

2013

Preparing Future Faculty Annual Report, 2012-2013

Career Pathways Program, Old Dominion University

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Preparing Future Faculty Annual Report 2012/2013

Overview

The 2012/2013 academic year saw continued development of the ODU Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) program, with increases in average PFF event attendance and in the number of students who completed the PFF certificate. The four regular events drew an average attendance of 46, compared to an average of 27 last year. An additional 15 PFF certificates were awarded this year, compared to an average of just over six in the previous three years. This brings the total to 44. An important factor in this increase was an agreement with the Registrar's Office to place a notification of completion of the PFF Certificate on the student's transcript.

During the year the PFF Steering Committee undertook to develop a Mission Statement for the program that will be posted on the website. This statement reads:

“It is the mission of the ODU PFF program to expose graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to the diverse roles, responsibilities, and rewards of an academic career. In doing so it focuses particularly on the teaching and service roles sometimes not included in doctoral training. Fundamental research skills, such as grant writing, publishing, and academic job searching, are also addressed. “

This and additional changes will be made this summer to update the website.

The committee also undertook a search for a new Steering Committee Chair for the program. After a university-wide announcement, the committee interviewed three candidates for the position. Dr. Wie Yusuf, Assistant Professor in Urban Studies and Public Administration, was selected and will take over leadership of the program in Fall 2013. In addition, a call for volunteers to serve on the Steering Committee resulted in a very positive response. Dr. Chris Osgood, Associate Dean of the College of Sciences, will join the committee, as will six graduate students representing five of the six colleges at ODU and three Norfolk State University graduate students.

2012/2013 Events

Details of the events conducted this year are as follows.

Collaborations: Working with Others to Increase Your Research Productivity, September 28, 2012, attendance = 39.

Balancing Work/Family Responsibilities in Academia, November 2, 2012, attendance = 45.

Framework for Grant Writing: Advice for Graduate Students and Junior Faculty, February 8, 2013, attendance = 72.

Publish, Don't Perish: The Use of ePublishing in Academia, March 22, 2013, attendance = 26.

Plans for 2013/2014

Fall PFF events are scheduled for September 20 and November 8, 2013. The first event will be on "Classroom Management", while the second will be titled "Making It Through the Home Stretch" and include topics related to degree completion. Past winners of the Graduate Mentoring Award and Graduate Program Directors will be invited to participate in this event. Spring 2014 events will include the biennial Job Search event and an alumni career day event focusing on academic and non-academic careers. Alumni of the program with careers in different types of positions will be invited to participate in this event.

An issue to be discussed next year is how to provide the benefits of the PFF program to distance students. Currently, although videotapes of events are placed on the website, students must attend PFF events on campus to gain credit for attending the events that is necessary to earn the PFF certificate. The committee has begun discussion of how technology might be used to allow distance graduate students to earn the certificate. This will be a goal for next year.

Other topics for discussion include development of social media sites to increase student awareness and support of the program, making videos of our events available on the ODU YouTube site, working more closely with the Graduate Student Organization, and possible development of an on-line student development course that would be available to all graduate students.