The NOVA Team is busy working together in developing potential leaders for the NOVA Program. Leadership opportunities are available and encouraged for learners who exhibit qualities of becoming a successful leader.

These activities include the NOVA RSO, Peer Leader position, study abroad, and of course our own NOVA taught GSD 225S Service Learning course taught by Stephen Haggerty. This spring we have 45 second semester freshmen learners participating in the course who have been partnered with 8 community partners.

We are very proud of all who have and are currently participating in the NOVA Service Learning course. The Leadership opportunities have built experiences that have proved useful for resumes, graduate school admissions applications, and ultimately providing job opportunities.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the 7th Annual Poster Showcase held in May where you can come and see what a true NOVA leader looks like.
During winter break, eight NOVA participants went to New Orleans to immerse themselves in the service and experience of the Big Easy! From January 2nd to the 8th, these high-achieving Stars were working with George Gallien (the Director of Multicultural Student Affairs) and Brian Perry (the Assistant Director of service Initiatives/Student Life) as they learned about the issues facing New Orleans. This was an incredible opportunity, and we are so thankful to George and Brian for giving 8 NOVA Stars the chance to shine in NOLA!
Introducing Spring Peer Leaders...

Peer Leader Chrissy England is leading a team known as The "N" Factor. Her team members are Surav Shrestha, Aleana Yocum, Trevor Jenkins, Breanna Ramsey, Megan Shearer, and Kurtis Bolton. They are working with the Madison County Public Library.

Peer Leader Heather Jones is leading the A-Team, Ryan Isaacs, Cheyenne Lewis, Michael Morris, Justin Watkins, Meredith Veech, and Wayne White in a Project with Debbie Clark at Berea Head Start, a federally funded children’s program.

The Ladies of Liberty are working with Liberty Place Recovery Center for Women. Peer Leader Laney Miller is leading team members: Brittany Marcum, Brittany Means, Katie Cope, Kimberly Greer, Lexi Short, and Samantha Parrish.

Peer Leader Maddie Schuler is leading a team known as the NOVA Nuggets. The team consists of Andrew Mershon, Melissa Coleman, Carrie Middleton, Tara Monchilovich, and Stori Mason. They are working with Richmond Child Care Center.

Peer Leader Samantha Estes is working with Madison County Humane Society. They plan to help with them promote animal kindness around campus but handing out fliers and making posters, in other words, using positive public relation skills. The team members are Jarred May, Logan Brown, Josh Moberly, Sam Long, and Jarrod Turner.

Chasiti Brooks is the Peer Leader for McCready Manor project. Her team members are Andrew Nichols, Whitney Peters, Dylan Huntzinger, Jordan Sebald, Cory Harris, and Jessica Logsdon.

Megan Perrin is the Peer Leader for the Sixlets, They are working with the Kit Carson Family Resource Center. Her team members are Lynn’e Purnell, George Rothwell, Anthony Proctor, Rachel York, and Starlina Brown.

Jessica Miller is the Peer leader who will be working with the Richmond Senior Center. She is leading a team consisting of Tyler Willis, Jazmin Jenkins, Tee Allan, Ashley Wheeler, and Jeremy Ray.
Student Update: Bernice McCoy

Bernice is a Psychology major from Trimble County, Kentucky. She graduates this August and plans to go to graduate school. She also plans to study abroad this summer in Paris. Bernice works at the Crabbe Library as a student worker and was nominated and won the Dick Allen Scholarship. When asked what NOVA has done for her, she replied “NOVA has helped me so much and has changed my life more than I can even say. Participating in NOVA pushed me to be more social and to strive for academic success. I would definitely recommend the NOVA program because it does an amazing job at helping incoming freshman transition to college life and is always there to provide support”.

Has NOVA helped your transition to college? For many of our participants the answer is yes. I am sure many of you know several high school seniors who will need the same guidance and assistance you have received. So why not refer your friends to the NOVA program?

NOVA identifies participants from many places such as Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search. Remember applicants must be Pell Grant eligible, first generation, and attending the EKU Richmond campus full-time. Please go to www.NOVA.eku.edu to apply. Remember we love referrals! NOVA has been your free college resource, now it’s time to be theirs.

NOVA ID From Sharon Lee...

NOVA’s RSO recently had a spaghetti dinner. The turnout was great! As for upcoming events:

- Feb. 23rd - Workout event
- Feb. 7-28 - Penny Wars
- March 19th - Bake Sale off campus
- March 24th - March Madness event
- April 9th - Car wash at Wal-Mart
- April 20th - Easter Egg hunt

In order to participate in these events you must be a member of the Stars. Dues are $10.00 and can be paid to Chrissy England. If you cannot afford the $10.00 please contact Chrissy and she will work it out.
Important Dates...

- **February 18th**: Last day to withdraw from a full-semester class with the instructor’s permission and the $150.00 fee.
- **March 5th at 10am**: Residence Halls close for Spring Break and reopen again on March 13th at noon.
- **February 15th**: FAFSA deadline is quickly approaching. It is due February 15th.
- **February 11th**: NOVA’s KAEOPP Scholarship internal deadline is February 11th.
- **April 1st**: 2011 is the deadline for the general EKU Scholarship.
- **May 1st**: The deadline for the EKU Retention Scholarship is May 1st!!
- **NOVA’s KAEOPP Scholarship internal deadline is February 11th!**

Poster Showcase 7.0

On Wednesday May 4th, from 3:30-5:00 in Walnut Hall of Keen Johnson, come celebrate an academic year’s worth of growth and a semester’s efforts in serving the community and learning how to become a leader. This year our participants, along with guidance and support from our spring Peer Leaders, have created and implemented eight research service-learning projects, and they will be showcasing these projects at our Annual poster showcase. Parents, relatives, friends, Community Partners and the beneficiaries all will enjoy the hard work of our program’s best and brightest.

NOVA Coupons

- **1 Free Advising Session**
- **1 Free Cookie for Valentines Day on 2/14/2011. While supplies last.**
- **50% off an academic registration meeting**
- **1 Free Relaxation Session in the NOVA Student Lounge**
- **1 Free Printing Session**
- **1 Free Cookie for Valentines Day on 2/14/2011. While supplies last.**
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- **1 Free Relaxation Session in the NOVA Student Lounge**
It’s hard to believe that graduation has come and gone! Those 4 ½ years as a student at Eastern passed like a puff of smoke, but I’ll always be grateful for the support shown to me as a student by the NOVA staff.

Frankly, I don’t know if I would have had the nerve to follow through with the crazy dream I had and couldn’t shake…to attend college in midlife, had it not been for the comforting voice of Jane Tinsley on the phone. I had received a letter in the mail the summer I had been accepted to EKU informing me that I was invited to be a part of the NOVA program. Although I had been accepted, I was still waffling back and forth; should I or should I not? Could I? Or perhaps, I couldn’t. Besides, our oldest daughter would be beginning classes at Eastern at the same time and I worried about embarrassing her. I worried about a lot of other things too; it had been twenty-five years since I’d had a math class—how could I hope to pass another after so long an absence?

As I was saying, I received a letter inviting me to be a part of the NOVA program. I called the number on the NOVA letter to enquire about it and the friendly voice of Jane Tinsley greeted me. She didn’t seem to think it at all odd that a woman of my age was considering going back to school. After our conversation, I felt heartened, like maybe I could actually do this if there were people like Jane to help me.

On Orientation Day during the summer of 2006, I met other members of the NOVA staff as NOVA program participants were pulled from the larger group and taken to register as NOVA students. I was so grateful for that help. I’d probably have run away screaming if I’d had to register for classes online by myself. My technology skills were about as outdated as my math skills.

From those earliest days, I learned I could count on the NOVA staff. The idea for a support service for first-generation college students is a great one, but the staff is what makes the program. The dedicated, caring, encouraging staff; people who I eventually came to consider my friends.

So, here I am now, a graduate of EKU. Saturday, December 18 was a thrilling day for me, to say the least. I watched our oldest daughter receive her diploma, with honors, during the 9:30 ceremony. At 2:00, it was my turn. My parents and my husband and kids were there to watch me graduate with a 4.0 GPA.

I’ve since applied for a couple of jobs that I’ve been waiting to hear from, and I’ve been doing some free-lance writing. I’ve also been working on a memoir of sorts these long cold winter months. Maybe no one will ever read it except my family, but I certainly intend to include a chapter about my days at EKU and the wonderful friends I made with the people of the NOVA program.

* We are so proud of you, Lisa!!!
**NOVA Mission Statement**
The NOVA Program is a federally funded TRiO Student Support Services project whose mission is to increase the retention and graduation rates of first generation EKU Students.

**NOVA Vision Statement**
NOVA is to be a model program of distinction by providing academic, personal, and professional development support services.

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**EKU NOVA program** is a Student Support Services TRIO project, funded at $348,345 in federal funds from the U.S. Department of Education for the 2010/2011 fiscal year to serve 206 eligible EKU students. This disclosure is made in compliance with Public Law 108-447 Sec. 506.

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_We're on the web!!_  
[WWW.NOVA.EKU.EDU]