Hello from NOVA! We are busy this spring and summer with revamping program services and inviting and welcoming the new incoming fall 2012 freshmen. Our second semester freshmen who are enrolled in GSD 225S are learning all about what makes a great leader and are in process of developing their plans for their service learning projects. I can’t wait to see their great works unveiled in May at the NOVA Annual Leadership and Service Celebration. Let’s not forget our LLC in McGregor Hall which has been a great success and the STARS student organization is growing and offering great opportunities for social activity and personal growth events.

Attention NOVA juniors and seniors: don’t forget about NOVA! We offer graduate school test prep and for seniors we can assist with resume writing and assist with identifying persons to use as employee references. Be sure to check in with Career Services in SSB as well!

Finally, A big thanks to NOVA’s best, our Peer Leaders and student clerical staff!
- Jane, Director of NOVA

NOVA is a federally funded TRiO Student Support Service designed to provide services for first generation college students so they may graduate with a baccalaureate degree. The NOVA program is Eastern Kentucky University’s TRiO SSS project, and we’ve been helping our NOVAs become bright and shining Stars since 1975!

We just wanted to remind you. 😊
Servants, Leaders, & NOVA

Our GSD 225 $ Leadership/Service-Learning course is well under way! First and second year NOVAs are learning about the theory and practice of leadership as they research, develop, and implement service-learning projects for our wonderful Community Partners. I am honored to have 6 incredible Peer Leaders to assist me in these classes (Heather Jones, Carrie Middleton, George Rothwell, Surav Shrestha, Cheyenne Lewis, and Chasiti Brooks)! We use Strengths Quest, John Maxwell’s 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader, Robert Greenleaf’s model of Servant Leadership, and a host of practical strategies and tools to learn how to become a leader, a servant, and a bright NOVA Star. We also have superstar leaders come and share their vision of leadership and how we too can become the person others want to follow! I cannot wait to see all of you Tuesday May 1st for our 8th Annual Leadership, Service, and Recognition Celebration in beautiful Walnut Hall (you know there’s more to come about this!). GO NOVA. Stephen

Guest Speakers in GSD 225 $

Dr. Douglas Whitlock, EKU’s President
Dr. James Conneely, Associate Provost and Vice-President for Student Affairs
Dr. Mike Reagle, Associate Vice-President for Student Affairs
Dr. Jayne Violette, Associate Professor Department of Communication
Dr. Kishona Gray, Criminal Justice, NOVA Alum

Our 2012 Community Partners.

Berea Head Start
Habitat for Humanity
Liberty Place Recovery Center for Women
Richmond Child Care Center
McCready Manor
Mujeres Unidas
Madison County Public Library
Youth Services for Madison Middle & Madison Central High Schools

8th Annual Leadership Celebration!

Get ready to celebrate on May 1st because it is that time of year again. The Turley house gets turned upside down with organized chaos and our NOVA participants begin to think about their poster ideas. This year will be better than ever with our new community partners and participants. We will also have the privilege of having live entertainment! How’s that for a teaser?

Dr. Reagle visits the 2pm class!

Dr. Violette visits the 11am Class
Kishonna Gray was in the NOVA Program from 2001-2005 when she graduated with a bachelor’s degree. Since then she has completed a MS in Criminal Justice at EKU as well as a PhD at Arizona State University. Kishonna is a self-proclaimed “lifelong academic” who once had a 9-5 job and hated it. She is now an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice here at EKU, “I have come full circle-started here and will hopefully retire here. I love EKU!”

Kishonna credits the NOVA program for providing her with an abundance of resources to achieve her academic goals. “I hear that TRIO programs are on the funding chopping block. It is sad that programs that actually help and work are the first ones to go. I hope they find money somewhere.”

She went on to pursue a graduate degree with the help of the McNair program (a sister TRIO program) and Rich Richmond. Her current mentor, Pete Kraska, was also her advisor when she was an undergrad. When he asked if Kishonna was applying to graduate school, Kishonna had no idea what graduate school was but said yes anyway. Kishonna went straight to her NOVA advisor to get details and was pointed to McNair. Kishonna said about McNair, “The program was just starting then but it proved to be so beneficial to my success. And I am so thankful it is still guiding young minds to greatness. “

When asked for anything else she’d like to add, Kishonna said “I will never be able to thank Miss Tinsley and the NOVA family for their guidance, strength, and support over the years. Viva NOVA!”

Viva NOVA, Indeed.
Alumni Update: Christal Ramsey

At the beginning of Fall 2010 Christal was accepted to and began the occupational therapy program. She earned a Bachelor’s of Science in Occupational Science and is a member of the American Occupational Therapy Association. She ended her last semester with a 4.0 and her overall GPA was a 3.8. Wow! In November 2011 she used her creative thinking skills to help present a poster about working with persons who are diagnosed with Mental illness and teaching them life skills.

Recently she began her first rotation of level II field work and will have another rotation of field work before her next certification exam in the Summer/Fall of 2012. She hopes to be able to receive a job offer at one of her fieldwork placements but if that does not work out she has a backup plan to work in Central Kentucky on geriatrics or hand therapy. Christal also has a younger brother in the NOVA program, Jonathan Ramsey.

She says “Being in NOVA was very beneficial for me when I started EKU, because I had classes with the same students and everyone on the NOVA team was super helpful so I wanted Jonathan to have that same experience. Christal exhibits exactly what being NOVA Alumni is all about. We are very proud to call her one of our own and we wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.
Important Dates!

February 14th-Valentines Day!

March 3rd- Residence Halls close at 10:00am For Spring Break

March 11th– Residence Halls reopen at Noon.

March 12th– Classes Resume

March 26th– Course Scheduling officially begins for summer & fall of 2012

April 3rd– Registration begins

April 14th– Classes end

April 30th– Final Exams Begin

May 1 — NOVA’s 8th Annual Leadership, Service-Learning, and Recognition Ceremony (Walnut Hall)

May 5th– Final Exams end, Residence Halls Close at 6:00pm

May 8th– Final Grade reports available for students
The NOVA Stars will be hosting two big events this February. The first event will be held February 13th. This event is a welcome back spaghetti dinner. Along with the dinner there will be a movie that participants are able to choose. The event begins at 8:30 pm. The next event will be February 27th. This event is a healthy kick program. During the event participants will play different Xbox or Wii games that have healthy benefits in them. Healthy snacks will also be provided. This is your chance to meet new friends, eat some great food and get in a great work out!

Tuesdays with the Counseling Center!

Spring 2011 is filled with helpful workshops provided by the counseling center. These workshops range from how to deal with procrastination to how to have a healthy relationship. The counseling center will be holding workshops every other Tuesday lasting until March 27th. If you would like to find out more information about which workshops will be held on each day you can click here.
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