

DIVERSITY CASES FACILITATOR WORKSHOP ANNOUNCED

The Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) is now accepting applications for a new workshop. The workshop will help participants improve skills and strategies needed to facilitate effective case discussions about the challenges of increasing diversity within the EE field.

For the last two years EETAP has been working to develop cases that focus on environmental education and cultural diversity. Cases are candid, dramatic, and highly readable first-person accounts that raise the challenges of fairness, expectations, respect, and communication when people from diverse cultural backgrounds interact. They are designed to promote rich discussion and thoughtful reflection and to develop strategies that users can apply in their work or volunteer settings. The cases are being published this summer as, What's Fair Got To Do With It: Diversity Cases from Environmental Educators. The collection includes ten cases, facilitator notes, and commentary about each case. While the cases promote good reflection when read on their own, they are most effective when discussed by a group with a facilitator.

For the past year EETAP and Project del Rio have been using the cases in workshop settings to help participants reflect on and identify the personal and organizational changes needed to make their programs and organizations more inclusive. EETAP is now seeking to train 15 individuals to facilitate case discussions in their work place and community. EETAP would also recommend the names of the trained facilitators when it receives requests for facilitation of case discussions.

The objectives for the workshop include:

- To increase facilitator's awareness about how prejudice, stereotypes, and assumptions affect him or her.
- To begin to develop facilitator's strategies to encourage others to promote inclusion, tolerance, adaptation and equality.
- To strengthen facilitator's content knowledge about the behavior of individuals and groups, culture's influence on behavior, and the dimensions of heterogeneous, pluralistic organizations.
- To enhance facilitator's tools to instruct, inspire, and provoke reflection and discussion in result-oriented learning sessions.
- To practice facilitation skills that create a safe, non-threatening environment that encourages participants to see many sides of any given issue.

The 4-day workshop is scheduled for September 16-19, 2004 in Austin, Texas. EETAP will cover most workshop expenses. Applicants should have a strong commitment to diversity and previous facilitation experience. For more details, a self-assessment questionnaire to help you determine if you have the qualities needed to facilitate diversity case discussions, and application please contact Sharon Buzza by Email sbuzza@uwsp.edu. Please put the following words in the subject line of your message: Request for Diversity Facilitator Workshop Application.

EETAP will accept applications through July 16, 2004. All applicants will be notified regarding the status of their application by July 23, 2004.