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**University of Phoenix and Northern Virginia Community College
Announce Educational Alliance**

New Agreement Will Create Career Pathways to Address Workforce Skills Gaps

ANNANDALE, Va. April, 26, 2012—University of Phoenix and Northern Virginia Community College today announced an innovative alliance that will provide new educational opportunities in healthcare, information technology and criminal justice. The new alliance was formalized at a special signing ceremony at Northern Virginia Community College's Annandale Campus.

Through the new agreement, University of Phoenix and Northern Virginia Community College will work with area business, academic and diversity leaders to identify workforce needs and develop focused curriculum and specific career pathways to meet those area workforce skills gaps. Students will have the opportunity to earn an associate degree at Northern Virginia Community College and seamlessly transition to a bachelor's degree program at one of University of Phoenix's seven DC-Metro area locations or online.

"Community college students share much in common with students at University of Phoenix; they are acquiring critical skills to better compete in today's workforce," said Dr. Bill Pepicello, President, University of Phoenix. "When two education providers like University of Phoenix and Northern Virginia Community College share the same goal and come together to present practical education solutions, the benefit to students, employers and the local economy is that much greater."

In addition to a tuition discount, Northern Virginia Community College students will have the opportunity to potentially convert prior training and work experience into college credit through Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) at University of Phoenix. Through a new University of Phoenix transfer policy, credits earned through an associate of arts degree at Northern Virginia Community College will transfer to University of Phoenix and satisfy general education course requirements so students can immediately begin working toward a bachelor's degree in their field of study. University of Phoenix and Northern Virginia Community College will also explore transfer trends to ensure the alliance is meeting local employer demands.



“Northern Virginia Community College and University of Phoenix share in President Obama’s mission of preparing students for the workforce,” said Dr. Robert G. Templin Jr., President, Northern Virginia Community College. “This new agreement will provide area students a transition from an associate to bachelor’s degree in important fields such as healthcare and information technology, where we know skilled workers are needed now.”

Through its Community College Center of Excellence, University of Phoenix works with community colleges to build educational partnerships that bring in area business, academic and diversity leaders to identify workforce needs. For more information, please visit www.phoenix.edu/cc.

About Northern Virginia Community College

Northern Virginia Community College is the largest institution of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia and one of America’s largest community colleges. NOVA enrolls more than 75,000 students at its six campuses in Alexandria, Annandale, Loudoun, Manassas, Springfield and Woodbridge, and through the Extended Learning Institute. For more information about NOVA and its programs or services, call 703-323-3000 or visit the College’s website, www.nvcc.edu.

About University of Phoenix

University of Phoenix is constantly innovating to help students balance education and life in a rapidly changing world. Flexible schedules, challenging courses and interactive learning can help students pursue personal and career aspirations without putting their lives on hold. University of Phoenix serves a diverse student population, offering associate, bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree programs from campuses and learning centers across the U.S. as well as online throughout the world. For more information, visit phoenix.edu.