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Diversity Circles Update

Thank you for taking a moment to read our monthly newsletter. If you have any questions or comments about Diversity Circles' programming or the newsletter please feel free to contact Elizabeth Hanson-Delgado at (262)595-3340 or Elizabeth.Hanson@uwp.edu.


Thank you and Enjoy!



Summer Institute- 2009 *by Fay Yokomizo Akindes*

The Summer Institute is designed to support UW Parkside faculty and instructors in becoming more effective teacher scholars. Informed by Cultural Studies, Critical Race Theory, Ethnic Studies and the Scholarship on Teaching & Learning, the Institute is an opportunity to focus on teaching and learning practices in the classroom. Participants will modify or develop a new course syllabus for Fall 2009. The Institute will *not* use a template or take an additive approach to infuse diversity in the curriculum. Instead it will use an emergent process to transform curricular and pedagogical practices as they relate to race and ethnicity. The Institute also considers the interlocking relationship of race and ethnicity with gender, social class, sexual orientation, disability, age, and nationality. This intersectionality of differences suggests the complexity and multi-dimensional challenges of the Institute. Participants are expected to negotiate this difficult and sometimes ambiguous terrain with an open mind and collegial spirit. *Participants from all disciplines are encouraged to apply.* Participants should expect an intensive intellectual and emotional experience and, therefore, must not have any teaching responsibilities during the two-week June session. During the two-week Summer Institute, participants will engage in reading, screening documentaries, journal writing, guest presentations, reflection and dialogue to gain a deeper understanding of teaching and learning as personal and political activities. The Summer Institute is facilitated by *Fay Akindes* and *Roseann Mason*, both members of the Center for Ethnic Studies. There will be guest speakers, including alumni, and faculty/staff from UW-Parkside and other campuses. Funding is provided by a grant from the UW System's Office of Academic and Diversity Development (OADD).

The Summer Institute: Infusing Diversity in the Curriculum has met unexpected interest and curiosity at UW-Parkside, the UW System and nationwide. Co-facilitators Roseann Mason, Eugene Fujimoto and I gave a presentation at a UW System Cultural Symposium in April, and again at the



National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in American Higher Education (NCORE) in Florida in May. Colleagues at other campuses have asked to attend our Institute and/or are interested in replicating it on their own campuses. There seems to be a critical need for addressing issues of race and ethnicity in the classroom. Of course these issues affect the learning potential of all students in the classroom, not just those of color, as well as all teachers, not just those of color. The challenge in facilitating the Summer Institute is the shifting dynamics of participants. Currently the Summer Institute is in its second year at UW-Parkside. This year's Institute is dramatically different from the first year. In 2007 all faculty were tenured. This year we have six non-tenured faculty. All participants in 2007 were white. This year we have a multicultural group in terms of race and ethnicity, as well as nationality and sexual orientation. The diversity within the group makes discussions often kaleidoscopic with each voice shifting the picture. I am often reminded that everyone in the room is a teacher and learner. It's a humbling experience. The Summer Institute for 2009 has been funded by the UW-System Office of Academic Diversity and Development (OADD). Below is the Call for Participation for the third Summer Institute. **** *Fay Yokomizo Akindes is an Associate Professor, Communication Department and Co-Director, Center for Ethnic Studies*