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Selina Heppell, Faculty Senate President

Email Subj: 2021 Confronting Systemic Whiteness in Higher Education Seminar - Applications due July 20

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to inform you about a new opportunity to participate in the summer 2021 Confronting Systemic Whiteness in Higher Education Seminar. The seminar will take place August 16-20 and last three hours per day (9:00am-12:00 pm). The 15-hour seminar is open to all OSU faculty and will be delivered via Zoom. The seminar will be co-facilitated by Professors Dwaine Plaza and Tenisha Tevis in partnership with the Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Susan Capalbo. The seminar will be focused on raising the consciousness of faculty about the systemic and institutional discrimination that, given the current season, Black students, faculty and staff face in higher education. Recall, in the spring of 2020, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee facilitated the production of a Faculty Solidarity video where 150 OSU faculty pledged to show up and be more active in their own personal consciousness-raising about Black lives mattering. Please see the video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BSXj9os4EI&feature=youtu.be>

This pledge resulted in the genesis of the 2020 Confronting Systemic Whiteness Seminar which 56 faculty completed. The 2021 seminar will have a similar structure but different readings, films, and subject experts. Seminar participants in 2021 will be required to read the 1619 Project and the textbook *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin Dangelo, which will be mailed to seminar participants free of cost from Amazon. Additional readings will be available via the Canvas site.

From August 16-20 (9:00 am-12:00 pm), seminar participants will be exposed via Zoom to an active daily curriculum of mini-lectures, readings, documentary films, in-class break out activities and Canvas reflection posts focused on understanding how whiteness has come to shape our dominant American consciousness, values, beliefs, perspectives and imaginations. Upon completion of the seminar, alumni are expected to organize and lead a community of practice in their home unit or college during the upcoming (2021-22) fall, winter and spring terms. Each community of practice will consist of 3-5 individuals (recruited by the summer seminar graduate facilitating the group) who share a concern or passion for learning more about racial inequity and social justice. It is expected that these follow-up groups will apply their learning to bring about structural and ideological changes within their spheres of influence towards a more racially just institution.

If you are interested in understanding higher education through a critical race lens and becoming part of this personal and institutionally transformative experience, please use the below Qualtrics link to apply by July 20th.

https://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9AHvX8uDuaA7GJl

We encourage questions about what we are trying to do. Please connect with us through email: Dwaine Plaza – dplaza@oregonstate.edu or Tenisha Tevis – tenisha.tevis@oregonstate.edu.

Respectfully,

Dwaine Plaza
Immediate Past Faculty Senate President