

Northern Virginia Community College Board
Annual Retreat Agenda

Monday, November 15, 2021

Alexandria Campus, Fine Arts Building, Room 202

There will be two segments, both in Room 202 and separated by dinner.

4:10pm to 5:10pm - Healing Circle Activity

In the Summer of 2021 after a competitive review process, the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) accepted NOVA's proposal to be identified as a Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT) Campus Center. AAC&U announced the designation with a formal [press release](#) on October 7, 2021. Part of the designation calls on NOVA to learn how to host a series of TRHT Healing Circles for the community. In the TRHT Healing Circle Activity participants spend hours, in intentional and structured conversation engaging in respectful dialogue about their lived experiences, affirm and connect with one another in discussions about racial injustice and oppression and practice deep listening as everyone in the circle discusses ways to further advance diversity, equity, and inclusion. Chair Steen and Member Huggins attended a session at the recently concluded Association of Community College Trustees that included a variant of the Healing Circle and suggested that it be included as a part of this retreat.

Staff will invite Board members to experience a "mini-version" of the Healing Circle Activity. It will be led by Dr. Nathan Carter, NOVA's CDEIO and another experienced TRHT Healing Circle co-facilitator.

5:15pm to 5:45pm – Dinner and Conversation

5:50pm to 7pm – Presentation on and Discussion of Aspen College Excellence Program

President Kress and Mr. Ben Barrett, the Program Manager for the Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program will lead the Board in a discussion of the respected non-profit's Aspen Prize for advancing student success. To award the prize, the College Excellence Program engages in a rigorous two-year-long process that assesses student outcomes at over 1,000 U.S. community colleges, leading to the selection of 10 finalists and, ultimately, one winner. Throughout the process, Aspen and the higher education experts analyze a range of quantitative data, evaluate detailed applications from colleges, and interview a wide range of stakeholders to gauge an institution's performance in three general areas: (1) retention, completion, and transfer, (2) improvement in performance over time, and (3) equity, defined as performance outcomes for underrepresented minorities and low-income students.

The Board will be engaged in a discussion of the award process and the data that drives it.

7:00pm to 7:30 pm - Optional Jazz Ensemble Concert (Room 118)

The Board will have the option of attending a scheduled student concert at the close of the retreat. This is thanks to Professor Shannon Gunn, NOVA Alexandria Campus Jazz Ensemble instructor.