



Foundation Facets

NOVA Foundation News

NOVA Welcomes You to a New Fall Semester!

NOVA kicked off a new Fall Semester on August 16 at its Fall 2021 Convocation for faculty and staff. Held at the Alexandria Campus and livestreamed by Zoom, it was hosted by NOVA President, Dr. Anne M. Kress, who highlighted the College's mission and commitment to promote student success and commitment to inclusive excellence and equity.

Dr. Kress shared exciting updates about the College, including the recent appropriation by the General Assembly of \$25 million for a Medical Education Campus expansion and \$15 million for a Trades Center at the Manassas Campus. Recognizing that it has been a difficult year, Dr. Kress reiterated the College's commitment to the success of its students by sharing its strategic goals.

Dr. Nathan Carter, NOVA's Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Officer, also revealed highlights of NOVA's first DEI strategic plan that focuses on inclusive excellence, access and success, education and training, accountability and community engagement. You can read more about the strategic plan on the new [DEI webpage](#).

Dr. Tia Brown-McNair of the Association of American Colleges and Universities presented the keynote address and, shared how to move from "equity talk to equity walk" by being best practitioners and using evidence-based data to close equity gaps. She discussed how

Bolder & Better

and why current practices are failing students; and how to identify obstacles that block the way toward racial equity versus an equity-minded response.

Annandale Campus LASS Dean Jen Daniels presented the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) that is part of NOVA's reaffirmation of accreditation process. The QEP will demonstrate the College's commitment to improving students' writing skills, which is a needed resource for NOVA students according to surveys and data research.

Convocation concluded with a motivational reminder of the goals of NOVA's current Strategic Plan: Every Student Achieves; Every Program Achieves; and Every Community Prospers.





“I loved my time at NOVA. It set the stage for everything that came after that.”

These are the words and sentiment of Daisy Saulls, NOVA alumna, who credits NOVA for helping her build a strong educational foundation that she has maintained to this day.

When Daisy started at NOVA in early 2000, she had a full-time job and needed flexibility with her courses. NOVA was the perfect fit to start her journey into higher education.

She took classes at the Manassas and Annandale campuses focusing on psychology courses.

“NOVA meets every need a person can have in terms of pursuing higher education. There are several campus locations and a variety of classes to explore different career paths,” noted Daisy.

After graduating with her Associate of Science degree, Daisy attended the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va., and earned her Bachelor of Science in Psychology.

“NOVA prepared me for William & Mary (W&M). I don’t think I would have done as well at W&M had it not been for NOVA building the framework,” said Daisy.

Daisy has had an extensive career path to date. She has been mostly in the non-profit field and is a nationally recognized (Oprah’s Master Class to name one) photographer. But her current position as executive assistant to two vice presidents at [Equinix](#), a global data center operations company, has her circling back to her NOVA roots again.

With data center staffing worldwide predicted to grow from 2 million to 2.3 million by 2025 within four years and the even bigger challenge of the industry having problems finding employees with the right skill sets to fill open positions, according to *Data Center Dynamics*, Equinix realized a partnership with NOVA would be a win-win for everyone involved.

“It just made sense to partner with NOVA and work on establishing an Equinix career track through NOVA’s existing data center program in Engineering Technology,” she said.

With a gift of \$25,000 to the NOVA Foundation, **Equinix** established a scholarship to provide full funding for the Career Study Certificate Program, and up to five \$5,000 scholarships to students who are program placed in the Engineering Technology and Data Center Operations (DCO) degree and certificate programs with an opportunity for students to sign up for a mentorship and paid internship at Equinix, as well as, a potential job opportunity.

"There's a connecting theme between NOVA and Equinix," Daisy said. "They both foster innovative thinking and exploring your interests. It has been wonderful partnering with the NOVA Foundation and NOVA's Engineering Technology Program. It's exciting to see how rapidly the DCO program is growing and partnering with the NOVA team on the Equinix Digital Infrastructure Scholarship."

She continued, "The program launch has been due to a strong cross-functional team collaboration between our IBX Operations leaders, Chris Kimm (SVP Americas IBX Operations) and Detlev Geuss (Regional VP of IBX Operations), our Talent Acquisition Team's Director Kelly Kayser, our Community Impact Team's Director Sujata Narayan, and NVCC's own Jack Bidlack and many other talented professionals that are passionate about creating opportunities for those interested in pursuing one of Equinix's many career paths."

Daisy offers the following advice to incoming NOVA students:

"Take advantage of all the resources NOVA has (to offer). Explore the different options available. Get to know your professors, they love sharing their knowledge, and stay in touch with them."

And to graduating NOVA students, Daisy suggests, "Go to your graduation! One of my professors encouraged me to attend my graduation and I'm so glad I did. It's worth staying to the very end."

Daisy continues to seek out NOVA classes that spark her interest or add value to her position at Equinix. She is the epitome of a true NOVA Nighthawk!

June Foundation Board Meeting



The June NOVA Foundation Board hybrid format meeting



Kelly Persons & Buddy Rizer present artwork to Ellen Dyke



Buddy Rizer chairs his first NOVA Foundation Board meeting



Chair, Buddy Rizer and Board Member, Mary Power

October Farewell Reception for Departing Board Members



Ellen Dyke and Tony Burchard at the farewell reception



Dr. Anne M. Kress, NOVA President, addresses reception attendees



The reception was hosted at Refraction, Esther Lee's company



Zuzana Steen, Dr. Eun-Woo Chang and The Honorable Mark Keam

NOVA Foundation Board Meeting Update

The NOVA Foundation Board of Directors gathered for its final meeting of the 2021 fiscal year on June 9. Buddy Rizer, newly elected Chair of the Board, took the helm for the first time and led the board in discussions on the latest developments with the Foundation.

During this hybrid (in-person and virtual) meeting, new Board members, Rosaelena (Rosie) O'Neil, Georgetown University and Zuzana Steen, Micron Technologies, were introduced. Read more about them [here](#).

The Board also recognized the dedication and hard work of two out-going Foundation Board members, Ellen Dyke and Tony Burchard.

Ellen served as Foundation Board Chair from 2019 to June 2021 and played a pivotal role in the success of the 2019 Empower Bright Futures event, which raised funds for student scholarships. The Board presented her with a special, framed print of a sculpture featured at the Cherry Blossom Festival this year by NOVA student, Woojung Lee.

Tony's leadership as Chair of the Development Committee was also instrumental in the evolution of the 2020 Empower Bright Futures event to a hybrid celebration. The 2020 event was a resounding success with a small group joining in-person and more than 200 guests joining virtually to celebrate NOVA students and raise funds for student scholarships. The Foundation Board also held a farewell reception earlier this month to recognize Ellen and Tony for their dedication and service to the NOVA Foundation and the amazing students we serve.

The Board also formally adopted new vision, mission and values statements at the June meeting. They are as follows:

VISION:

The NOVA Educational Foundation provides resources so that a quality education and skills training will be available to all, transforming the lives of our students, their families and our community.

MISSION:

The NOVA Educational Foundation supports the strategic priorities of the College by securing private funding through engaging individuals, foundations, corporations, businesses and organizations.

VALUES:

- *EQUITY* – We promote diversity across all dimensions and marshal our resources so all our actions are fair and impartial.
 - *EXCELLENCE* – We are committed to being innovative, entrepreneurial, ethical, effective and efficient, and continually improve in all we do.
 - *EMPATHY* – We strive to know and understand the feelings and diverse perspectives of all our stakeholders.
 - *EVIDENCE* – We view data as a strategic asset and are committed to making data-informed decisions.
 - *ECONOMIC & SOCIAL MOBILITY* – We believe access to quality education is the primary driver of a better quality of life for current and future generations.
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Thank You Donors!



The financial obstacles for NOVA students are real and sometimes seem insurmountable especially in today's unstable economic climate. **Thanks to the generosity of donors like you**, we can assure NOVA students complete their educational journey and achieve their professional goals.

[Listen](#) to NOVA second-year physical therapist assistant student, Melkam Debelu, speak about how important his new fellowship is in helping him achieve his dreams. Melkam was one of eight NOVA students awarded a \$6,000 fellowship from the [Potomac Health Foundation Fellowship](#) offered by the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE) for students pursuing a career in healthcare. Congratulations Melkam! We are grateful to the VFCCE for its steadfast support of the commonwealth's community college students!

Many NOVA students who complete certificates, degrees or transfer to four-year institutions remain in Northern Virginia, strengthening our growing community and contributing to our economy. Support enabling every NOVA student to continue his or her education is a direct investment in our community. [Learn how you can support NOVA students!](#)

Celebrating NOVA's Mascot: Ace!

On September 30, 2016 the Northern Virginia Community College community received exciting news. The College's mascot, our NOVA Nighthawk, was officially named 'Ace'. More than 4,400 people from across the region cast their vote and when the responses were tallied, Ace came out on top. NOVA's Nighthawk mascot was created to generate college spirit, engage the community, and encompass NOVA's diverse student body and academic programs.



We celebrated Ace's 5th birthday with a *Give Ace a High Five* campaign to support NOVA students.

NOVA President, Dr. Anne M. Kress has pledged to match the first 100 five dollar donations made this week! Double your gift. Double your impact! [It's not too late to make a gift today.](#)

Please join us in honoring Ace with a high five by making a donation to the [NOVA Foundation](#).

Make a Gift, Make a Difference



Increase your Impact: Matching Gift Programs

Over 60% of employers offer matching gift programs. These programs offer a dollar-for-dollar match (sometimes more!) of your donation, thereby doubling the impact of your investment in NOVA students.

Remove financial barriers for twice as many students with your donation and help twice as many students realize their educational and professional goals!

Contact your company's human resources representative to learn how to make your donation go farther.

Check out our [list](#) of companies that offer matching programs. Please contact us at Foundation@nvcc.edu or 703.323.3023 if you have any questions.

Smile, Every Little Bit Counts!

Are you an Amazon shopper? Did you know that when you shop using AmazonSmile, you have the opportunity to donate a percentage of your purchase to the NOVA Foundation?



AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support NOVA students every time you shop – and it comes at zero cost to you! It's a donation made by Amazon in your honor. **You just have to select NOVA Educational Foundation at smile.Amazon.com and use smile.Amazon.com instead of Amazon.com whenever you shop.** You will receive the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase to the Foundation.

Please contact us if you have any questions at Foundation@nvcc.edu or 703.323.3023.



OCTOBER 2021

[Donate today to help a NOVA student reach their educational and professional dreams!](#)

Northern Virginia Community College Educational Foundation (EIN: 51-0249730)

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NOVA Foundation

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