In keeping with its mission to provide continuing education opportunities to serve the ever-changing needs of students, employers, and communities, NAU has introduced a business to business initiative to help employers and employees get the skills and education they need to keep up with the demands of today’s business climate.

This initiative includes the opportunity for businesses to partner with NAU to offer specific classes on-site, develop cohorts for employee groups in order to discuss specific business needs, and scholarship opportunities to reduce the tuition costs. NAU currently works with several companies around the United States to offer a reduced tuition rate for employees enrolled in either an undergraduate or graduate program. In addition, NAU is doing a tuition assistance matching grant with select companies, further lowering the education costs to students.

“Our scholarship program attracts employers. An HR benefits manager I work with at the University of New Mexico Hospital is excited about the opportunity NAU is providing their employees,” stated Zanna Binyon, Financial Services Representative at the Albuquerque campus. Staff from all NAU locations is reaching out into their communities to share the educational and financial opportunities NAU offers. Steve Rigney, campus director, recently met with another local health services organization in Albuquerque that has 90 clinic sites, “I am looking forward to building this relationship so that we can best serve these employees with up-to-date training in health services because this industry experiences a lot of change on a regular basis,” stated Rigney.

NAU’s programming allows students the flexibility to take classes at one of the 36 locations or online, with many classes offered in the evenings to accommodate work schedules. In addition, NAU reviews previous earned credits and work experience for possible transfer into NAU credits, allowing students to complete their degrees in less time. Employees are assured of receiving a quality education from instructors with real-world experience, applying what’s learned in the classroom today into the workplace tomorrow.

For more information about NAU’s corporate training opportunities, visit www.national.edu.
Austin, TX

The Harold D. Buckingham Graduate School is now offering two new online master’s degree programs: A Master of Science in Management (MSM) and a Master of Business Administration and Master of Management Dual Degree. The MSM provides graduates of diverse undergraduate programs the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills base in the area of management, with an emphasis on research. The program seeks to educate students in the ability to communicate business issues to interested parties. Participating in meaningful planning, problem solving and determining viable solutions is developed through case studies, class interactions, team projects and research. Students are prepared to meet a wide variety of challenges in careers.

The MBA/MM Dual Degree can be earned by taking as little as three additional courses. By pursuing dual degrees, students can bring together the knowledge and skills in both areas of study, enhancing the education experience, as well as career opportunities.

For more information on these programs, contact the Harold D. Buckingham Graduate School at 1-877-398-0118 or graduateadmissions@national.edu.

Graduate School Instructor Publishes Book

The Baby Boomers are 70 million strong and moving into retirement. So how can one of the most successful generations in history maintain its viability in a difficult economy? In his new book, “Why is It Hard to Find a Job after 50?” NAU faculty member, Dr. Don Wicker, discusses encumbrances that prevent employment after 50 and identifies specific steps needed to solve this problem.

Dr. Wicker teaches human resources classes for the HDB Graduate School and has also authored books on motivation, goal setting and job satisfaction. His books are available at www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com

Roueche Graduate Center Open House

National American University received approval from the Higher Learning Commission in its request to offer the Education Doctorate (Ed.D.) in Community College Leadership on August 12, 2013. It added to the celebration as NAU’s Roueche Graduate Center held its grand opening with a dedication and open house September 29, 2013. John E. Roueche, President of the Roueche Graduate Center, said, “We are very excited to have the Community College Leadership (CCLP) doctoral program as a significant addition to our curriculum at National American University. The CCLP is designed for senior administrators and aspiring leaders who want to pursue a doctoral program that prepares them for senior leadership positions in community and technical colleges. This opportunity comes at a critical time as community colleges are experiencing a watershed turnover in leadership that is projected to continue as retirements increase over the next ten years.”

The CCLP is offered in a blended format with instruction and engagement that includes a combination of face-to-face and online sessions with leading community and technical college experts serving as faculty. The program also includes teleconferencing with national leaders, teamwork and interaction, topical webinars, and a practicum to address emerging college/district/system issues. The CCLP cohort-based model provides a forum for working professionals to convene and study close to home and office, while being part of a national learning community and network of distinguished professionals.

NAU’s first doctoral cohort is currently underway in Kansas at Johnson County Community College with plans to begin a second cohort at Cuyahoga Community College (OH) in spring 2014. Program leaders are meeting with community college CEOs around the country to identify student cohort locations to start additional cohorts in 2014.

Carl Weant and Karen Gaines were recipients of Faculty of the Quarter Awards for Teaching Excellence for summer quarter 2013. The award includes a stipend, a gift card, and a certificate. Mr. Weant (NAU Independence campus) uses a student centered teaching environment and varieties of formative student assessments. Ms. Gaines (NAU Online campus) has engaged students in “coffee and conversation” meetings on weekends and has distinguished herself with prompt and useful feedback on assignments. Dr. Benjamin Straight was nominated by his students as the Graduate-Master’s Faculty of the Quarter for summer 2013 (he has previously been honored as an undergraduate faculty member as well). He has been a member of the graduate faculty since spring 2013 and the undergraduate faculty since 2009. He writes curriculum at undergraduate and graduate levels and he practices law in Tampa, Florida. Professor Straight served our country and was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in 2005. All three of these individuals have been the epitome of the university’s expectations of faculty and their service to students.
Albuquerque West, NM

Albuquerque West raised $1015 for the Haven House this year by selling tickets to Cliff’s Amusement Park. They more than doubled what they donated last year. The Haven House is a shelter for domestic violence victims. They provide legal advocacy, assistance with orders of protection, emergency shelter, support groups, counseling, and assistance with developing safety plans to women and children. The Haven House has lost a large amount of their government aid. The money donated will help with gas to get women to and from court, clothing, hygiene products as well as other necessities.

Bellevue, NE

Ron Maly (Medical Assisting Program Coordinator) hosted a fun event for Medical Assisting Recognition Week. The week-long celebration concluded with a formal presentation of NAU-issued scrubs and medical kits to our MA students. Cake and refreshments were provided.

Brooklyn Center, MN

A career fair was held in October at the Brooklyn Center campus for students from the entire region. Seventy students attended and visited with 27 employers. Two of the employer representatives were NAU graduates working in their fields, with interests in hiring NAU graduates.

Colorado Springs, CO

The “Medical Mavericks” from both locations traveled to Cheyenne, Wyoming to attend the Rocky Mountain State Society of American Medical Technologists. The group participated in the society’s business meeting, and later, they learned about health care clinics, drug abuse and parasitology.

Roseville, MN

Honor’s Night was held in November to recognize students for their academic achievements in the spring and summer quarters. Chad DeBruzzi and Shannon Dahl hosted the event for students and their guests. Kristin Marthaler, the East Region Career Services Director, was the guest speaker.

Sioux Falls, SD

The first class of Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates celebrated their achievements during a pinning ceremony preceding the 2013 commencement. Pictured are (bottom row, from left) April McKinney, Aimee Brown, Melissa Nedved and Stephanie Henning (top row, from left) Amanda Blank, Trevor Alvarez, Erin Smith and Nicole Parham.

Watertown, SD

The Watertown campus was named the business of the week in October by the Watertown Area Chamber of Commerce. Pictured left to right are: Front: Andrea Smith, Jennifer Thu, Michelle Tjaden, and Peggy Lindahl, Back: Tracy Ronke, Laura Greenfield, Rachel Hammer, Katy Webb, and Mitch Anderson. Not pictured: Christie Carroll and Heidi Schooley.

Wichita, KS

The Wichita West nursing lab served as a simulation training site as part of a local simulation initiative to reduce patient risk and provide better training to medical professional students. The Mid-Continent Center for Health Care Simulation in Wichita is directing the initiative to increase simulation training for nursing, medical, and respiratory therapy students.

Central Administration

Jason Warr has completed all requirements for his doctoral program. Dr. Warr is the Associate Provost for Academic Administration and Regulatory Affairs. Trina Allen has recently accepted the position of System Director for Human Resources. She has extensive experience in HR and has worked at NAU in a number of important positions.

Jodi Neiffer has been named as the university’s foundation coordinator. She has several years of alumni association and foundation experience with two other universities. One of her initial projects will assist with gaining contributions for the university’s scholarship program through the NAU Maverick Scholars Capital Campaign. Contributions will support students in meeting their tuition needs. If you would like to participate, send your tax-deductible donation to: The NAU Foundation, c/o Ketel-Thorstenson, PO 3140, Rapid City, SD 57709.
“It is the work of our faculty that shapes and supports the success of students at National American University. Long after students have met their academic goals, they remember the encouragement provided in our classrooms and electronic learning environments. Thank you for modeling professional interactions and providing supportive and caring learning environments.” Manuel Gomez, Associate Provost and Dean of the Faculty.

NAU faculty’s best practices include:

• Define and communicate high expectations
• Use active learning strategies to create student engagement
• Promote collaborative learning among students
• Provide timely feedback
• Respect prior learning experiences
• Recognize diverse learning styles
• Relate learning to students’ lives
• Inspire students to engage and persist
• Promote academic integrity

Dr. Michael E. Cooley is a member of the faculty at the Colorado Springs campus. Although he has been with NAU for only three years, he has served for 26 years as a college professor. This experience has been with five different universities, including teaching at a military installation in the United Kingdom. He is scheduled for NAU classes including Intro to Psychology, Intro to Sociology, Human Growth and Development and Marriage and Family. His advice to students is “be prepared and never quit learning. Understand yourself and your own skills and abilities and use these to obtain results. Make sure you have a mentor, not just for a short time but for your lifetime. That person (or persons) will be invaluable to your success!”

Raymond “Mac” McKinney is a faculty member at the Albuquerque and Albuquerque West campuses. He has been teaching at NAU for over 6 years, currently teaching Intro to Management and International Business. He also teaches Ethics, Computer Information Systems, Operations Management, and Business Management Review. He points out that NAU is very student-centered and faculty support is superb, locally and corporately. He intends to inspire leaders for our country with many of his students working as supervisors or preparing for supervisory duties. He sees helping them to be successful as his mission. He acknowledges that there are powers like loyalty, patriotism, and faith that are greater than we might see in ourselves or in requirements of a “normal job.” He points out that his experiences with his career in the Air Force, business and with his family are used when teaching. He says “Don’t be concerned about obstacles. Look forward to the opportunities that are out there for you!”

James L. Rairdon, DM, FLMI has just retired (November 2013) as the Academic Dean at the Denver campus but he will continue to teach. He has been with the university as an instructor for over 20 years, and has taught 37 different courses for NAU, both undergraduate and graduate. These include classes in management, finance, marketing and law. He states that his favorite moments are when “the light bulb comes on,” as students begin to understand a concept with which they have been struggling. His message to students is that “you will find those who will be willing to help you. There are people who will talk to you and understand your circumstances, but you do need to reach out to them. Your self-discipline and maturity will stand you in good stead in school and in work.”
MESSAGE

TO: NAU ALUMNI

NAU Survey Coming Soon:
Your Participation is Important!

National American University is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The HLC periodically reviews universities to ensure educational quality to determine continued accreditation status. NAU is scheduled for a reaccreditation review in 2014. Part of the review includes input from students and graduates.

Many of you have participated in our past biennial surveys and we hope to include your input in the 2014 survey. The survey will be sent via email in January 2014 and data will be compiled to provide extensive information to the HLC visitation team and the commission for review. Your input is very important and is influential in the university’s planning, budgeting, program development, operations, and for the future of NAU.

The survey is short and asks some basic questions about your experience at NAU. There will also be questions regarding your employment and career development so that we can understand the success you’ve achieved since earning your degree.

If you do not receive our survey form, please contact the alumni services office at alumni@national.edu with a current email address and a survey will be provided.

Thank you!

ALUMNI—Please consider making a contribution to NAU’s alumni scholarships fund in care of the NAU Foundation, so that additional excellent students can be financially helped.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Duell Parks (1974, Rapid City) returned to Rapid City for a wedding of a fraternity brother (DEK) and while in town, he toured the new Rapid City campus and visited with Steve Lashwood. He had returned to California after National, and completed a master’s degree (Golden State) and a doctorate (Cambridge). He recently sold his Harley Davison dealership and he now continues with Suzuki cycles.

Suchith Ameresekere (Information Technology, AAS-2003 and BS-2006, Online) lives in the U.A.E. and is a technical officer working for Abu Dhabi Aircraft Technologies.

Jesse Campbell (Medical Assisting, AAS, 2011, Overland Park) has been working as a physician’s specialist and medical assistant. She is currently working toward a BS in Health Administration with an emphasis in Health Information Systems.

Lori (Easley) Schmittle (Business Administration, AAS-2006, BS-2009, and MBA, 2011, Albuquerque) is an Investor Relations Coordinator for Albuquerque Economic Development.

ATTN: ALL GRADUATES

Please continue to submit updates relating to career success and personal matters by using the alumni link on NAU’s website www.national.edu/alumni. This will allow the university to share information about you with other graduates.
NAU Bachelor’s Degree Graduates

You may be eligible to receive a scholarship to NAU’s Harold D. Buckingham Graduate School.

The average scholarship amount is $243 per course. Advance your degree to an MBA, MM, MSM or MSN.

For details, call 877-398-0118