

2017 | 2018

# ANNUAL REPORT

Northern Virginia Community College Foundation





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Northern Virginia Community College Educational Foundation, Inc., (NOVA Foundation) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation founded to generate support for Northern Virginia Community College by raising funds, increasing visibility and strengthening partnerships between the College and state and local communities.

# BOARD MEMBERS

**JOHN J. RENNER, II**  
Board Chair  
Renner & Company CPA

**ANTHONY BURCHARD**  
Vice Chair

**SCOTT RALLS**  
Secretary  
NOVA President

**BILL CLEVELAND**

**ELLEN DYKE**  
Next Gen Minipreneurs, LLC

**DONNA FOSSUM**

**ROBERT LIGHTBURN**

**JENNIFER MCGAREY**  
Northrop Grumman

**STEWART ROBERSON**  
Moseley Architects

**TIM SARGEANT**  
Dominion

**ZUZANA STEEN**  
Micron

**DON STREHLE**  
Sterling Capital Management

**ELIZABETH WEATHERLY**  
NOVA VP Advancement

# WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

**MARIS ANGOLIA**  
Karin's Florist

**KRISTINA BOUWERI**  
Reston Limousine

**ERIN HOGAN**  
United Trust

**MARK KEAM**  
Virginia State Delegate

**ANDREW KO**  
Amazon Web Services

**SCOTT MILLER**  
Virts Miller Foundation

**JAMES QUIGLEY**  
GoCanva

**MORDECAI SCOTT**  
Savills Studley

**MATT SHANK**  
World Affairs Council

**BOB WEIL**  
Law offices of Robert J. Weil, PLLC

Pictured left to right: Bob Weil, Tim Sargeant, Don Strehle, Elizabeth Weatherly (NOVA Vice President of Institutional Advancement), Maris Angolia, Mordecai Scott, Donna Fossom, Stewart Robeson, Bob Lightburn (Board treasurer), James Quigley, Zuzana Steen, Bill Cleveland, John Renner (Board chairman), Scott Miller, Tony Burchard (Board vice-chairman), Dr. Scott Ralls (NOVA president & Board secretary), Matthew Shank and Andrew Ko. Not pictured: Kristina Bouweiri and Erin Hogan.



# PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Nighthawk Family,

I am inspired by the strength of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) every day, whether it is by our students, faculty, or staff. Students come here not only for the proximity to home, but also the outstanding education at an affordable cost. Part of being in the NOVA family means that we support each other. Every individual has a story to share and, at NOVA, there is always someone willing to listen and provide encouragement. Faculty and staff work together to create a seamless transition to a four-year school or the workforce.

This past year, I have had the privilege of watching NOVA grow in a myriad of ways. We have partnered with our partner four-year colleges to build our Guaranteed Transfer Program and ADVANCE joint admissions program with George Mason University. We have welcomed new faculty and staff, as well as a new Provost, Dr. Nicole Reaves, to the Medical Campus and a new Provost of Information and Engineering Technologies, Dr. Chad Knights. We have opened a new Reston Center, and built a Fabrication Lab, with the support of Micron Technology on our Manassas Campus. We initiated the first community college cloud computing degree in partnership with Amazon Web Services, a new Associate in Fine Arts degree, and new programs in Data Center Operations and Mechatronics. We have redesigned our academic structure to enable stronger college-wide programmatic decision making, created a Financial Stability Program, and are implementing new advising tools and structures to strengthen our student support. We are continuing to build on our legacy as Virginia's "Academy of Opportunity," one of the nation's best community colleges, and a Pathway to the American Dream for our students.

**We Believe. We Aspire. We Achieve.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SRalls".

**Scott Ralls**

*President of Northern Virginia Community College*

# FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR LETTER



Dear Friends of NOVA,

The Foundation has had a year full of exciting change, growing momentum and new opportunities. Earlier this year, our very own faculty member, Dr. Richard Semmler, completed his 30-year pledge – cumulatively giving 1 million-dollars to NOVA in support of our students and pathway program. Through the generosity of the Estate of Mary Ann Knauss, NOVA was the beneficiary of a 1-million-dollar bequest to support adult student scholarships. These gifts, along with the many private gifts you have contributed have led to NOVA student success. With 6,347 graduates in the 2018 class, philanthropy has played an integral part in ensuring students have the resources needed to be academically successful. The Foundation Board is gearing up to further grow these resources to meet the increasing need of NOVA students.

Over \$600,000 has been allocated again this year in scholarships to help NOVA students. Annually, we have given \$100,000 in grants to faculty and staff to encourage and reward those who have made a difference. Together we have raised \$2.5 million dollars in the fiscal 2017–2018 year. Yet, our work is just beginning. The need is there. We are committed to supporting the NOVA mission to deliver world-class, in-person and online postsecondary teaching, learning, and workforce development to ensure our region and the Commonwealth of Virginia have an educated population and a globally competitive workforce. We will be working to raise philanthropic dollars to support:

- Over \$1million in emergency and retention grants needs
- Growing information technology, health care and cybersecurity programs through endowed professorships
- Need and merit based scholarships
- Workforce Development programs

On behalf of the NOVA Foundation Board, I thank you for your continued support and look forward to our work ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Renner II".

**John J. Renner II**

*NOVA Foundation Board Chair*

# SCHOLARSHIP STORIES

## Paula Hickey Endowed Nursing Scholarship

Carol Claire Crisostomo has had to deal with more loss than most would believe is just. She lost her brother in a carbon monoxide accident. The same accident would take her father, as the injuries sustained were too much. Some people might take such loss as a sign that the world was against them but Carol Crisostomo faced the pain and vowed to "get back to [her] dream" of education. She is a recipient of the Paula Hickey Nursing Scholarship and plans to finish her AND at NOVA before pursuing her bachelors and masters degrees. Carol says she wants to show her children that dreams are not impossible.

## Margaret Lucille Bonner, RN Memorial Scholarship

A support system is vital to any student's success. Reenaba Chudasama is supported by her husband, whom she describes as the "hero of this story." Reenaba's husband and her family supported her decision to quit her job and pursue her degree in nursing, even after her husband became injured and unable to work himself. As a recipient of the Margaret Lucille Bonner, RN Memorial Scholarship, Reenaba has NOVA and the NOVA Foundation behind her as well.

# AT THIS YEAR'S GRADUATION...

Here at NOVA, we support our students and understand how important graduation is. It is a time for families to celebrate success.



The Simpkins had two reasons to celebrate as both mother and son, Monica and Maximilian, walked the stage as part of NOVA's Class of 2018.



This year's commencement also included a recently married couple, Elizabeth and James Williams.



## Congratulations to both dynamic duos as well as to the entire NOVA graduating class of 2018!

# THANK YOU FOR OUR EMERGENCY AID DONORS

On June 6, the NOVA Foundation hosted a Thank You Brunch for emergency aid donors on the Loudoun Campus. The newer board members had a chance to get more acquainted with the older members. Dr. Ralls introduced John Renner, who welcomed everyone with a short speech. Slides of information about the grant played in the background. As members were finishing, John Renner introduced Jack Zeeger, the NOVA-Loudoun Financial Aid Manager.

Jack relayed stories of how emergency aid helped students, including a woman and her mother who avoided moving to a homeless shelter and a man faced who faced difficulty after losing many people close to him in a matter of weeks. He underscored the importance of emergency aid, noting there are more students in need that many might realize.

Elizabeth Weatherly, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, thanked the donors and asked them to share why they give. Alex Shade is Executive Director of the Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation, which has given generously to the NOVA Foundation and specifically to the Loudoun Lifeline fund. She responded by underscoring the importance of helping students succeed, noting it was particularly important to help kids "on the precipice. Gil and Liz Blankespoor, a couple who work through the Reston Scholarship Fund to support students in extreme need, also underscored the importance of supporting students in need and spoke fondly of a specific student they watched grow through the years.



*Pictured left to right: John Ruffino, Executive Director NOVA Foundation; Glen Dubois, Chancellor VCCS; Jennifer McGarey, Northrop Grumman; John Renner, NOVA Foundation Board Chair; Tony Burchard, NOVA Foundation Board Vice Chair*



## PHILANTHROPY LUNCH

Each April, Virginia's Community Colleges honor leading philanthropists from each of the 23 community colleges and the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE) at a special luncheon in Richmond. This year, the 13th annual Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy recognized outstanding contributions made to the growth and development of Virginia's Community Colleges and their respective foundations. This year's class of distinguished philanthropy leaders has contributed a combined total of \$6 million dollars to Virginia's Community Colleges.

The NOVA Foundation was proud to nominate the Northrop Grumman Corporation for the Leadership in Philanthropy award for 2018. Northrop Grumman is a leading global security company that believes in investing in the community for the long term, and it has been a generous partner with NOVA and the NOVA Foundation to fund the educator training required to teach cybersecurity and networking to high school students dually enrolled with NOVA. This commitment will provide a sustainable flow of credentialed students to help meet the growing needs of regional technology employers. Northrop Grumman and its employees have also stepped forward to support NOVA's Pathway to the Baccalaureate program, the national award-winning initiative that supports and guides students with no family history of college to attain four-year degrees.

# AMAZON AND NOVA: A CLOUD COLLABORATION

Starting Fall 2018, the Cloud Computing specialization will be offered as part of collaboration between NOVA and Amazon Web Services.

"We're thrilled to collaborate with NOVA on this degree program, as they break new ground to open up opportunities to careers in cloud computing for students in the state of Virginia and around the globe," said Teresa Carlson, Vice President of Worldwide Public Sector at Amazon Web Services, Inc. Students entering this program will also receive free membership to Amazon's Educate Program, where they will receive hands-on experience with cloud technology and tools.

Governor Ralph Northam believes that "community colleges like NOVA are important engines for workforce development, and this collaboration with Amazon Web Services marks an exciting first step in a broader plan to bring cloud computing education to students across the Commonwealth of Virginia." Cloud Computing courses will initially be offered at NOVA's Alexandria, Loudoun, and Woodbridge Campuses, with general education, personal development, and foundation IT courses available at all of NOVA's five comprehensive campuses and online.



## MICRON AND THE FAB LAB

Micron Technology is a global leader in the semiconductor industry. The company is actively involved with the NOVA Foundation in supporting NOVA student. In addition to providing continuing support for NOVA's STEM program, this year Micron gifted \$100,000 to NOVA's Fab Lab on the Manassas Campus.

The Fab Lab, or Fabrication Laboratory, contains state-of-the-art engineering technology including a 3D scanner, multiple 3D printers, a laser engraver, modular automation systems, electronics power control systems, a CNC router and CNC-based subtractive prototyping unit, a circuit prototyping system and SolidWorks software to support computer-aided design projects.

**The Foundation is tremendously grateful to Micron Technology and all of our industry partners for sharing our vision and supporting NOVA.**

# A MILLION DOLLAR GOAL

NOVA president Scott Ralls describes Dr. Richard Semmler, professor of Mathematics at the Annandale Campus, as someone who “exemplifies both selfless service and stellar financial dedication over decades of commitment.” This is certainly evidenced by Dr. Semmler’s recently completing his goal of donating \$1,000,000 total to the NOVA Foundation. His generosity will continue to support various College projects.

Dr. Semmler’s selfless nature and dedication to service began while at the State University of New York at Plattsburg when he was planning to drop out because of money. A faculty member stopped him and found him the financial support he needed to continue. After receiving his undergraduate degree from Plattsburg in 1968, Dr. Semmler decided he wanted to pay it forward by making his first donation of \$25 to his alma mater, beginning a lifetime of giving.

Since Dr. Semmler’s college scholarships made such a difference for him -- he decided that he wanted to make the same kind of difference in the lives of others. And so, it became his mission.

Dr. Semmler believes everyone should “try to support one local charity to help their local community and one international charity to help the world.” He exemplifies this, serving food at Central Union Mission and working with Habitat for Humanity to help build houses.



Forgoing technology in his home, Dr. Semmler has always lived a modest life, dedicating much of his time and finances towards giving. Careful planning – as well as many part time jobs - was needed to get through the last few thousand before reaching the \$1 million mark. Dr. Semmler has given everything he earns to those in need and says he is a “poor person” with “no money.” He says this with a smile and states how he wouldn’t have it any other way.

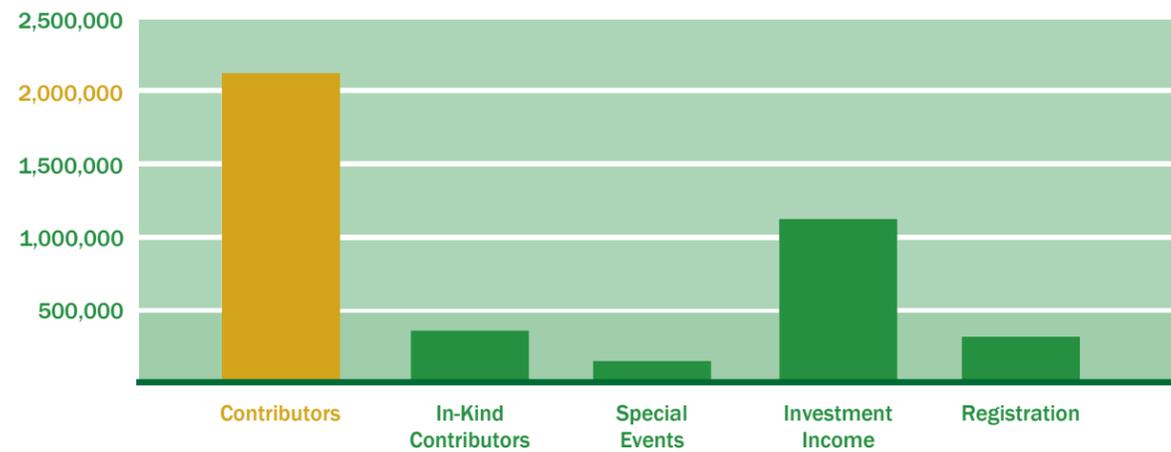


# A MILLION DOLLAR GIFT

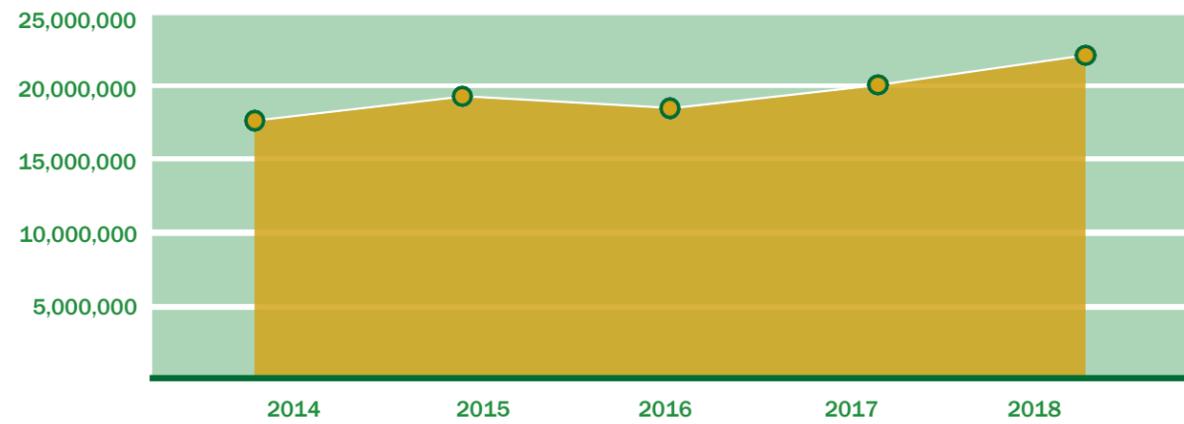
Northern Virginia Community College gives thanks to the late Mary Ann Knauss, who left a gift of \$1 million to the College in memory of her husband, the late Russell Norman Knauss. Russell Knauss worked hard in Air Force and Mary Ann worked hard in the State Department, travelling extensively for her job. After Russell passed away in 1975 and his son Thomas died in 2003, Mary Ann’s neighbors became her family, describing her as “special and important lady.” The memory of Russell and Mary Ann Knauss lives on through NOVA, and the Foundation is grateful for Mary Ann’s generous decision to support NOVA students.

# AND A MILLION THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT THIS YEAR!

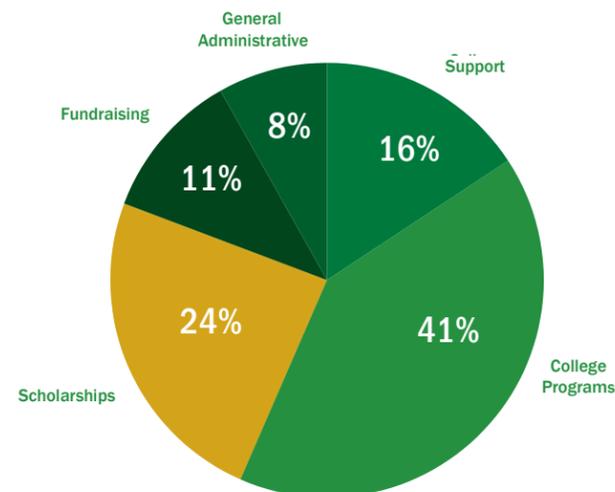
## ASSETS



## NET ASSETS



## EXPENSES



*NOVA prepares students for a head start on their future. Whether students are transferring on to a four-year degree or receiving necessary training or credentials for the workforce, we create opportunities for students as they take the next step.*

# FOUNDATION STAFF

ELIZABETH WEATHERLY  
**Vice President**  
*Institutional Advancement*

JOHN J. RUFFINO  
**Executive Director**

MARY F. BRAMLEY  
**Assistant Director**

NILO SANTO DOMINGO  
**Accountant**

GERI DOLAN  
**College Events Coordinator**

LYNNE MORTON-O'NEILL  
**Office Assistant**

**NOVA**  
**FOUNDATION**

## Contact Us

NOVA Foundation  
703.323.3023  
[foundation@nvcc.edu](mailto:foundation@nvcc.edu)

