



## ***A Transformative Year***

### **NOVA Program Community College Consortium Northern Virginia Community College**

*“It was my pleasure to host President Jorge Guimarães of CAPES to our campus in February 2012. NOVA’s participation in the U.S.-Brazil Business Summit in April 2012 confirmed the importance of our two countries working together. The Brazilian STEM student arrival in our Annandale, Alexandria and Manassas campuses have added new vitality to our academic programs and student interactions. I look forward to having them become our Ambassadors when they return home.”*

**Dr. Robert G. Templin, Jr.,** President – Northern Virginia Community College



*“We are honored to have the Brazilian students experience American culture and higher education at GateWay. Their presence enriches the opportunity for all of us to learn more about the diverse world in which we live. Having the chance to mentor one of the students has made the experience even more enriching for me personally.”*

**Dr. Steven Gonzales,** President – GateWay Community College



### Selected Student Profiles



"I'm so glad for the opportunity to study abroad at NOVA. I have taken 5 IT classes since I got to the U.S. and I learned so much this year. I have also met amazing professors that have always been friendly and helpful. I love the way that they lead the classes here because this is providing me a much deeper and more complete way to learn English and IT. One of them changed my way of seeing life! Last Summer I took a multimedia software class and I met one of the greatest women in this world! Mrs. Slaey is demanding and requires a lot of extra work, but I learned so much with her. She is a strong woman who has to use a wheelchair, but she does not feel limited by this. She faces each day with much more strength

and soul than most people I know. I've learned how to get the best of myself with a lot of effort and hard work. To be successful in Mrs. Slaey's class made me proud of myself and made me passionate for web programming. I will always remember this amazing woman! Today I have a totally different view of the world, new goals, and new ways to achieve them."

**Andressa De Oliveira**

Faculdade de Tecnologia de Presidente Prudente  
Northern Virginia Community College – Annandale

"I am studying mathematics. While I have been at GateWay, I have gotten involved in the World Explorers Club, where I had the opportunity to run for vice president and won. Also, I competed in a creative writing competition and received an honorable mention. I also won a scholarship to go to Los Angeles and visit the Museum of Tolerance. I plan to continue on with my education, get a doctorate and become a professor at the University in Brazil. I recently started tutoring in the learning center. At GateWay, I have gotten to experience a lot of new and different things."



**Weverton Ataide Pinheiro**

Universidade de Brasília  
GateWay Community College

I'm trying my best here in the US to get to know the culture, similarities and differences between our countries. In the academic area I'm focused on Network Security, which is a very promising area in IT; I hope that at the end of the program I'm able to apply the knowledge that I've learned here in the field and pursue a Master's degree in the area. I would also like to try to give something back to my University in Brazil, as I feel they have helped in my development. In a few years I hope that I am able to build a family and support them by myself, that's the main point of this journey."

**Igor de Lima Muchiutti**

Faculdade de Tecnologia de Garça  
City College of San Francisco



take more English and IT classes, be involved about American culture, and also get an internship in a good company."

"I have been given an opportunity to improve my English skills, know about new technologies and learn about USA culture. This time that I am here is very important not only for learning English or in my area, but also important because I have an opportunity to expand my knowledge about the world and have new ideas to help develop my country. Now, I am taking English classes and working with a professor in a project at Northern Virginia Community College. I hope that by the end of the program I can attend congresses,

**Amanda Cardoso Duarte**

Instituto Federal Sul-rio-grandense – Campus Pelotas  
Northern Virginia Community College – Manassas



“I’m very excited to be here in Miami, Florida, acquiring new knowledge and experience, not only in my academic major but also in many aspects of my life. By learning the English language and culture of the United States, I am gaining competencies that add value to becoming a well-versed professional. At Miami Dade College, Kendall Campus I am involved in the following activities: Event Chair for International Education Week, member of Campus Activities Board and volunteering. Ultimately, the Science Without Borders Program is allowing me to develop my skills, practice and knowledge in the field of Industrial Engineering.”

**João Victor Alves Pedreiro**

Universidade Federal do Amazonas  
Miami Dade College

“Since I’m a NOVA student, I’ve always been looking for courses that I could take advantage of and improve my knowledge as best as I can. Two of them that are really changing my student perspective are Network Security Layers and Programming Robots using Java. The Network Security Layers class teaches us how to develop and maintain a secure operational system. Every week I learn something new and very useful. I also love the Programming Robots using Java class. In this class, we learn how to apply our programming knowledge into a physical robot so we can see it moving and responding to our commands. We can bring our own ideas and make improvements, or even try something new. I’m also engaged in a STEM club project for the Vex Robotics National Competition. I’m a team mentor who helps High School students focus on their tasks and build skilled and precise moving robots. We are currently developing the robot and we expect to represent Fairfax and NOVA in California next year, when the best team from each US state competes to determine the winner.”



**Hebert Rony Silva**

Faculdade de Tecnologia de São Bernardo do Campo - Adib Moisés Dib  
Northern Virginia Community College – Annandale

“In Brazil I did not get the opportunity to be in clubs and student activities, GateWay has provided that to me. I am in the Student Council and I am the secretary of the World Explorers Cub. I have been able to learn about different cultures through the club, which I might not have before. I am studying food technologies and I have one year left at the university in Brazil. I worked in a milk factory in Brazil and learned in the lab. I enjoy studying entrepreneurship and want to become an entrepreneur.”



**Samara Jessica Barbosa**

Universidade Tecnológica Federal do Paraná  
GateWay Community College



“My activities at Northern Virginia Community College have benefited me in several ways such as English language improvement and new civil engineering knowledge. It has also helped me to make future plans. First, the Summer Intensive English Classes enhanced my English Language skills. Then during the fall semester, I took English composition and joined the Green Club. Being involved in a club has helped me not only to apply English skills, but also to experience a cultural exchange that has contributed to my personal growth. Moreover, the civil engineering class that I am taking is

focused on materials that I have not yet deeply learned in Brazil. So, it has extended my knowledge to a broader view about techniques and systems. Furthermore, being at NOVA has inspired me to continue my academic life in order to help the development of civil engineering technology. After attending some ELI programs about sustainability and the environment, I have seen that research is a step forward to change and solve some global issues.”

**Marco Antonio Gonçalves Junior**

Faculdade de Tecnologia de São Paulo  
Northern Virginia Community College – Annandale



“I’ve met people from many of countries with whom I can share and discuss history, culture and traditions. The committee of International Education Week provided me with a leadership opportunity to serve as Event Chair of “Activities Around the World”. Next semester I will study new academic subject areas in my major, Civil Engineering. As a result of all these experiences, I believe studying aboard in another country is a life lesson. I am expanding my worldview, testing my tolerance levels, becoming knowledgeable

of other societies, policies, economics and customs. Confidence and independence are skills I must practice in my daily life.”

**Renata Flores da Silva**

Universidade Estadual de Campinas  
Miami Dade College

“In my English classes, I learned how to write a good and well-organized essay. I improved both my writing and reading skills a lot. I think this is very important for my career in Brazil, because knowing English well is a mandatory criterion for big companies. My civil engineering classes in Soil Mechanics were excellent for a practical overview of how to work with different types of soil. Although I had already taken soil mechanics classes in Brazil, which gave me significant experience in this area, I learned more about this topic at NOVA. For the laboratory tests, I also did them in Brazil, but by doing them here, I learned how to conduct the tests using a different norm (AASHTO and USCS).”



**Bianca Leonessa**

Universidade Tecnológica Federal do Paraná  
Northern Virginia Community College – Annandale



“I have improved my English so much since the first time I came here. Improving my English is very important to my degree in chemistry in Brazil. I volunteer as a tutor in English three times a week since English is so different to me; I am able to help others. This was the first time I have traveled around the world and the people here, at GateWay, are very important to me and have helped me a lot. GateWay has helped me not just with my English, but I have learned a lot

about my life and myself. I have made new friends and met new people.”

**Walker De Lima Cordeiro**  
Instituto Federal de Alagoas  
GateWay Community College

“I studied Game Development in Brazil and am currently studying Computer Sciences at City College of San Francisco. The classes I'm taking here will be very helpful to my career because they are mostly about powerful new technologies that are hard to be found in my home country. I'm also a programmer intern at a social media software developer in San Francisco, which is great to improve my skills and be ready to work with high-scale software. I plan to work with technology as a programmer in any major software enterprise or create my own apps and games.”



**Willian da Costa Chimura**  
Faculdade de Tecnologia de Ourinhos  
City College of San Francisco



“The Science without Borders Program has been very rewarding. I have learned a lot, for instance I have taken summer English classes and English composition classes, which have improved my English skills. Also, I have had the opportunity of studying more about my field of study by taking Microbiology classes. Moreover, more than the knowledge that the disciplines give me, I have had the wonderful experience of knowing the United States and its culture. I have been here for only four months and I hope that by the end of the program I can achieve my goals, which are being more involved with American culture, attending congresses, taking more classes, and also getting an internship in my area of expertise.”

**Larissa Costa de Almeida**

Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso

Northern Virginia Community College – Manassas

“In August 2013, I traveled to Miami, Florida to study Computer Science at Miami Dade College, Kendall Campus as part of the Science Without Borders program. Every day I meet people from many countries and cultures from around the world. The college is comprised of students from over 130 countries. I am currently taking English and Global Development courses this semester. In addition, I have the opportunity to participate in local volunteer work. I am seizing this scholarship opportunity to grow professionally and personally. I believe these classes will help me with my goals in starting a business in Brazil.”



**Phillipe Ferreira Ramos**

Faculdade de Tecnologia da Zona Leste

Miami Dade College



“In Brazil I studied graphic design and here I am studying industrial design. Now I am at Rio Salado in an internship with graphic design and I am learning more skills. People in Brazil in my major will not have what I am learning here. In the university you have one (view of things) and living in reality I am learning so much watching them do their job in the internship and they gave me some projects to do. When I lived in Brazil I never imagined going out and living abroad but now that I am here this whole experience is like when you give wings to a bird you cannot take them back. I do not want to go back to what I was; I want to continue to grow. I plan to continue my education onto a PH.D.”



**Debora Campos Motta**

Instituto Federal de Educação, Ciência e Tecnologia Fluminense  
GateWay Community College



“My current goal is pursuing a career in the game industry and for that I'm developing my C++ skills which is a very powerful programming language consolidated in this field. I'm not new to the IT field, have been around computers and games since I was a cub crawling out of the cradle. Fortunately I found my passion not long from there and loving what I do is the reason I work extra hard every day to achieve my goal. In the future I might even start my own game company. Being around Silicon Valley and having all this energy from start-ups definitely makes it feel doable.”

**Diego Francisco Bueno Sartorio**

Faculdade de Tecnologia de São Caetano do Sul  
City College of San Francisco

“I have learned a lot, for example, I have taken summer English classes, English composition, and oral communications classes, which have improved my English skills. I will begin to work in the Mechanical Lab at NOVA; it will be a relevant experience to improve my mechanical knowledge. Next semester, I’m going to study Diesel classes and it will be an opportunity to study more about Diesel machines. Furthermore, I am meeting new people and learning about American culture, I am having a marvelous possibility to increase my knowledge about another country. I hope when I return to Brazil, I can take big ideas and abilities to improve my career and help to develop my country. “

**Artur Guimarães Pereira**

Instituto Federal de Goiás

Northern Virginia Community College – Manassas



“With the rise of new technology, the demand for well-rounded IT professionals has increased. It’s not different in Brazil, but there’s still a lack of well-prepared and bilingual professionals for the upcoming technologies. Through Science Without Borders at Miami Dade College, Kendall Campus I have the opportunity to learn about the newest subject areas in my major, Computer Science. In addition to classes with the best professionals in the IT field, I engage in extracurricular activities such as clubs and non-credit

classes. I believe this program will advance my knowledge and skills in Computer Science before my return to Brazil.”

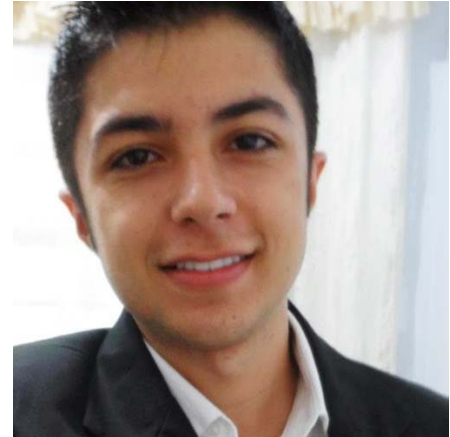
**Camila L. Mendonca**

Faculdade de Tecnologia de Jales

Miami Dade College

"I am inspired with the entrepreneurial environment in the Silicon Valley and I recognize that there are still solutions to be sought after to answer recurring problems with Brazil's technology field. We cannot continue importing software forever, we must focus on expanding the Brazilian market through entrepreneurship."

**Luis Ricardo Metring Gonçalves**  
Universidade Federal do Paraná  
City College of San Francisco



"I have been taking subjects from my course and improving my English skills at NOVA, where I have been well received by all professors and staff, who assisted me and the other Brazilian students in every possible way. With the help of NOVA, I am looking for volunteer work, internships, and activities to improve my experience in the US. There are many opportunities for growth, and I was lucky to experience a Google workshop (DevFest DC 2013) and learn more about system analysis while in US. This is great networking for my field, and I have already received opportunities to potentially work in my field. I intend to take courses that are very hard to acquire in Brazil, so I can improve my abilities and career. As a result, I will be able to get a better job in Brazil."

**Everson Pereira Trindade**  
Instituto Federal de Educação, Ciência e Tecnologia do Rio Grande do Norte  
Northern Virginia Community College – Manassas

*"I'm so glad for the opportunity to study abroad. I'm having an amazing experience at NOVA. I just love the way that the professors lead the classes here, and this is providing me a much deeper and complete way to learn, not only English and Computer Science, but different cultures too." – current NOVA program student*

*"The atmosphere in the USA motivate[s] us to do something new and break paradigms of our lives. This is absolutely the time of my life so far, but I expect creating new times of my life from now on." – current NOVA program student*



*"I think that this experience is going to change my academic view, my resume, and my knowledge in my [field of] study and in my life view; all of these experiences will give me the chance to achieve my goals to be a good professional and make the difference wherever I study or get a job." – current NOVA program student*

*"I have never met so many people from different parts of the world. When you meet international students, it is a great opportunity to learn new things, practice your English and keep friendships. All in all, I can say that [this] is the best year of my life, and I am really growing in knowledge and maturity." – current NOVA program student*