Graduate School in the NCR 2013 Annual Report

Major Themes:
1. Transitioning away from legacy distance learning systems to newer systems that emphasize distributed online instruction and community. This transition will take time and significant faculty effort; the Graduate School can play an important role in leading and supporting this change.
2. Finding areas of common need across colleges, departments, and programs. Working on solutions that benefit many parties. Conversely, seek new educational opportunities that leverage the existing NCR programs.
3. Building a collegial and efficient GSSO/NVC Administration team and establishing processes that meet our goal of being a great place for Graduate Education

Accomplishments:
NCR Strategic Planning Document (Committee Member)
NCR Distance Learning Task Force (Chair)
New blog, Google+ page, NVC website redesign
Organized VT participation in "Run Geek Run" and Reston Century Ride
Held "Fall Family Day" at NVC, inviting students, faculty, staff, and alumni
Held "Welcome to 2013" offsite reception for faculty and staff
NVC Space Committee revived, meetings held during Summer 2013
New networked classroom designed and built
Completed Executive Development Institute and Master Online Instructor training
"Living Lab" proposal with SPIA and Arlington County
New Building Management Company brought in, numerous repairs and upgrades underway

Key Partners:
NCR Operations, IT/TLOS, Continuing and Professional Education, NCR Faculty Association, University Relations, VT Facilities

Goals for Next Year:
NCR Innovation Space (modeled after Blacksburg Innovation Space) coupled with intensive instructional design and technology support to a small cohort of faculty to help them transition existing classes or create new ones

Market research to identify the best opportunities for new NCR-based graduate programs and how to grow existing graduate programs in the region. Launch new programs using the concept of the graduate program incubator

Comprehensive study of VT-operated housing in the National Capital Region, particularly for international graduate students

Creation of a series of Research Methods courses based on hybrid instruction that can be used by many programs across the university

Problem Areas:
Reaching proper staffing levels and improving the overall workflow in the GSSO to lower service times, eliminate lost paperwork and requests, and avoid mistakes which negatively impact students, faculty, and staff