NOVA | Northern Virginia Community College

Strengthening Short-Term Credential Pathways

CAPSEE Conference, September 18, 2014
Bob Templin
Northern Virginia Community College

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Largest public institution of higher education in Virginia & Metro Washington DC

One of 23-college Virginia Community College System

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78,000 Students on Six Campuses

- Alexandria
- Annandale
- Loudoun
- Manassas
- Springfield
- Woodbridge

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NOVA is one of the top community colleges awarding Associate degrees & certificates

NOVA leads the nation among 2-year colleges awarding IT credentials

Market Realities 2014-2020

There are not enough students graduating from the region's colleges and universities to meet demand from Northern Virginia's employers.

There will be a growing shortage of high-skill, tech-savvy frontline workers across most STEM disciplines that will become a critical choke point in the growth of many businesses.

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NOVA Certificates

- Signify completion of a body of knowledge and skill that leads directly to employment, and/or
- Are “stackable” credentials that can be applied toward completion of an Associate Degree

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NOVA Certificates: Automotive Technology

- Emission Specialist
- Maintenance & Light Repair
- Collision Repair
- Diesel Mechanics Technology

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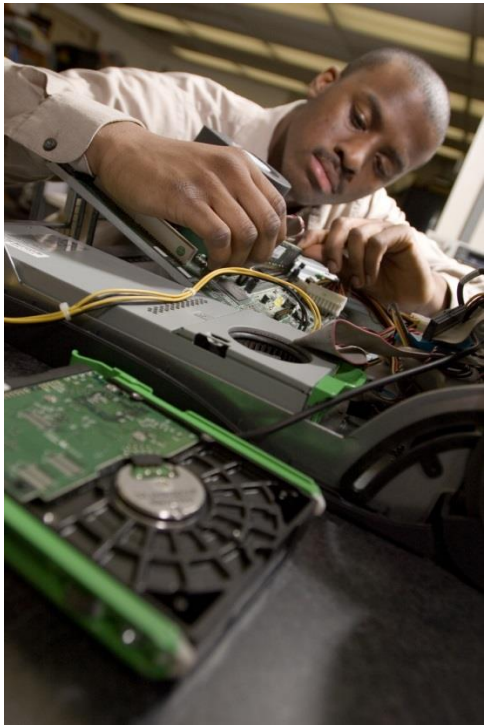
NOVA Certificates: Automotive Technology

- Gain immediate employment
- Qualify for a promotion
- Work toward completion of an AAS in Automotive Technology

- Median salary 18 months after completion: $39,788



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NOVA Certificates: Emergency Medical Services

- Emergency Medical Technician – Basic
- Emergency Medical Technician – Intermediate
- Paramedic Emergency Medical Technician

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NOVA Certificates: Emergency Medical Services

- Become a volunteer
- Qualify for a promotion
- Enter a career field (nursing or allied health)
- Switch careers
- Work toward completion of an AAS in Emergency Services

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NOVA Certificates: Geospatial Systems (GIS)

- Most students have already earned a baccalaureate or Master's degree
- Most are currently employed and wish to "up skill" their competence by learning to apply spatial analysis in their present jobs
- Some are career switchers

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yearup

NOVA Certificates:

IT Technical Support / Network Administration

- Intensive one-year program provides students ages 18-24 with paid, hands-on skill development in IT occupations
- First six months students attend classes at Year Up/NOVA
- Second six months students gain work experience in internships at leading IT companies
- 84% of graduates employed or in college full time within 4 months after graduation
- $30,000/year average starting salary

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yearup

NOVA Certificates:

IT Technical Support / Network Administration

- Employment secured prior to earning certificate
- Labor market outcomes are related to close relationship between Year Up program and employers, rather than certification

Virginia's Community Colleges

Looking Beyond Certificates to Credentials

468 different credentials are awarded to Virginia community college students by third-parties, in addition to degrees and certificates awarded by colleges.

Looking Beyond Certificates to Credentials

- Virginia community colleges set goal to triple the number of credentials awarded by 2021
- Tracking evidence of credential attainment and labor market outcomes for all students

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