

Dear West End Neighbor,

Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) is honored to be a longstanding member of the Northern Virginia community. In 2015, the college will be celebrating fifty years of service to this community. The Alexandria Campus of NOVA, which opened its first building in 1969, offers a variety of academic programs and continuing education classes to over 18,000 area students each year. Presently, more than one out of every five graduating seniors from T.C. Williams enrolls in NOVA each fall. This growth has been phenomena, especially as more and more students and parents learn of the college's guaranteed admission program to the state's selective public universities.

To support this growth and to ensure the quality of our educational offerings, NOVA's Alexandria campus is in the process of replacing a very dated building and making plans for future development. An important part of this process is to reach out to you and other community leaders; in many cases for the first time.

**On Wednesday evening, September 25<sup>th</sup>, NOVA will be making a brief presentation to the Alexandria Federation in Alexandria City Hall, Room 2000. NOVA's presentation is one of a number of agenda items for the meeting that is scheduled to begin at 7:30pm. We hope you can attend to see NOVA's presentation.**

For this specific meeting, NOVA will be providing a presentation on what is internally referred to as the "Tyler Replacement Building." This 80,000 square foot academic building will replace the former Tyler Elementary School that was incorporated into NOVA's campus many years ago. The new three story building will provide NOVA's Alexandria campus with new academic space specifically focused on the fine and performing arts, several general classrooms, and a bookstore that will be open to the community. This building will be located immediately next to the campus' main Bisdorf Building to create the feel of a true campus and to address the safety problem posed by having a through street bisecting the Alexandria Campus.

As a state institution, NOVA is subject to a detailed land use process and review by various Commonwealth agencies and boards rather than to development review processes of the individual localities we directly serve. However, in this case, NOVA is seeking the City of Alexandria's approval to vacate a public access easement along a portion of East Campus Drive. This roadway is one of two, parallel, drives that are owned by the college that link NOVA's Alexandria Campus to other public streets. Traffic circles have been incorporated into the re-design to continue to allow full access to the campus and parking (along this drive) from either Beaugard or Dawes Avenue.

In lieu of allowing through automotive traffic on East Campus Drive (while West Campus Drive remains open), NOVA has agreed to explore providing full pedestrian and bicycle access across the campus and to work toward preserving a path for future right-of-way to link Columbia Pike transit and Beauregard Corridor transit services. Ultimately, these decisions will have to be made by the Virginia Community College Systems Office and Board.

To prepare for such connections and new buildings beyond this immediate replacement structure, NOVA will also be undertaking a complete update of the Master Plan for its Alexandria Campus. The college would especially welcome your participation in this discussion as well and will let you know as soon as this effort begins. In the meantime, please know that conceptual plans that were previously approved by the Virginia General Assembly for possible student housing at the Alexandria campus have been put on indefinite hold; while NOVA considers off-campus alternatives and housing referral services.

Please consider this information outreach as our initial engagement with you. It will be followed with more in-depth, future discussions (with a focus on revisiting the Campus' Master Plan). Should you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mr. Donald Coles, Director of Operations for the Alexandria Campus, at (703) 845-6250.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ron Buchanan

Alexandria Campus Provost