

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Faculty College is an annual professional development retreat for university and college teachers, including faculty, instructors, and lecturers from all of the UW System's institutions. It originated in 1979 and was held at Marinette County for 20 years then moved to Richland Center in 2000. The 41st Annual Faculty College will take place at The Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake where, perhaps, we will spend our next 20 years.

Who should attend Faculty College?

- Faculty and instructors who are new to the UW System;
- Faculty and instructors who are interested in strengthening their pedagogical approaches for equity and success for all students; and
- Faculty and instructors interested in supporting their Center for Teaching and Learning in expanding equity mindedness among their colleagues.

What questions will the 2020 Faculty College address?

- What is equity-minded pedagogy?
- Why is it necessary for faculty and instructors to cultivate an equity mindset?
- What are some effective and creative equity-minded approaches already being used by faculty and instructors in the UW System?
- What pedagogical approaches engage students and sustain their engagement through graduation and beyond?
- How do high-impact practices (HIPs) reflect an equity approach to learning?
- How can we collectively transform teaching and learning practices in the UW System to emphasize learning over instruction?

Who pays for Faculty College?

UW System's OPID will continue to pay for lodging, meals, and programming for six participants at each institution (*in addition* to the Wisconsin Teaching Fellows & Scholars). Institutions (typically through the Provost's Office) are responsible for reimbursing faculty and instructors for mileage, and meals & incidentals traveling to and from Faculty College. Carpooling is strongly encouraged.

Is it necessary to stay at The Osthoff Resort or can participants commute from home?

Faculty College is designed to be a retreat. Participants should not only stay at The Osthoff Resort, but stay for its entirety. Participants who are unable to begin and end with the group should postpone their participation.

What lodging accommodations are available?

Participants will be assigned to a double suite, each with two private bedrooms and two bathrooms. There is also a fully equipped kitchen, sitting area, flat-screen TV, and wireless connection. Participants are encouraged to bring their own snacks. Morning and afternoon refreshments will consist of coffee and tea. Also bring a water bottle.

May I request a suite-mate?

Yes, you may request to share a double suite with a specific person but, in the spirit of networking, we encourage you to accept a suite assignment with a randomly selected colleague from another institution.

May I bring my spouse or guest?

No. Faculty College is designed to be a fully immersive retreat. It is intentionally set at a remote site to minimize distractions. We envision your afternoons and evenings to be spent in dialogue with new colleagues from around the UW System. Faculty College 2020's theme – Equity-Minded Pedagogy – should be the focus of most of your discussions outside of the Workshop.

How should I dress?

Dress is casual and comfortable. Bring a sweater or shawl for air-conditioned rooms. Also pack a light jacket for evenings around the firepit and walks along the lake.

May I request special meals?

Yes, the Catering staff will provide alternative meals. Dietary restrictions will be collected during registration.

What recreational activities are available?

Bicycles, kayaks, and pontoon boats are available for rent. You may also bring your own bicycles and kayaks. The Osthoff Resort also has a spa with services available at a fee. There are two outdoor swimming pools and an exercise room that are free to Faculty College participants. There are walkable trails in the surrounding woodlands. The village of Elkhart Lake is a stroll away and offers an ice cream parlor, snack bars, and gift shops, including one that sells Nordic yarn.

May I bring a musical instrument?

Yes! In the past impromptu jam sessions were held around the fire. Guitars, ukuleles, tambourines, a saxophone, and even a plastic bag were part of the music mix. In recent years, karaoke was a popular collective activity.

Should I bring spending money?

Yes. Although lodging and meals are covered, you may want to purchase snacks, beverages, or souvenirs. We will also have a limited number of Stephen Brookfield's books available for purchase (and signing!).

NOTE: *Parking is free. We strongly encourage car-pooling to minimize mileage reimbursement costs to your institution. In the past, participants experienced meaningful conversations driving together to and from Faculty College.*