Achieving the Dream in Virginia: Best Practices in Developmental Education Summit

The VCCS held a Best Practices in Developmental Education Summit in South Boston, Virginia on September 26. Participants from 20 of the 23 VCCS colleges attended.

Dr. Monty Sullivan, VCCS vice chancellor for academic services and research, gave an overview of the State’s Achieving the Dream Work Plan goals. The guest speaker was Dr. Christine Kelly-Kleese, dean of developmental education and instructional support at Durham Technical Community College (N.C.). In her presentation—Developmental Education: One College's Journey Toward Achieving the Dream, she described the structure and focus of developmental education and led a discussion of how the ATD work has led to significant cultural change at her college.

In addition, five of the VCCS Achieving the Dream colleges gave presentations on their initiatives and findings in developmental education and student support services to developmental education. To view the presentations visit http://www.vccs.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=487

Pictured at the summit are Debbie Naquin (LO), Pat Lunt (AL), Jane Serbousek (LO), Pat Gary (MA), Virginia Cabasa-Hess (AL), Barry Selinger (AL), Anthony Tarld (LO) and Dan Lewis (WO). Also attending from NOVA were Laura Franklin (AL), Sheri Robertson (CS) and Beth Harper (CS).
College-wide Student Leadership Retreat Held In the Woods

The student activities coordinators of all six campuses organized a weekend student leadership retreat at a cabin campsite at Prince William Forest Park. More than 50 student leaders participated in the training, which involved guest workshop presenters Deirdre Magro, Counseling (AL), and David Urso, Lord Fairfax Community College. Students participated in numerous team-building exercises, utilizing the natural environment of the forest. Woodbridge Campus Student Activities Coordinator Mat (Tank) McCarrl competed with student leaders in one of several board games brought out Friday night, during a torrential downpour.

Student leaders developed new friendships and returned to their campuses with renewed motivation and commitment to the goals of the organizations they represented.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Check out the Intercom submission guidelines at: http://www.nvcc.edu/pip/guidelines

E-mail: intercom@nvcc.edu

Alexandria Campus Concert Band Performance

SAVE THE DATE
OCTOBER 19

Under the new director, Wendy Matthews, the band will present a fall concert at 8:00 p.m. on October 19 at the Schlesinger Concert Hall. No tickets are required. A donation is requested and appreciated.
Club Recruitment at Alexandria

The Alexandria Campus Student Activities Office hosted their annual club recruitment fair on September 26, with 18 student organizations represented. Joseph Windham, professor of history and faculty advisor for the All African Student Union and the Student Government Association, posed with student officers during the activities. A capoeira performance by “Grupo Ondas,” involving martial arts, dance and acrobatics to demonstrate the Afro-Brazilian cultural sport, was featured during the event.

Pictured at right: Joseph Windham, professor of history and faculty advisor, with student officers.

Alexandria Campus Learning Resource Staff In-service Activity

The Alexandria Campus Learning Resources staff (LRS) took advantage of the non-instructional day on October 9 to organize and participate in an in-service activity. During this time, staff members taught each other about the practical application of interesting technologies such as wikis, Google Calendar, MovieMaker, widgets, blogs, FlickR and YouTube, among others.

It was an enlightening morning with lots of ‘ah-ha!’ moments and conversations about how these new and often free resources can be integrated into the services which support the LRS mission to provide comprehensive and effective instructional support to the Alexandria Campus community in an environment conducive to learning.

Find out more about Learning 2.0 and what LRS learned at http://alexandrialrs.blogspot.com/.

Front, from left: Lisa Stedge, Brandee Worsham, Art Lin, Rick Steeber, Anne Anderson; Back, from left: Dave Babel, Van Robertson, Matt Todd, Daniel Hileman
Annandale Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

As part of the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration on the Annandale Campus, Francesc de Paula Soler, a guitar virtuoso, performed to a large and enthusiastic audience in the Ernst Center Theatre on October 6.

The concert was organized by Ana Alonso, Spanish instructor, and Soler, a professor at the Conservatory of Music of Barcelona. Bruce Mann, dean of liberal arts (AN), introduced Soler.

Soler offered an eclectic program of works by a wide range of composers from Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Paraguay, Mexico and other countries. Tangos, Baroque Spanish music, jazz, blues and samba were featured.

Prior to the concert, a reception was held in the Verizon Gallery to highlight “SOLARIS,” an exhibition of giclée prints from paintings by the Colombian artist Hernando Carrizosa. Organizing and hosting the event were Elizabeth Tebow, professor of art history, and Alicia Falzon, professor of Spanish. The exhibition, cosponsored by the Divisions of Languages & Literature and Liberal Arts, continues through October 24.

NOVA Welcomes First Director of Emergency Management

This summer, NOVA welcomed William Flagler as its first director of emergency management. Flagler directs the College-wide development, implementation, testing and constant improvement of emergency planning and preparedness. He will be working with campus and college leaders and with the College’s Emergency Planning Committee to make sure that NOVA’s employees and organizational units are ready to respond to emergencies in practical, productive and effective ways. Flagler serves as the College’s liaison to national, state and regional emergency planning agencies and groups and reports to the vice president for finance and administration, Alison Baker.

Flagler comes to NOVA from Loudoun County’s Office of Emergency Management where he was responsible for coordinating emergency plans and response for special events county-wide. He has a master’s degree in public administration from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in homeland security at the American Military University.

Faculty, staff and students will be hearing from Flagler as we work to improve our emergency planning and increase the general level of awareness and emergency preparedness at the College.

Currently, his office is in the CW building on the Annandale Campus and his telephone number is 703-323-3079.
Loudoun Campus Welcomes Sarkar

Sanjay Gopal Sarkar, deputy registrar of Jadavpur University (JU), Kolkata, India conducted a master class for Loudoun Campus painting students and art faculty on October 10, followed by a slide presentation on the art and architecture of India. Sarkar is a self-taught, but widely exhibited artist. Dr. Siddhartha Datta, pro-vice chancellor of JU, also attended. Datta and Sarkar were at NOVA September 28 through October 12 as 2007 delegates in the VCCS/NOVA academic/administrative exchange. In February 2008, a VCCS/NOVA delegation will be hosted at JU.

Pictured at right: Sanjay Gopal Sarkar, deputy registrar of JU (forefront); Siddhartha Datta, pro-vice chancellor of JU (far right)

IT HELP DESK NEWS: Spam and the Junk E-Mail Folder in Outlook

From time to time, the IT Help Desk will address some of the specific questions it receives from the College user community via Intercom. Posting these responses in Intercom seems like a great way to reach a significant number of our NOVA colleagues. One question the IT Help Desk frequently receives is, “what is the best way to block spam and, in the process, make sure that legitimate e-mail from the VCCS environment does NOT get blocked?”

You should know that NOVA never blocks incoming or outgoing e-mail within the email.vccs.edu domain. The Outlook e-mail system used by the College, however, is set up to automatically move any e-mail messages it perceives as suspicious or fraudulent to a junk mail folder. There is no reason as to why Outlook tags some e-mails and not others. Everyone should check their junk mail folder at least once a week to make sure that it is not ‘holding’ any authentic email messages.

Go to http://www.nvcc.edu/ithd/weeklyspam.html to find step-by-step instructions on how to configure your email settings for junk e-mail. You will also find several other methods to fight spam on your computer.

The IT Help Desk hopes that you find this information helpful. If there are any topics that you would like to see covered in future releases of Intercom’s IT Help Desk News, please feel free to send us your suggestions at: ithelpdeskinfo@nvcc.edu. Please write the word “Intercom” in the subject line of your e-mail.
Constitution Day 2008

During the 2008 spring semester classes may offer opportunities for faculty and students to research and plan a segment of NOVA’s celebration of Constitution Day, scheduled for the 2008 fall semester. For example, in the spring, a biology professor could require students to study stem cell issues, focusing on issues that raise Constitutional questions. Faculty and/or students could present the research findings at a forum during the fall semester.

Faculty who are interested in designing a research assignment for students during the spring semester are asked to share their ideas with their discipline clusters and to e-mail their ideas to Linda Simmons at lsimmons@nvcc.edu. Ideas will be included on a master list of plans for Constitution Day 2008.

Are You Prepared?

In a major disaster, it might be several days before vital services are restored. Earthquakes, fires, severe storms, power outages and acts of terrorism are just some of the potential emergencies we may encounter. Imagine that you have no electricity, no gas, no water and no telephone service. Imagine that all the businesses are closed and you are without any kind of emergency services. Because we are exposed to a wide variety of hazards, both natural and man made, in this area of the country, there are some excellent guides available on what you can do to prepare yourself and your family (including pets) for an emergency. Remember, in many cases you may not have much warning so you need to prepare now to be ready. For questions or concerns, please contact Will Flagler, director of the Office of Emergency Planning.

To assist in developing your own plans the Office of Emergency Planning recommends the following Web sites:

- http://www.72hours.org/index.html
- http://www.redcross.org/services/prepare/0,1082,0_239_,00.html

In addition, a wealth of information is available on all aspects of preparedness on the following local government Web sites at:

- http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem
- http://www.loudoun.gov/oem

Give Blood.

Northern Virginia Community College Student Government Association

BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, October 30
11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Location: CF Building
2nd Floor, Upper Lobby

See attached flyer for details
September 25 Highlights*

♦ Jonathan Gueverra, Alexandria provost, presented a trophy received by NOVA’s soccer team for participation in Division II of the Northern Virginia Soccer League. They now participate in Division I.

♦ President Robert G. Templin, Jr. announced that the NOVA TV Center and the Technology Application Center received Digital Education Awards, presented by the Center for Digital Education.

Enrollment Management & Student Success

• Fall Enrollment
  ⇒ The Daily Enrollment Report for Fall 2007 as of September 25 reflects an increase of 10.4 percent in FTES over Fall 2006 (comparable period).
  ⇒ George Gabriel, interim vice president of institutional advancement, anticipates that the final increase will be around 10 percent; capacity for the second 8-week session appears to be adequate for the projected number of students.

• Enrollment Projections for 2008-15
  ⇒ Gabriel presented proposed FTE targets for 2007-2008 to 2014-2015 and noted that the College is expected to near capacity limits during the 2007-2008 academic year. As a result, 2008-09 and 2009-10 projected targets are moderate. Targets will increase as facilities become available. There is also an anticipated reduction in high school graduates expected to begin in 2011, therefore 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 projections are moderate.
  ⇒ Templin noted the importance of planning for this reduction in students by focusing on new programs and opportunities for adult learners and other student populations.

Report on Student Activities

• John T. Dever, executive vice president, and Beatrice Veney, MEC dean of students, presented a proposal for an enhanced student activities program which includes expanded student activities in the 2007-2008 year and the establishment of a College-wide Student Activities Coordinator. The proposal had additional elements (see notes for details); the provosts will review this proposal with their staffs, and the topic will be revisited at a future Administrative Council meeting.

Strategic Planning

• Templin discussed the process and for reviewing and updating NOVA’s strategic plan which included (1) the validation/reaffirmation of the College’s strategic plan, (2) the reaffirmation of commitment to resources required and (3) the updating of the plan. He noted this would involve recalibrating outcomes based on enrollment projections and other metrics, dropping/adding or revising selected outcomes, refining targeted programs and services and adding emergency planning. The Strategic Plan Work Session with the College Board took place on October 15.

Catalog/Schedule Statement on Student Attendance/Participation

• Dever recommended that current and accurate information be made available to students on the VCCS policy requiring the deletion of registrations of never-attending students and its implications. The Administrative Council approved the change to the Catalog statement on Attendance/Student Participation. It will also be reflected in the Schedule of Classes and other publications.

*For complete Administrative Council meeting notes, go to: http://www.nvcc.edu/depts/admincouncil/
Attention Military & Veterans!

Please join us for a luncheon honoring local servicemen and servicewomen. This event is open to faculty, staff, and students as well as servicemen and servicewomen.

Serving Those Who Have Served: Honoring Our Men & Women in Uniform
Monday, November 12, 2007
Noon
Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center Forum
Northern Virginia Community College
Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike

Hosted by:
The Offices of Student Activities & Veterans’ Affairs

Please RSVP by Thursday, November 1st to Jessie Zahorian at 703-323-3484 or jzahorian@nvcc.edu.
Give Blood.

American Red Cross

Northern Virginia Community College
Student Government Association

BLOOD DRIVE
Date: Tuesday October 30, 2007
Time: 11:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Location: CF Building 2nd Fl. Upper Lobby

Please contact Kat Grove at (703)740-7777
or Alex Maloof at (703) 282-8337
to schedule your Life-Saving donation.