Achieving the Dream Will Drive Changes for NOVA

At the fall convocation, NOVA President Robert G. Templin, Jr. introduced the “Achieving the Dream” initiative as a tool to continue the work on the mission of NOVA’s Strategic Vision 2015: Gateway to the American Dream. Student success is one of the fundamental goals of the Strategic Vision; Achieving the Dream is designed to help community colleges increase the success of their students by identifying and closing achievement gaps.

At its core, Achieving the Dream seeks to help more students reach their individual goals which may include getting a better job, earning a certificate or associate degree or attaining a bachelor’s degree.

Currently, 84 colleges in 15 states participate in the initiative. Each participating school identifies student populations that experience low rates of success, develops interventions to improve student outcomes and measures changes in student success. This process is described as working within a culture of evidence. This initiative will help NOVA use data to understand where our students are experiencing problems and devise appropriate responses and strategies to improve student retention and success.

The Achieving the Dream initiative involves a college core team, a college data team, as well as campus and ELI teams. Using data, teams will have a strong voice in institutional decision-making. The College core team includes Director Jane Serbousek (LO), Pat Lunt (AL), Virginia Cabasa-Hess (AL), Kathy Lloyd (AN), Laura Franklin (ELI), Stacy Rice (LO), Kirk Nooks (LO), Anthony Tardd (LO), Pat Gary (MA), Jacqueline Gibbons (MEC), George Gabriel (OIR), Pam Narney (WO) and Dan Lewis (WO).

The college data team, lead by George Gabriel from the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis, includes Joan Blankman (AL), Alison Bisson (AN), Joan Trabandt (ELI), Jennifer Lerner (LO), Dan Riley (MA), Gail Jackson (MEC) and Julie Peluso (WO).

Higher education is experiencing external demands for evaluation and assessment of student learning outcomes. Achieving the Dream will create a culture of evidence that will assist in meeting these demands. The data derived from NOVA’s participation will be used in the Quality Enhancement Plan for the 2012 SACS Reaffirmation of Accreditation Report. Visit http://www.achievingthedream.org for more information, or contact any campus team member.

Loudoun Campus Presents Shakespeare’s Henry V

The American Shakespeare Center (formerly Shenandoah Shakespeare Express) will perform Henry V by William Shakespeare on Saturday, September 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Waddell Theater on NOVA’s Loudoun Campus.

Tickets are $5 and must be reserved in advanced. Ticket reservations can be made by calling 703-948-7701 or by e-mailing Natalie V. Safley at nsafley@nvcc.edu.

Left: Evan Hoffmann as King Henry V in the 2007/2008 Piercing Eloquence Tour production of Henry V.

Photo by Mike Bailey
Manassas Celebrates New Year with Back to School Bash

The Manassas Campus threw a Back to School Bash on September 13, giving faculty, staff and students a chance to enjoy good food, music and games in a relaxed atmosphere.

Various clubs and organizations set up tables to inform students about activities, including Phi Theta Kappa sponsors Susan Givens, English and Ed Anderson, mathematics (pictured at right). The celebration was sponsored by the Student Activities Office.

Photo by Carlene Mackereth

Annandale Hosts Upcoming Faculty Focus Workshops

The Annandale Campus welcomes instructional faculty and staff to participate in two upcoming Faculty Focus Workshops. The first is called “Using Multimedia Educational Resources for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT).” Award-winning faculty member Laura Franklin will facilitate this workshop for exploring MERLOT learning objects on October 4, from 1:30-3:00 p.m. in the Annandale provost’s conference room. Registration is required and limited, so contact Nan Peck at npeck@nvcc.edu by October 1 if you’d like to attend.

The second workshop opportunity comes on October 23 when Instructional Designer Bob Loser and Nan Peck co-present “What the Best College Teachers Do” from 1:30-3:00 p.m. in the Annandale provost’s conference room. The duo will discuss Ken Bain’s best selling book about what makes a great teacher great. (Hint: It’s not what they do but what they understand!) Visit http://www.montclair.edu/center/whatmakesgreateachergreat.pdf for more information. Contact Peck by October 1 to register and learn how to get a copy of the book. Snacks will be served at both workshops.

Attention: Mastercard Training Session

A training session will be held for GE Mastercard holders on September 26 at 11:30 a.m. in room LW 116 at the Loudoun Campus and October 19 at 10:30 a.m. in the counseling conference room on the Manassas Campus. Annual training is required for all cardholders. A concurrent session will be offered for the supervisors of cardholders.

Presenters at both sessions will review the policies and procedures for the card program, including changes and updates. The Governor’s executive order to increase purchases from Small, Women-owned and Minority-owned (SWaM) businesses will also be covered.

For program questions, contact Yvonne Tharp at 703-323-3305 or by e-mail at ytharp@nvcc.edu.

Bamford to Lecture at Ernst Center

Dr. Charles Bamford, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship at Queens University in Charlotte, North Carolina, will present “A Framework for Small Business Success” on October 2 at 11:00 a.m. in the Ernst Center theater.

Bamford is an accomplished author, professor, entrepreneur and a graduate of NOVA’s business administration program at the Annandale Campus. He will discuss topics related to laying the groundwork for starting a business including generating business ideas, developing a practical and usable business plan, defining the target market and developing a business mission and strategy.

This event, part of the Braun Executive Lecture Series and sponsored by the Annandale Campus business and public services division, is free and open to the public. See the flyer attached to this edition of Intercom for more information, or contact Kay Olson at kolson@nvcc.edu.

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NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIVISION OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SERVICES
ANNANDALE CAMPUS

Presents the Braun Executive Lecture Series

“A FRAMEWORK FOR SMALL BUSINESS SUCCESS”

Guest Speaker:
Charles E. Bamford, Ph.D.
Director of The Center for Entrepreneurship
McColl Graduate School of Business
Queens University
Charlotte, North Carolina

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Tuesday, October 2, 2007
Richard J. Ernst
Community Cultural Center Theater
Aloha Marsha!

After years of hard work and dedication it's time to take a permanent vacation!

Please join us for an Open House as we honor

Marsha Fisher

on the occasion of her Retirement

Tuesday, September 25, 2007 at 1:30 pm
Manassas Campus Learning Lab
Howsmon Hall Room 112

Dessert and Coffee will be served.