



FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO WORKFORCE READY: THE “MESSY MIDDLE” COMMUNITY COLLEGE JOURNEY

DOL 20301- 210249

NOVA | Northern Virginia
Community College



ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY CAREER SCHOLARS

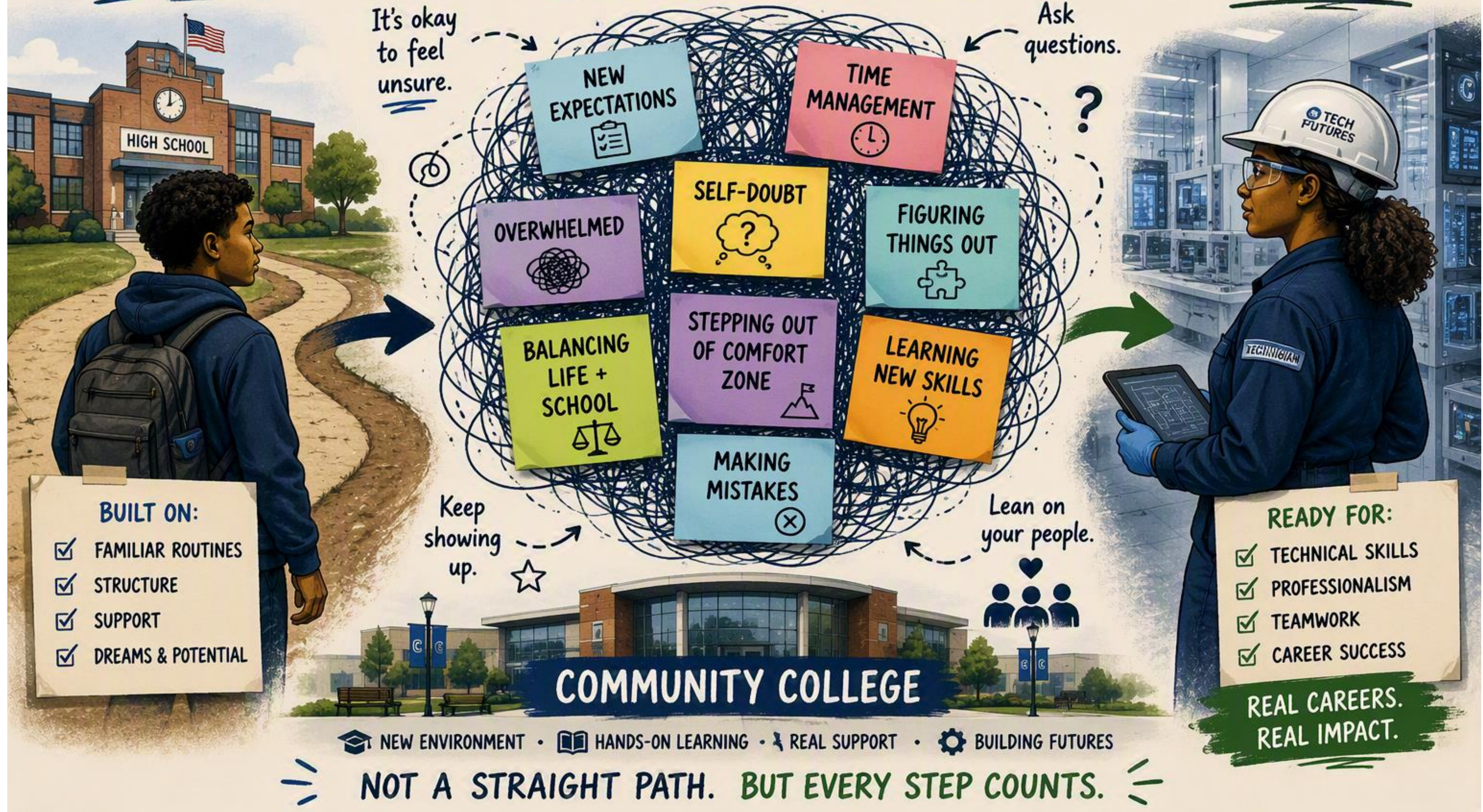
Pre-apprenticeship program that prepares graduated students for an in-demand and high-paying career that addresses the shortage of skilled talent needed for industry demands

FROM
HIGH SCHOOL

THE MESSY MIDDLE

Where growth happens.

TO
WORKFORCE READY



WHAT STUDENTS ARE REALLY FACING



Navigating Setbacks

Independent Decision-Making

Owning the Outcome



THE ACCOUNTABILITY SHIFT

"My biggest challenge was the discipline that this program demands of you. Having such support, both academically and financially, means that you have to show up every day and do what is asked of you. **It's a two-way street. Coming from high school, where attendance wasn't all that important and I would treat it as such, having to go to class every day early was a big adjustment.**"

UNCOVER THE PROBLEM: REAL PROBLEMS DON'T COME WITH ANSWER KEYS

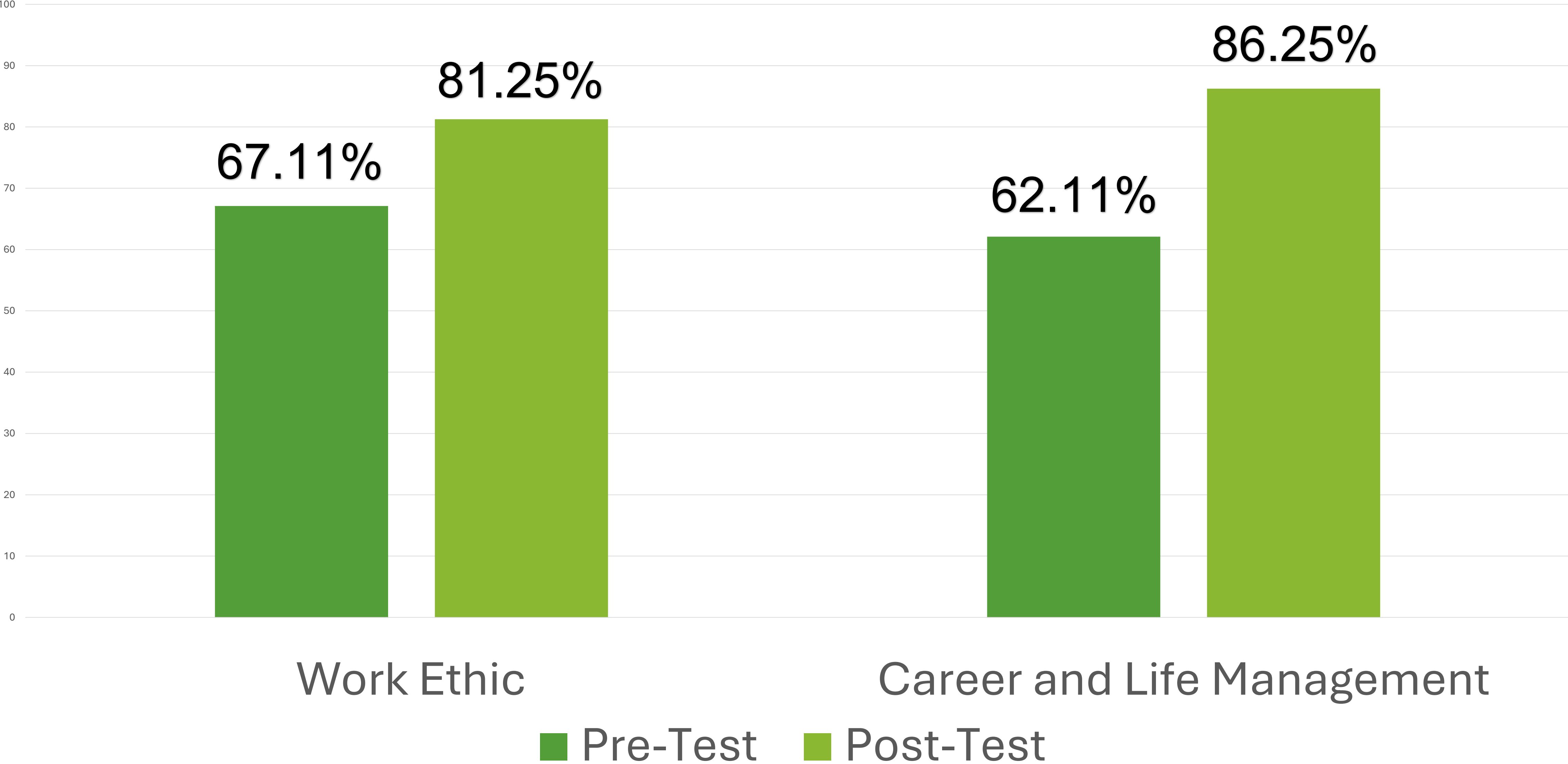
1. There is not always one right answer
2. Different situations require different solutions, context matters
3. Decisions have consequences (positive and negative)
4. Asking for help is usually the best solution
5. Professional judgment comes with practice

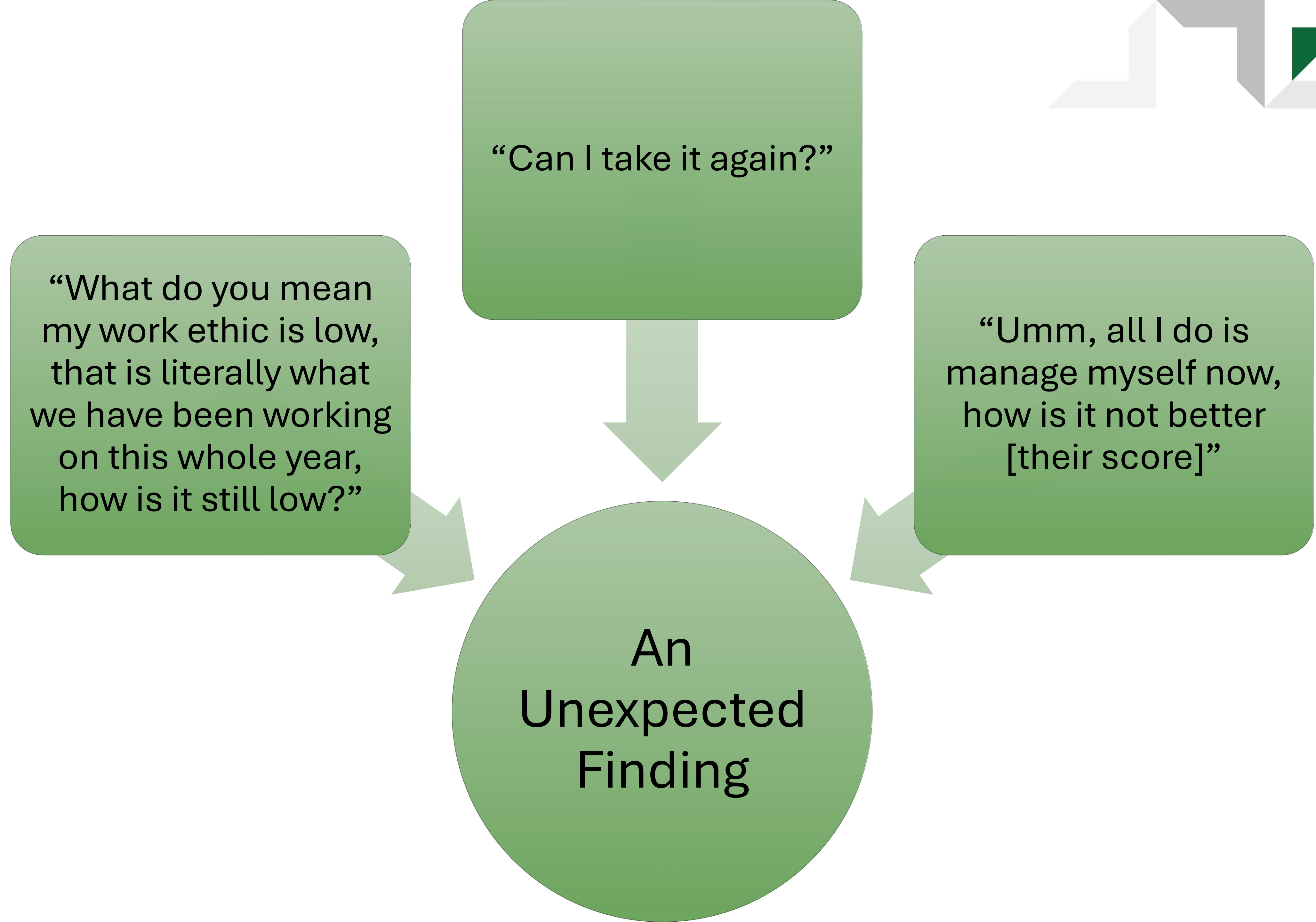


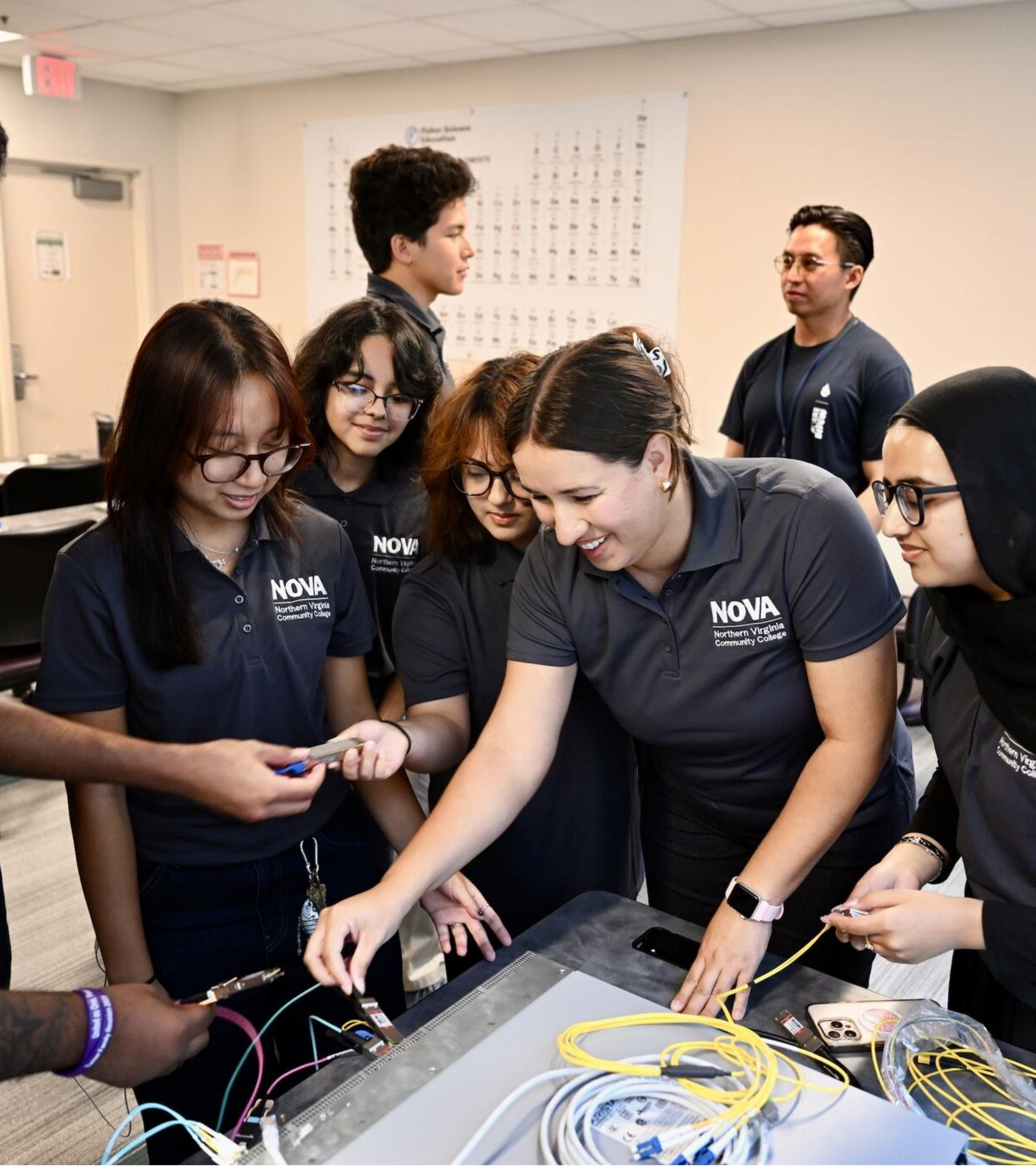
BECOMING WORKFORCE READY

"My biggest challenge in this program was the pacing as it was very fast and it was up to the individual to take ownership and responsibility of your learning, assignments, and work. It was amazing though because **now as an intern I am realizing it was very accurate and helpful as that is was its like otj [on the job].**"

WRS PRE AND POST TEST RESULTS

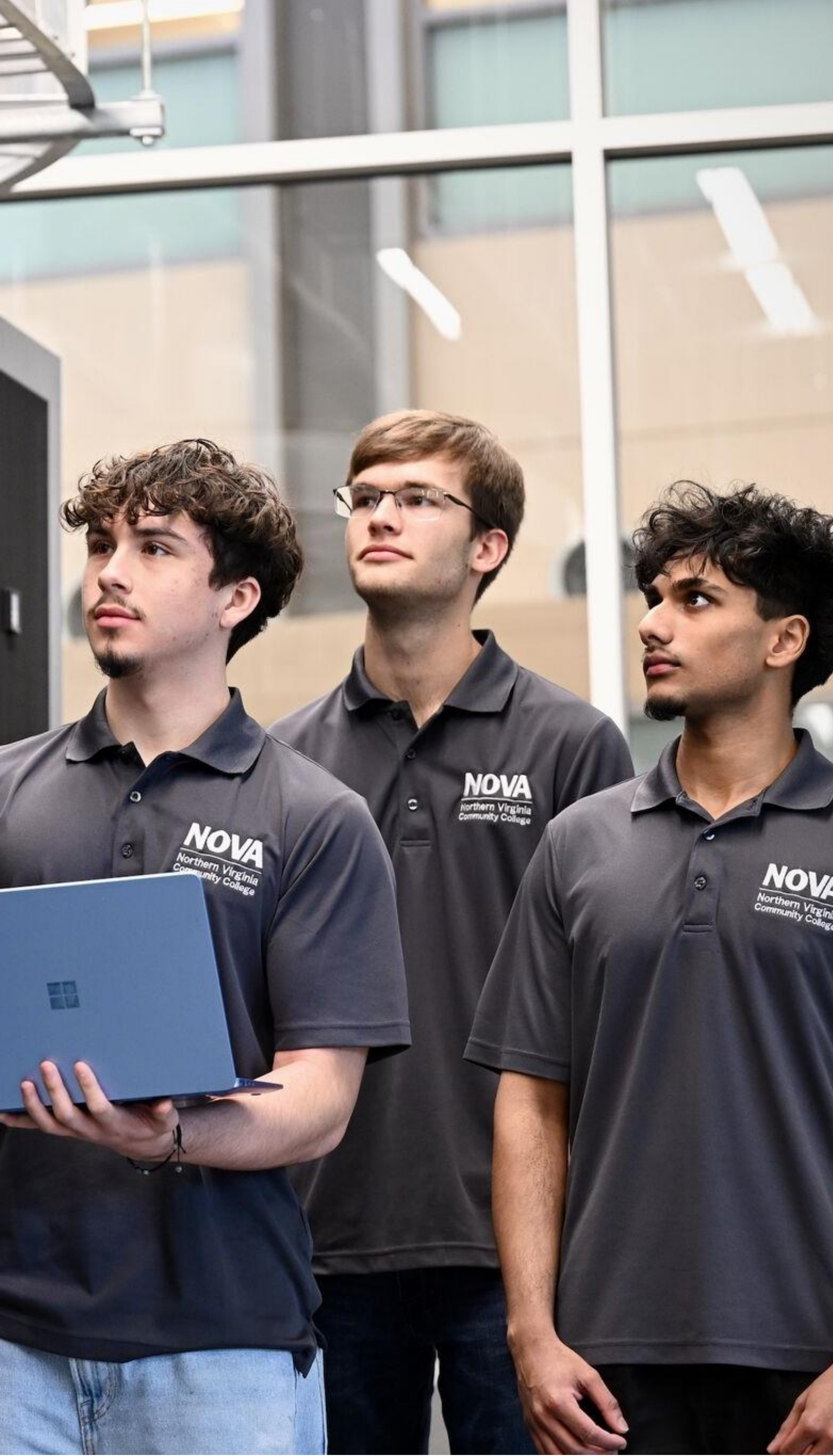






MOST IMPROVED

- Highest category was professionalism and listening/speaking



TAKEAWAYS

1. Meet students where they are
2. Hold the line on expectations
3. Support without removing consequences
4. Tell students the truth, even when it's hard

THANK YOU

Ti'Era Worsley
STEM Education Coordinator
tworsley@nvcc.edu

