


**REQUEST FOR INSTITUTIONAL TEAMS
FACULTY COLLABORATIVES
CONFERENCE
RESPONSE DUE: AUGUST 24, 2015**

July 29, 2015

TO: Provost and Vice Chancellors

FROM: Rebecca Karoff, Senior Special Assistant to the Senior Vice President
for Academic & Student Affairs 

SUBJECT: Institutional Teams for the UW System ***Faculty Collaboratives Conference:
Connecting Your Work to LEAP Wisconsin***

In May, we shared with you an announcement for the UW System's ***Faculty Collaboratives*** Conference, which will be held **September 24-25, 2015**, at the **Madison Marriot West in Middleton**. I write to invite you to identify a team from your institution to attend the Conference, which we believe will allow time for focused discussion on student learning in the context of LEAP. While we hope your institution will be able to participate, you are not required to send teams to attend the Conference.

The UW System has been engaged in LEAP for over ten years, even before the System became the pilot partner in AAC&U's [*Liberal Education and America's Promise*](#) Campaign in 2005. The newest project within the umbrella of [*LEAP Wisconsin*](#) is the AAC&U-sponsored Faculty Collaboratives project. With funding from Lumina Foundation, [*Faculty Collaboratives*](#) is focused on creating a state-based, faculty-led "innovation hub" dedicated to advancing curricular reforms that lead to deeper student engagement, and higher retention and graduation rates.

More than anything else, *Faculty Collaboratives* is a synthesizing project bringing together the work of ten-plus years. The Conference will honor and extend faculty work on LEAP Wisconsin at a time when changes across the UW System invite us to look back, assess and reassess, look forward and—above all—reclaim the core values, purpose and goals of what has been an anchor initiative dedicated to providing the highest quality learning environments to prepare our students for further education, employment, and civic engagement.

The Conference will bring together faculty and instructional academic staff from throughout the UW System to provide:

- ❖ *In-depth engagement* with essential student learning outcomes by faculty and IAS within and across disciplines;
- ❖ *Focused attention* on proficiency initiatives designed to strengthen curricular integrity, deepen student learning, and advance equity;
- ❖ *Time* for institutional teams to engage with critical questions about student learning within their campus contexts; and
- ❖ *Input* into the *Faculty Collaboratives Innovation Hub*, a dynamic, virtual learning commons for faculty in Wisconsin and across project partner states.

Institute Costs

Thanks to funding from the Association of American Colleges & Universities through Lumina Foundation, the UW System is able to subsidize almost all costs associated with the Conference, including conference registration, lodging and meals. **UW institutions are asked to provide funding for travel of their teams to and from Middleton, and meals while traveling.**

Institutional Teams

Please use the attached form to identify institutional teams of **up to six (6) people**. The form provides important logistical information as well as instructions for conference registration and hotel reservations. Team members must register themselves and make their own hotel reservations.

Teams should be composed of faculty and instructional academic staff (IAS), as well as others who work closely with faculty on curricular matters. Suggested participants include: pre-tenure and faculty and IAS new to the UW System; faculty and IAS working on diversity and equity initiatives, general education revisions, accreditation reviews, and assessment; directors of teaching and learning centers; and those working on implementation of the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement. You might also consider reaching out to members of the LEAP Steering Committee charged with assessing LEAP Wisconsin, SAGLA (the UW System Advisory Group on the Liberal Arts), and those involved with OPID.

As always, we ask that you try to put together teams of people representing diversity in race, ethnicity, and gender.

In addition, **we invite you to include the names of one-two alternates from your institution**. Contingent upon the numbers of people institutions send in, we may be able to include alternates. **Conference speakers and session leaders from UW institutions who are listed on the agenda will not be counted as part of your institutional teams.**

To help you publicize the Conference, a description and preliminary agenda are attached.

N.B.: This memo will be sent also to members of the above-named groups and we will encourage them to contact your offices to suggest appropriate colleagues and/or themselves as members of your teams.

Submission Process

Please fill out the **attached institutional team form** and e-mail to Diane Waters at dwaters@uwsa.edu **by Monday, August 24, 2015.**

Please contact Rebecca Karoff, Senior Special Assistant to the Senior Vice President, with questions about the Conference. Rebecca may be reached rkaroff@uwsa.edu.

Attachments: *Faculty Collaboratives* Conference Description and Preliminary Agenda; Institutional Team Form

Electronic cc: *Faculty Collaboratives* LEAP Fellows and Hub Director
LEAP Steering Committee
UW System Assessment Coordinators
SAGLA
OPID Council