

AU Gifted Adjuncts Unite! Synchronosium 2018

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Dear Adjunct instructors for Talent Development Endorsement Program at Ashland University:

Happy New Year! I sincerely want to thank you for your service to Ashland University and to the graduate students going through out TD Endorsement program. We are seeing an increase in inquiries about the program and are forming new classes and cohorts throughout Ohio. It is a busy time in Gifted Ed.

I am writing to invite you to a gathering of TD adjuncts to a meeting I am calling a "Gifted Adjunct Synchronosium," a symposium to synchronize our teaching practices. My hope is that this Synchronosium will allow us to share best practices, determine what AU can do to assist you as adjuncts, to name and overcome challenges and to revise the coursework to best serve our graduate students. I recently received a teeny-tiny grant from the Provost's office, and I am able to pay you for your mileage and buy you a meal in exchange for your time and energy. Here are my goals for the Synchronosium:

- 1) To connect adjuncts for collegiality, sharing ideas/activities for EDIS 650 and 651.
- 2) Determine updates needed to 650 and 651.
- 3) To choose an anchor text for the program, especially 651 (Nature and Needs).
- 4) To choose/stay with the texts for 651 (Curriculum).
- 5) Focus Group to assess:
 - a. Issues of concern or need from adjuncts.
 - b. How might we follow up with program grads?
 - c. I have an idea for a program resource notebook (like a portfolio) our grad students would add to throughout their program, something that might be a useful resource on their shelf or online as they move forward. I'd like to hear thoughts, suggestions on this.

I am presenting two options in this email, and democratically, we will go with the most popular option.

Option 1: Saturday, February 24, from 10 – 2:30, at Ashland University's Main Campus, which includes lunch in award-winning Lower Convo. (If you took part in the Summer Honors Institute you know I'm not kidding.)

Option 2: Monday, February 26, after the first night of OAGC's Teacher Academy, from 5:00 – 9:00pm at the Columbus campus on 161 and 71, 1900 E. Dublin-Granville Road. I would bring in dinner.

I realize that you are very (very!) busy, and that your work as an adjunct is just a small part of your life. Please consider taking a few hours to give me a chance to get to know you and to be part of this program's improvement. I could make these changes alone, but I would rather work with you – you who are working in schools directly with gifted students and teachers every single day.

Short of tugging on your heartstrings by having Sarah McClachlan singing a sad sad song while pictures of forlorn gifted children and overstressed teachers fade in and out of your vision (something you could probably look away from your computer – or even in the mirror - and see firsthand), I appeal to your Eagle Pride. Let's work together to keep this program the best in Ohio, for you as an adjunct *and* for our graduate students. I promise not to waste your time – no cute team building activities, just dining, sharing ideas, talking, and creating.

I can offer certificates for the hours as "training," and if/when we do more of these (either online or face to face) I can offer grad credit, too.

Please respond via email with your vote by Friday, January 26. Email or call me with questions or suggestions (unless you want to suggest to me where I can put my Synchronium. I know how you middle school teachers think.).

Have a great weekend.

Talk to you soon.

Warmly,

Jennifer

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