“Northern Virginia Community College will open X hours late:” For the purpose of delayed opening announcements, the College’s official opening time is 8 a.m. For example, a two-hour delay means that the College will open at 10 a.m. Classes that begin at 10 a.m. or after will be held as usual. Employees should arrive at the College by 10 a.m. Supervisors of employees who work special shifts should make clear how delayed openings affect attendance expectations.

“Morning classes at Northern Virginia Community College are canceled:” The College will be closed until 12 noon. The College will open at noon and classes beginning at noon or after will be held as usual. College employees should arrive at the College by noon.

“Day classes at Northern Virginia Community College are canceled:” Day classes are those that begin before 4:30 p.m. The College will open and classes that begin at 4:30 p.m. or after will be held as usual. Employees whose normal work schedules extend beyond 6 p.m. should report to work by 4:30 p.m.

“Evening classes at Northern Virginia Community College are canceled:” Evening classes are those classes that begin at or after 4:30 p.m. The College will close at 4:30 p.m. and no further classes will be held until the next morning.

The College makes its closing announcements as quickly as it can. During the workday, please do not call to ask whether the College will be closing. If the decision is to close, everyone will be notified. Responding to telephone calls prevents staff from receiving information from police and weather services and often slows down the closing decision closing decision.
Power Up Your Pedagogy

January 3, 4, and 8, 2007

Sponsored by the Annandale Teaching and Learning Center
Presents
The Baltimore Waltz
By Paula Vogel

December 1 & 2; 8pm
December 3; 2pm

In the Theatre at
the Woodbridge Campus
of NVCC

15200 Neabsco Mills Road
Woodbridge, VA 22191

For information, call
(703) 492-8469
or e-mail jerman@nvcc.edu

In honor of World AIDS Day (December 1st)
all proceeds from ticket and concession
sales will be donated
to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS

Ticket Prices:
Students, NVCC Faculty & Staff, Seniors
$8.00

General Admission
$10.00
The Ceramics Program will hold our

**Annual Pottery Show & Benefit**

at the Schlesinger Center on
the Alexandria Campus
Saturday, December 2
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

100% of monies raised are deposited in
the NVCC Educational Foundation
to be used to purchase supplies and
maintain equipment.

You can help with donations of pottery or helping
with the benefit.