



August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009

TO: NEW TEACHING ASSISTANTS AND PROGRAM/PROJECT ASSISTANTS

FROM: Luis A. Piñero, Assistant Vice Provost for Workforce Equity and Diversity

RE: Graduate Assistants' Equity Workshops

During Fall 2009, UW-Madison will again offer professional development session for Teaching Assistants (TAs) and Program/Project Assistants (PAs) focusing on diversity, discrimination, and harassment. The sessions are presented by the Office for Equity and Diversity and the McBurney Disability Resource Center, in collaboration with the Theatre for Cultural and Social Awareness (TCSA) and the Office of Human Resource Development (OHRD). Participants are provided information about relevant laws, policies, regulations, and resources; explore the practical applications of these policies to classroom and learning environments; and participate in facilitated conversations designed to promote interdisciplinary collaboration and excellence through diversity. The sessions promote the development of competencies that sustain and strengthen our position of preeminence in research and higher education. We strongly encourage you to attend and participate.

Under the current collective bargaining agreement between the Teaching Assistants Association (TAA) and the State of Wisconsin, TAs who attend a workshop and have taught the requisite number of semesters receive the "experienced" rate of pay at the start of the next instructional period. However, the TAA and the State have reached a tentative agreement on a new contract that eliminates the Regular Teaching Assistant level and ensures that all TAs will be paid at the experienced level. Under the new contract, if approved, attendance at one of these workshops is critical to TAs because attendance will be required in order to be reappointed as a TA beyond one additional semester. It is important to note that the tentative agreement must be approved by the State legislature before it goes into effect. Legislative action on the contract will likely occur in September. Even though PAs are not affected by these provisions, they are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate.

The schedule of sessions, electronic copies of the materials referenced during each presentation and on-line registration are available at: <http://www.oed.wisc.edu/workshop.html> . Please register online to ensure that the reserved rooms can accommodate the anticipated audience size and that adequate supplies of handouts are available for each session. We can only accommodate approximately 40 registered participants at each Fall 2009 session. Therefore, we may be unable to accommodate participants who do not register online prior to the scheduled session date and time. If you do not register online, we may need to ask you to attend another session. A hard copy of the schedule of session is attached.

Individuals who need an accommodation because of a disability should call the Office for Equity and Diversity for assistance at the numbers listed below.

**Office for Equity and Diversity**

179A Bascom Hall University of Wisconsin-Madison 500 Lincoln Drive Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1380  
608/263-2378 Fax: 608/263-5562 Wisconsin Telecommunications Relay Service 7-1-1 [www.oed.wisc.edu](http://www.oed.wisc.edu)

If you need child-care assistance, please call Community Coordinated Child Care (CCCC) at 271-9181 for information about available day-care facilities. CCCC is a community-based resource and referral service with complete listings of licensed child-care facilities throughout Dane County.

Please contact your department to inquire about specific forms or other requirements for documenting your attendance at these sessions. TAs and PAs who have attended one of these sessions at UW-Madison in the past, need not attend again.

Thank you.

Attachment  
(schedule of session dates and times)

xc: Academic Personnel Office